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## History of Eddyville, Iowa, 1840-1930

Harold Andrew Simmers  
*University of Iowa*

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### Recommended Citation

Simmers, Harold Andrew. "History of Eddyville, Iowa, 1840-1930." MA (Master of Arts) thesis, State University of Iowa, 1938.

<https://doi.org/10.17077/etd.zpkgl0b0>

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**HISTORY OF EDDYVILLE, IOWA, 1840-1930**

by

**Harold A. Simmers**

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Master of Arts, in the Department  
of History, in the Graduate College  
of the State University of Iowa**

**August, 1938**

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful acknowledgment is due Dr. W. T. Root for his invaluable suggestions and criticisms during the preparation of this thesis.

The writer also wishes to thank C. E. Baldwin of the Eddyville Tribune, Miss Ditch of the Ottumwa Public Library, the staff of the Wapello County Recorder's Office, O. H. Seifert and others who kindly offered their services in the collection of materials.

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## CHAPTER I

### EDDYVILLE: INDIAN VILLAGE AND TRADING POST

In the early summer of 1840, Jabish Phillips Eddy was granted a license by Major John Beach, Indian Agent at Agency City, to establish a trading post at the Sac and Fox village of Hard Fish which is now the heart of Eddyville.<sup>1</sup> He traded with the Indians until the treaty of final session in 1842. Eddy was the most fortunate of any of the large traders in finding his schedule of claims against the Indians very little reduced by the Commissioners, whose duty it was, at that treaty, to adjust all outstanding claims against the Indians.<sup>2</sup>

Eddy located his post along the Des Moines River at a place which is now the southwest corner of Eddyville. At this post he carried on trade with the Indians who were living in the Hard Fish village, and those living in the village of Kish-Ke-Kosh.

Major Beach located the village of Kish-Ke-Kosh rather indefinitely when he wrote ". . . somewhere out north of Kirksville, and not over twelve miles distance, on the bank of the Skunk River, not far above the 'Forks of the Skunk'." It was a small Indian village of not over fifteen or twenty lodges, presided over by a man of considerable influence, though he was not a chief, named Kishkekosh. This village was on the

direct trail - in fact it was the converging point of the two trails - from Hard Fish village, and the three villages across the river below Ottumwa, to the only other permanent settlement of the tribes, which was the village of Poweshiek, a Fox chief of equal rank with Wapello, situated on the bank of the Iowa River." <sup>3</sup>

While Samuel G. Wiltse was surveying White Oak Township, Mahaska County, which was completed December 18, 1844, he recorded in his field notes and on the plat a road running toward the present site of Oskaloosa. The notes between Sections 3 and 4 also describe a trail running southwest. Between Sections 18 and 19 is noted the Kish-Ke-Kosh Indian village. In Spring Creek Township the surveyor noted a trail used by the Indians in that early time, especially by those of the Hard Fish village. <sup>4</sup>

Major Beach stated that the Hard Fish village was "quite as respectable in size as any of the old villages." Eddy kept a large account book, 525 pages, in which he recorded the names of the head of each Indian family, the number of members in the family, as well as a record of his purchases. The accounts list the total census of the village at 2004 Sac and Fox Indians. <sup>5</sup>

The Indian village extended from the mouth of Mashakinoek Creek south to Eddy's trading post.

The two thousand Indians lived in bark tepees and wickiups which lined the east bank of the Des Moines River. The wickiup frame was made by bending over poles that had been set in the ground while the frame of the tepee was formed by tying a number of poles together at the top. The frames were covered with bark stripped from elm trees.

In 1906, Mrs. Abigail Grey wrote her girlhood impressions of the village in 1842-43: ". . . My mother and Aunt McIlvain went to the village taking myself and two younger sisters with them. We went into some of the houses. They were built by setting poles into the ground with a horizontal bar attached to them to form the frame, and covered by bark peeled from Elm trees. Some of the houses had steep roofs formed by a comb pole and covered by bark. For beds they had stakes set into the ground with horizontal poles attached to them and the side poles of the frame of the house, and bark laid on, forming a shelf or platform against the inside of the house. The floor was of sand. The houses were deserted when we were there except for fleas and there was evidence of other vermin in the cast-off leggins and other garments that had been left behind when the Indians had gone into winter quarters. This was in October 1842. . . .

"The weather was very threatening on that cold day in November and the snow was falling on us sometime before we reached that little log house there on the Mashakinoek, in the edge of the woods, with a clearing in front of the house where the Indians had raised corn. There was plenty of skinned trees, from which the Indians had taken the bark, in view from the house.

"I remember how frightened we were when the Indians would pass by riding so fast and whooping so loud, and how uncomfortable we felt when they would crowd into the house to look at the goods and make purchases, and how sometimes all the food would be given the Indians if they happened in when mother was preparing a meal or had one ready. I have seen father sell them bars of lead and mold bullets for them. There was no goods kept only such as was suitable for the Indians, such as blankets, calico shirts, bright colored braid for wrapping the hair, and leggins and ammunition. . . .

"I will relate a few incidents of the winter of 1842-43. . . . My mother and some of the squaws got on borrowing terms and bartered such things as they had to exchange. We got dried corn from them, and we still have some bowls made from knots of trees. They were



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very hard and smooth. The squaws would get our iron kettle to wash with. They would make their fire in the ice, cut a hole in the ice to get water from, and do the washing on the ice. We used to watch the little Indian boys shoot birds and practice with their darts, and a long slender rod shaved down very limber, with a ball made on one end by cutting away the wood of the handle to the required thickness and elasticity. They would throw it in a circular, swinging motion. The field in front of our house was a popular place for practise. . . ."

In connection with his trading post Eddy employed a number of white men to raise melons and other products which he sold to the Indians. Among those men were Joshua Smith, Henry Smith, W. C. Herrin, and William Melvain who were paid \$20.00 per month. Other white men who traded with Eddy were Jake West, G. W. & W. G. Ewing, Captain Jerry Smith, George Hunt, W. E. James and Thomas E. Connolly.

P. Chouteau, Sr., & Company were operating a trading post at the "Old Garrison", near Ottumwa, when they were granted an extension to their license which allowed them to establish a post at the Hard Fish village. They erected a small store below Eddy's post near what is called the old "Webber" farm. The

store was soon vacated because of the fact that Eddy continued to have a monopoly of the Indian trade.

Dr. William R. Ross and Eddy were friends and it seems possible that Ross's friend, Major Jeremiah Smith, is the same Captain Jerry Smith who traded with Eddy and ran an account up to \$184.49. Major Jeremiah Smith and Dr. William R. Ross, in the fall of 1833, ". . . brought each a stock of merchandise to the "Flint Hills", which may be considered the first commencement of trade, by the whites, in this now flourishing city. At that time the Flint Hills contained but a solitary Indian trading house, perched upon the river bank, near the site of the old Wisconsin Hotel, on Water Street."<sup>10</sup> Morton McGarver and Simpson S. White had gone to the Flint Hills some months earlier.

Another of Eddy's debtors was Francois Labussier, interpreter of Keokuk's band of Indians. Eddy gave him two dollars in cash at Agency City, September 27, 1840, and charged it to his account which increased it to \$33.94.<sup>11</sup> One can almost see the Frenchman strutting about in the vest and fur hat, cracking the horse whip or playing the Jews-harp he had obtained on account from Eddy.

Even in 1840 wives charged to their husbands' accounts. Mrs. George Hunt was limited to fifteen

dollars. In one case a squaw was allowed to charge to a white man's account.

When the Sae and Foxes crowded around Eddy's log store they became intently interested in the bright and shining articles that were displayed by Richard Butcher and Daniel Mudge. The stock had been hauled from Burlington and the rough shelves displayed flashy calico, gingham, velvet and flannel cloth; gaudy shrouds, leggings, blankets and shirts; lead, powder and caps for their muzzle-loading guns; tent cloth to replace the bark on the wickiups; bright tin pans, cups, buckets and kettles; and many other kinds of merchandise that appealed to the Indian's desire of ownership.

Any Indian would willingly trade a coonakin for half-a-pound of bright vermilion paint. Every Indian had to be properly decorated when he went to Agency to see John Beach the Agent. Even more necessary was the vermilion when Hard Fish's delegation made the ninety-mile trip to Burlington to meet John Chambers the new Governor of the Iowa Territory.

Kish-Ke-Kosh bought goods for the members of his village on the Skunk River and as a result his account was much larger than any other. At the Hard Fish village the head of each family made purchases at the post. The amount each family could buy on

account was subject to the number of members in his family and the status of the head of each family.

As a means of illustrating what was sold and what the prevailing prices were at that time, the account of Mo-Kah-Qua, Keokak's wife, is here given: May 25, 1840, coffee, \$1.00, 1 large tin kettle, \$4.50, 1 dipper, 50¢, 8 skeins silk, \$1.00, 1 coffee pot, \$1.00; October 20, 1840, 1 tin bucket, \$1.25, 1 shroud, \$6.00; October 21, 1840, 2 yards flannel, \$1.50, yarn, 50¢, green pair leggings, \$3.00, 1 shirt, \$1.00, 2 bridles, \$5.00, 1 pr. blankets, \$6.00; May 26, 1841, 34 yards tent cloth, \$10.20, 3½ yards calico, \$1.50; February 6, 1842, 1 string beads, \$1.00, 30 yards calico, \$12.00; June 10, 1842, 3 shirts, \$3.00. <sup>12</sup> Many of the Indian accounts were not as large as the one listed above, but it is a fair example of the average.

Many squaws purchased unusual things such as looking glasses, cowbells, parasols and silk. Some squaws were domestic enough to buy hooks and eyes, needles, knives and forks and bed cord.

Midy was required by the Indian agent to keep two separate accounts. In one account he recorded the purchases that were made by the Indians. In the second account he had to record all the purchases of stock that he made for distribution to the Indians.



From those records the Indian commissioners would adjust all outstanding claims against the Indians. The Indians had been allowed certain annuities and the payment of the trader's accounts or claims was the common method of carrying out the agreement.

All accounts that Eddy expected to present to the government for payment were listed in the "General Bill." From May 25, 1840 until September 30, 1840 the total general bill amounted to \$3127.12. Between October 10, 1840 and September 3, 1841 the general bill was increased to the sum of \$3,199.12. In addition there was an account against the Hard Fish village for \$66.25, which was charged to the general bill. The total of the "General Bill" amounted to the sum of \$6,393.<sup>13</sup>08. That amounted to the "direct relief" the government gave the two thousand Indians in a period of less than two years.

With Eddy came progress to the Hard Fish village. The Indian braves saw that by purchases from Eddy's stock they could lighten the work of the squaws. The first things Eddy sold the Indians were six pairs of chains, three back-bands, three collars and two plows. The squaws could go to work and plant the corn crop which was two weeks behind schedule.

Some of the Indians bought coffins from Eddy and in this way they changed the method of

burying their dead. In all of the common methods of burial the cadaver was exposed above ground and regardless of what method was used "the late lamented need not have gone many days on his journey to the Happy Hunting Ground, ere his presence could be smelt much farther than it was felt, especially with the wind in your favor. Shakespeare's Caliban, renowned for his 'very ancient and fish-like smell', was a very garden of roses compared to an active cemetery."<sup>14</sup>

Hard Fish established his village of Sac and Fox Indians on the Des Moines River at the present town of Eddyville and remained there until after the Treaty of 1842, by which they were to give up their lands and move westward. In the summer of 1937 a group of interested citizens of Eddyville erected a monument in honor of Chief Hard Fish and commemorating the founding of the Indian village in 1837. Governor Nelson G. Kraschel dedicated the memorial during<sup>15</sup> "Pioneer Days" which were held August 2-3, 1937.

During the residence of the Sac and Foxes on the Des Moines River, a bitter feud existed between the two factions known respectively as "Keokak's Band" and the "Black Hawk Band". The latter recognized Wishe-co-maque, or Hard Fish, as their Chief and the direct successor to Black Hawk. Hard Fish's band was

composed mainly of Sacs who had taken part in the Black Hawk War. The ill feeling between the two bands was due primarily to the fact that some of the whites recognized Keokuk as the Chief over all the Sacs and Foxes and granted him the right to administer the annuities. Hard Fish believed that Keokuk did not properly administer the annuities so he and his band omitted on occasion to find fault with Keokuk's administration.

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Hard Fish became the leader because of ability to handle the most turbulent Sac and Foxes after the Black Hawk War. Although Hard Fish and his band did not have the best of feelings toward Keokuk, they conducted themselves with the best of faith toward the government.

After the removal of the Sac and Foxes to that portion of the Des Moines Valley above Red Rock, in what is now Marion County, Hard Fish established his village near the mouth of the Raccoon River. There he lived with his band from May 1, 1843 until October 11, 1845. Soon after this the tribes left Iowa and Hard Fish left with them. Hard Fish was an Indian of great force of character and controlled with great skill and prudence a large band of Sac and Foxes.

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While the Indians were preparing to leave their home at Midy's trading post, the trader realized

that it would be necessary for him to replace the Indian trade by some other means. He knew that the "New Purchase" would open for settlement, May 1, 1843, so he planned to take advantage of any opportunities that might come his way. Eddy was satisfied to think that his post would be on a route through which many people would travel, both by land and water, as they came to settle the opened territory. He realized the advantages that were his, so he began making preparations to greet the people as they were to find their way up the Des Moines River Valley.

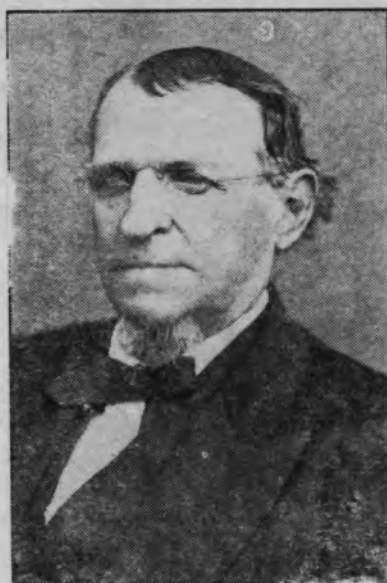
## Footnotes: Chapter I

1. Western Historical Company, History of Wapello County, Chicago, 1878, p. 363.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Elgar Rubey Harlan, A Narrative History of The People of Iowa, American Historical Society, Chicago, 1931, vol. 1, pp. 155-6.
5. J. P. Eddy's Account Book, Ottumwa Public Library, Ottumwa, Iowa.
6. Eddyville Tribune, October 26, 1906. See complete letter as written by Mrs. Abigail Gray in the Appendix.
7. J. P. Eddy's Account Book.
8. Western Historical Company, op. cit., p. 364.
9. "Flint Hills" was an early name for Burlington.
10. J. B. Newhall, A Glimpse of Iowa in 1846, Burlington, 1846, p. 71.
11. J. P. Eddy's Account Book.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid. See portions of the "General Bill" in the Appendix.
14. Eddyville Tribune, August 10, 1906.
15. Ibid., August 5, 1937.
16. A. R. Fulton, The Red Men of Iowa, Des Moines, 1882, p. 243.
17. Ibid.





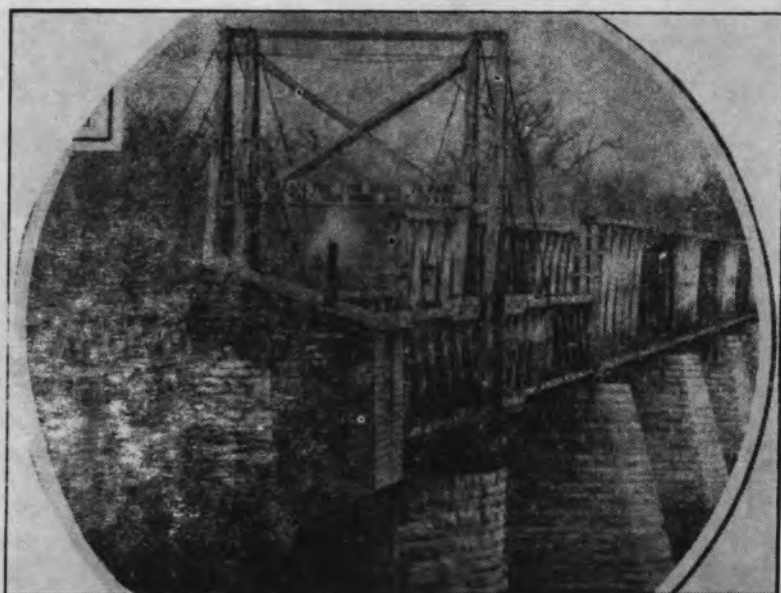
Elizabeth Eddy



Jabish Phillips Eddy



Soldiers' Monument



Eddyville Toll Bridge 1858-1885

## CHAPTER II

## EDDYVILLE: THE FIRST DECADE

Eddyville is located in three counties: the northwest corner of Wapello County, the northeast corner of Monroe County, and along the southern border of Mahaska County. The business district and the largest proportion of the residential district is in Wapello County. The town is about ten miles from Oskaloosa, fourteen miles from Ottumwa, and fourteen miles from Albia, the respective county seats of Mahaska, Wapello, and Monroe Counties.

The Indian village of Wishecomeque became known as Eddyville when the town site was laid out and named by Jabish Phillips Eddy in 1843. It is tradition that Eddy and his wife, Elizabeth drew cuts to decide the name of the town. Had Elizabeth won the name would have been Elizabethtown.

The land of the Hard Fish village contained one hundred and twenty-nine and forty-eight hundredths acres which the trader purchased from the United States for \$161.85.<sup>1</sup> The owner visioned a flourishing town and laid out the part of his land that was along the Des Moines River into a town site seven blocks north and south and five blocks east and west.<sup>2</sup> Eddy expected a business district to be developed along the north side

of the public square which he placed in the center of the town plat. The surveyor, Walter Clement, was instructed to make Main Street wider than any other street to provide for future development.

The vision of the business district around the public square faded when the coming business men followed the example of Eddy and built business houses along the river front. By 1860 there were three blocks of buildings established on Front Street. It was not until the coming of the Keokuk and Des Moines Valley Railroad in 1861, that the firms began erecting buildings along Walnut Street, as they are today. Isaac Shields was the first to move his double frame store from the river front to where the Bunker Grocery and Surbuer Cafe now stand, and everyone thought that "The Wild Irishman," as he was familiarly called, was crazy for moving to that location.

The river was much used those first years for transportation. Then, too, the government road crossed where Eddy had his second store and turned south along the river. The fording place was just south of the present highway bridge and was considered as the best ford along the river. It was here that Eddy operated a ferry after he had been granted a license by the County Commissioners in 1844. The ferry was operated



until the toll bridge was completed in 1858. Eddy's ferry was the first one licensed in Wapello County and he was permitted to charge the following rates: Man, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; man and horse, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; two horses and wagon, 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; four horses and wagon, 50¢; cattle, 4¢; hogs, 2¢. Spanish and Mexican coins were very common in those days. The bit piece was valued at 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. A half-bit, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, was the ferry rate for one man.

Eddyville was strategically located at the intersection of the Des Moines River and the old Indian trail leading east to Burlington and west to Council Bluffs. It was on the shortest route across the state and many people travelled through the settlement. In connection with the advertisement of a ferry at Kanesville <sup>4</sup> the newspaper published at Andrew, Jackson County, in 1846, gave this advice to immigrants: "If you are going the northern route, via Iowa City and Des Moines, your best point to outfit for the west is Iowa City; but, if you are going the southern route, via Burlington and Eddyville, you can outfit at either Burlington or Eddyville, and you can outfit to as good advantage at Eddyville as at Burlington." <sup>5</sup>

Many people crossed the river at that place by fording or by ferry and it was not long before the need of a bridge was seen. In 1930 the Knoxville Journal reproduced a handbill of 1850 which called for a mass

meeting at Eddyville to consider the possibility of erecting a bridge across the Des Moines River. The handbill was signed by a number of well-known pioneers of the surrounding counties. The bridge was not completed until eight years after the mass meeting.

The first house erected on the town plat was a double log house which Eddy built and used both as a dwelling and store. This was on the corner of Front and Main Streets where the Butcher Building stood years later.

W. C. Herrin, father of Mrs. John Linderman, was one of the men who worked for the Indian trader in 1841. Sixty-five years later, at the age of ninety years he wrote: "In 1840 Eddy built a trading post with Jays Smith and wintered there. Smith's wife was the first woman that was there. Myself and two other men went there in 1841, and made 7,000 rails and fenced ninety acres of land that year. Mrs. Eddy came and stayed awhile in the fall. I moved my family to Eddyville and it was the third family that was there. Nasel Vase and family moved there in 1842 and were the fourth family. John B. Grays was the fifth family. I moved from there in 1842. I moved back in the spring of 1844 and stayed until the spring of 1865. In the spring of 1841 I saw 5,000 Indians at the Indian village. There was five white men there then. W. C. Herrin."

J. P. Eddy stayed in the town that he had founded until 1845. The town was being settled quite rapidly, but he wished to move to a more thriving community. His chief problem was to dispose of the property that he had accumulated. Early in 1845 he sold his business to Erasmus Darwin Fish of Nauvoo, Illinois. To dispose of his real-estate holdings he granted to Richard Batcher, his store clerk, a power of attorney with instructions to farm his land south of town and sell a portion of the town lots. <sup>8</sup> The remaining real-estate was to be taken care of by an agreement with Dr. William R. Ross and E. D. Fish, whereby they were to be co-partners in the sale of town lots. <sup>9</sup>

Eddy's agents, Ross and Fish, sold the lots along the river for an average of about \$50.00 each. The partnership of Ross and Fish was dissolved with the death of Fish. Ross and Dr. F. H. Bask, administrators of Fish's estate, decided the unsold property to J. P. Eddy and Joseph Addison Eddy who were business partners in St. Louis. <sup>10</sup> The Eddys had to find another agent to sell their remaining real-estate. Hiram Berdan of New York, for whom Berdan Street is named, was selected to be their agent until their holdings were sold. <sup>11</sup>

Eddy, his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Marilla, left Eddyville for St. Louis, Missouri in 1845.

There he established a firm of wholesale and commission merchants. Joseph Addison Eddy and Lewis Beach had already established a dry goods business in St. Louis at 151 Main Street.<sup>12</sup> The two firms were soon merged and became known as J. P. Eddy and Company.

Richard Butcher and William Cox opened a store in 1846 in a log building which stood west of the present Johnson House. From this building they moved to a frame structure along the river until Butcher built a two-story brick building. This brick building was torn down by Sam Brown, a dentist, who used the bricks to build the present post-office building.

Butcher made a great deal of money which resulted in considerable litigation after his death. Gomer T. Davies, Editor of the Kansas, Concordia, Kansas, wrote the following description of Butcher:

" . . . he was a very rich man of those days, especially in the minds of us young fellows that had nothing. We looked upon him as a cold-blooded financier, bent on making more money, and keeping all of it. But he completely stunned all of us when the occasion revealed the gracious, generous, true character of the man. When the news came of the great conflagration that visited Chicago, in 1871, Dick Butcher promptly sent, without solicitation or request, his contribution of of \$1,000 to the relief of the sufferers. Although I



was then but a boy of 16 years of age, I was deeply impressed by such a generous act of charity - a thousand dollars, in my perspective then, was a great sum of money to give away.<sup>13</sup>

Older citizens of Eddyville tell a story about Butcher. It seems that he took a bolt of cloth from the counter of his store to show a prospective customer. When told the price per yard the customer asked, "Don't you think it is a little high?" Butcher picked up the bolt of cloth, tossed it upon the top shelf and retorted, "It's a damn site higher now."

In 1846, J. B. Newhall wrote the following quaint description of the village: "Eddyville occupies the site of an old Indian village and trading post, on the Des Moines River. It was laid off by J. P. Eddy, Esq., the late Indian trader, now of St. Louis. The site is eligible and beautiful in the extreme. It is destined in a few years, to command a vast trade with the surrounding country. The buildings in Eddyville, in proportion to their numbers, will not suffer by a comparison with any other in the Territory. Several brick warehouses are already in the process of construction."<sup>14</sup>

Newhall's description was no doubt true. His predictions were carried out for many years. Eddyville developed rapidly until after the Civil War. The

settlers seemed to heed the advice, if they gave it any attention, of the man who had written the emigrant's directory. Some of the emigrants valued the guide books as illustrated by the fact that the family of J. T. Wylie still have the book that Mr. Wylie brought to Eddyville in 1843.

When the New Purchase was opened for settlement many people rushed into the valley of the Des Moines River. Even though they were not allowed to settle in the territory before it was opened officially, many entered ahead of schedule and located the place they planned to claim when the land was to be opened. Each settler was allowed to claim 160 acres and had to pay the prevailing price of \$1.25 per acre.

Not all of those that came into the new territory had intentions of living on a farm. Like most new communities of that period, Eddyville had her share of those who planned to sell their goods and services to both those who passed through and to those who settled in and around the town. There were others who expected to claim some land and keep it for future sale and at the same time establish a business in the town.

In the short period that followed the opening of the land for settlement, many claimed land on both sides of the river near Eddyville. Of all the farms

that were claimed only two of them remain in title to the family of the original owner. The land along the river was claimed more rapidly than that farther from the river. The settlers sacrificed better land in order to be near a means of transportation. They preferred the land that was covered with a heavy growth of white oak timber. The timber was needed to build log cabins, barns, sheds and rails for fences. Later they learned that the "white oak soil" is land of low fertility. The most fertile was the last to be claimed. The best land was away from the river bluffs and hills. Level land would have to be drained and settlers chose the hills and bluffs. Some of the farms in the locality have had the best of management while others have been exploited until much of the productivity of the soil has been lost.

The first hotel in Midyville was opened by Martin Tucker in the Indian Council House that had been built by the government while the Indians were at the Hard Fish village. It was located on the site now occupied by Bill Aalber's produce house. When Tucker rebuilt the hotel it became known as the Union House. In 1849 he sold the hotel to Mr. and Mrs. Heman Snow, grand-parents of Mrs. Carter, who operated it until sold to John Wilkins. Mrs. W. W. DeLong was born in

that hotel and now has the distinction of being the oldest living woman in Eddyville who was born in the town.

The first blacksmithing to accommodate the settlers in and around Eddyville was established by J. T. Wylie and J. W. Caldwell who drove there in a covered wagon containing the old fashioned hand-bellows, an anvil and the usual simple tools of an early blacksmith shop. They purchased Lots 1 and 2 of Block 3 from Eddy for \$150.00 and located their shop. The Wylie lots, as they are still known, are south of Van Leon's store. The family of J. T. Wylie has the complete blacksmith records that the pioneer blacksmith kept. There are eight large ledgers filled with accounts of people and firms that have been long since forgotten. At least a dozen pages were devoted to the records of the Western Stage Company. He sold plows to the farmers and the price depended upon the weight of the plow. Each plow sold for about twelve cents per pound. Wylie erected a cabin on the lots just north of his shop and lived there for sometime. The last people to use it as a residence were Mr. and Mrs. Summerlot.

Opposite the blacksmith shop on Lot 2 Block 4 was a dwelling house built by Samuel Calhoun in 1843-  
15  
44. By a bill of sale Calhoun sold the property to J. P. Eddy July 12, 1844. Eddy then sold the property



to Nicholas H. Scribner who operated it as a hotel under the name of the Valley House.

One of the first houses built in Hidyville was that erected by John J. Gately on Lot 8 Block 8.<sup>16</sup> The building was rebuilt and in 1906 was the residence of Mrs. Mintonye.

The town lots that sold for \$15.00 in 1845 are the lots which are the most valuable today. The changing of the business district from along the river front to the present location made the once almost worthless lots the most desirable today. Those that sold at a premium in steamboating days have been abandoned.

## Footnotes: Chapter II

1. Record A., p. 19, Wapello County Recorder's Office.
2. Ibid., p. 27 (plat of town)
3. Commissioner's Record, July Meeting, 1444, County Auditor's Office.
4. Kanessville was the early name of the present city of Council Bluffs.
5. Eldyville Tribune, May 31, 1931.
6. Knoxville Journal, Jubilee Edition, September 25, 1930.
7. Eldyville Tribune, August 10, 1906.
8. Record A., p. 45, County Recorder's Office.
9. Ibid., p. 48.
10. Record E., Wapello County Recorder's Office.
11. Record G., Wapello County Recorder's Office.
12. J. B. Newhall, A. Glimpse of Iowa in 1846. Burlington, Advertisement directory.
13. Eldyville Tribune, June 4, 1936.
14. Newhall, op. cit., p. 43.
15. This is the Calhoun referred to in the letters written by Mrs. Abigail Gray and Mrs. Sara Morris. The complete letters may be found in the Appendix.
16. A more complete account of the various homes and business establishments is given in the Appendix. They are those of about 1850.



Walnut Street in Eddyville in 1874, looking west



1903 flood at highest, corner Walnut and Third, showing Pidgeon Sisters Millinery, Levi Baldwin residence beyond. Meat Market sign is on the Nosler Building with the Lafferty Marble Works beyond.

## CHAPTER III

## EDDYVILLE DURING THE CIVIL WAR

When J. P. Eddy laid out the town he deeded the<sup>1</sup> Public Square and the streets and alleys to the public. The land between Front Street and the river was given to the town with the expectation that it would be used as a landing place for steamboats and other river traffic. The business firms along the river built a wharf in front of the Butcher and Cox store, which was referred to as Butcher's Landing.

By 1858 there was so much activity and confusion on the quay that the wharfinger appealed to the City Council for wharfage regulation. The council acted and passed Ordinance No. 22, entitled an "Ordinance for the<sup>2</sup> Protection of the Wharf of the City of Eddyville."

Flatboats and steamers were used on the Des Moines River from the time Eddyville was founded until the Civil War. Many from around the town sent their products down the river by boat rather than by wagon overland. The steamboats would bring the freight up the river for less money than the overland haulers. Overland freight rates from Burlington to Eddyville amounted to 50¢ per hundred pounds. The river was the main means of transportation until the railroad came to Eddyville in 1861.



Mishaps often accompanied the flatboat journeys down the river to St. Louis. One of the town's merchants started for St. Louis with 1200 bushels of wheat in 1848. His flatboat struck a rock and the whole cargo was lost in the Des Moines River. A few years later Benjamin H. Palmer, publisher of the Madville Free Press, rigged out a flatboat with sails, which he called the "Ben Buster", and made a safe journey to St. Louis.

At the time the wharf was being used a large steamboat warehouse, 60 X 100 feet, two and a half stories high stood at the mouth of Muchakinoek Creek. The warehouse had served its purpose when the steamboats quit running and was used as a beef and pork packing plant from 1865 to 1875.<sup>3</sup>

The people were interested in the early railroads of Iowa. Those who believed in them thought the railroads would increase land valuations, help build up the thriving town, make money for those who invested in railroad bonds and would increase transportation and communication facilities. The interest became quite intensive after the Keokuk, Ft. Des Moines and Minnesota Railway began construction at Keokuk September 9, 1856.

As early as September 5, 1859, the City Council appointed Aldermen Allison and Boyd to report the

"expediency of the City of Eddyville granting the right of way through the city to the Keokuk, Ft. Des Moines and Minnesota Railroad Company or any other company and of taking stock in said company or any other company."

Other railroads were considering a route through Eddyville as evidenced by the fact that on October 3, 1859, the city council voted \$43.00 for the purpose of bearing the expense incurred by the Iowa, St. Paul and Minnesota Railroad Company in making a survey through the city and for a lithograph of the survey.

On February 20, 1861, the City of Eddyville entered into a contract with the Keokuk, Ft. Des Moines and Minnesota Railroad Company wherein it was agreed to allow the road the right of way through the town. The Council reserved the right to regulate the speed of trains through the corporate limits of the city, but agreed that the rate of speed would not be established at less than six miles per hour.

The railroad reached Eddyville on schedule, May 1, 1861, and there its progress up the Des Moines Valley ceased until the war was over. The railroad and Eddyville played an important part in the Civil War. During the war the terminus of the most westwardly railroad in Iowa was at Eddyville.

Many of the older citizens of Eddyville have told interesting stories of how the soldiers marched there

from Des Moines and western parts of the state to entrain. While waiting for trains to take them to camp they would drill in the northern part of town. Young boys would gather around the soldiers and listen to the tales of war and as a result many of them became so imbued with patriotism that they joined the army of the blue. Seventy-nine of the Eddyville men who joined the Union Army lost their lives as a result of the Civil War. For a town of less than 2000 people it seems that Eddyville furnished more than her share of soldiers in the war to "save the Union."

The railroad built a roundhouse and turn-table on the site of the present stockyards. The stockyards were located about five blocks south of their present location. Many carloads of stock left Eddyville during the Civil War. People drove hogs and cattle from central and western Iowa to be slaughtered at Eddyville or shipped by train to other markets. Grain and feed were hauled for miles around the town to the railroad for shipment.

During the Civil War Eddyville had a great variety of business enterprises which enjoyed one of the most prosperous periods in the history of the town. William H. Dunlap, a prominent Eddyville merchant from 1846 to 1873, wrote the following description of the town in 1865: ". . . Being situated in the midst of one of the finest agricultural districts in the Garden of the

Great West, it has a large and increasing trade. The city contains nine wholesale and retail dry goods stores, four wholesale and retail grocery stores, one wholesale and three retail shoe stores, one wholesale and one retail hardware store, one leather store, two saddlery stores, one plow factory, one woolen manufactory and one extensive pork and beef packing plant, and many other branches of trade, all in a prosperous condition. There are four schools and five churches in the place, all in a flourishing condition. Some of the church buildings are as commodious and tasteful as any in the state."

The Iowa Stage Company operated at Eddyville in 1848-49. This company was taken over by John Frink and Company in 1850. The latter company operated a line through the town from Ottumwa and carried the mail along the route. Walter Cross was the agent of the company at Eddyville. In 1853 the Western Stage Company bought out the lines operated by John Frink and Company.

In 1865 the Western Stage Company purchased the lots now owned by the Pyatt family. For one of the lots, No. 7 of Block 18, the Western Stage Company paid John H. Fish \$400.00 on February 1, 1865. On lot 7 and other lots of the same block they built a large stage barn and operated lines to railroad terminals. From Eddyville the Western Stage Company operated a line westward through Albia, Chariton, Osceola, Afton, Frankfort and Glenwood



to Plattsmouth, Nebraska, a distance of 215 miles. The office of the stage line was located in the Slemmons House, a hotel of which A. Cowan and Son were the proprietors.<sup>11</sup>

The facilities of the stage line were used before and during the Civil War. Many soldiers who enlisted came by stage and many who were on furlough came by train to Eddyville and rode in the stage coaches to their destination.

When the Civil War was over Eddyville counted her soldiers who had died in service and found that she had lost a total of 79 men.<sup>12</sup> Many of her soldiers were members of the Thirty-Sixth Iowa Infantry and it was with this Company that 26 of the men died in, or as a result of, the Battle of Mark's Mills. Among the soldiers in that infantry that survived the battle and the war were W. L. Palmer, B. F. Gordon, J. H. Miller, George Myers,<sup>13</sup> H. G. True and John Summerlot.

George B. Hogan was the Department Commander when the charter was granted March 15, 1883, at Newton, to the John Wilcox Post, No. 138, Department of Iowa, which was located at Eddyville.<sup>14</sup> John Wilcox enlisted as a sergeant in the 7th Iowa Infantry; was wounded at Belmont, Missouri, then promoted to the rank of Second Lieutenant November 22, 1861, from which he resigned September 26, 1862. Wilcox then joined the Seventh

Cavalry and was commissioned Captain of Company B April 27, 1863, and from that rank to Major November 27, 1865. <sup>15</sup>

All of the charter members <sup>16</sup> of the G. A. R. post are dead, the last surviving member was the late Bryant Heki. The last surviving veteran in the locality of Eddyville was George Heki who died during the summer of 1937. George and his brother, Bryant, were the last two veterans from Eddyville. They knew Abraham Lincoln when Lincoln and the Heki brothers, as boys, lived in Springfield, Illinois.

At the close of the Civil War, while the spirit of patriotism was still high, an enterprising promoter started a movement to erect a monument to Eddyville's soldiers who had died in service. The promoter soon collected between six and seven hundred dollars from friends and relatives of the seventy-nine veterans who have their names inscribed on the pedestal of the memorial. He had local marble cutters erect the base and the pedestal which bears the names while he went east to find a fitting statue to place upon the pedestal. The people never saw the man or the money again.

The unfinished monument stood in the park for almost fifty years before any action was taken to complete it. By that time the names on the monument had become almost obliterated by wind and weather. Then John A. Lafferty made a proposition to the local G. A. R. Post

in which he would have the stone repolished, the names thereon recut, and complete the monument with a statue of a Civil War soldier standing at attention on top of the pedestal, all for the privilege of putting the name of his father, 1st Lieutenant T. Jefferson Lafferty, on the capstone, as a tribute to his father. <sup>17</sup> The offer was accepted and the memorial completed in 1911. The monument still stands as completed except for the fact that someone broke the bayonet from the musket and it now appears as a carbine. The statue stands at attention facing the Southland where seventy-nine of Eddyville's soldiers died.

## Footnotes: Chapter III

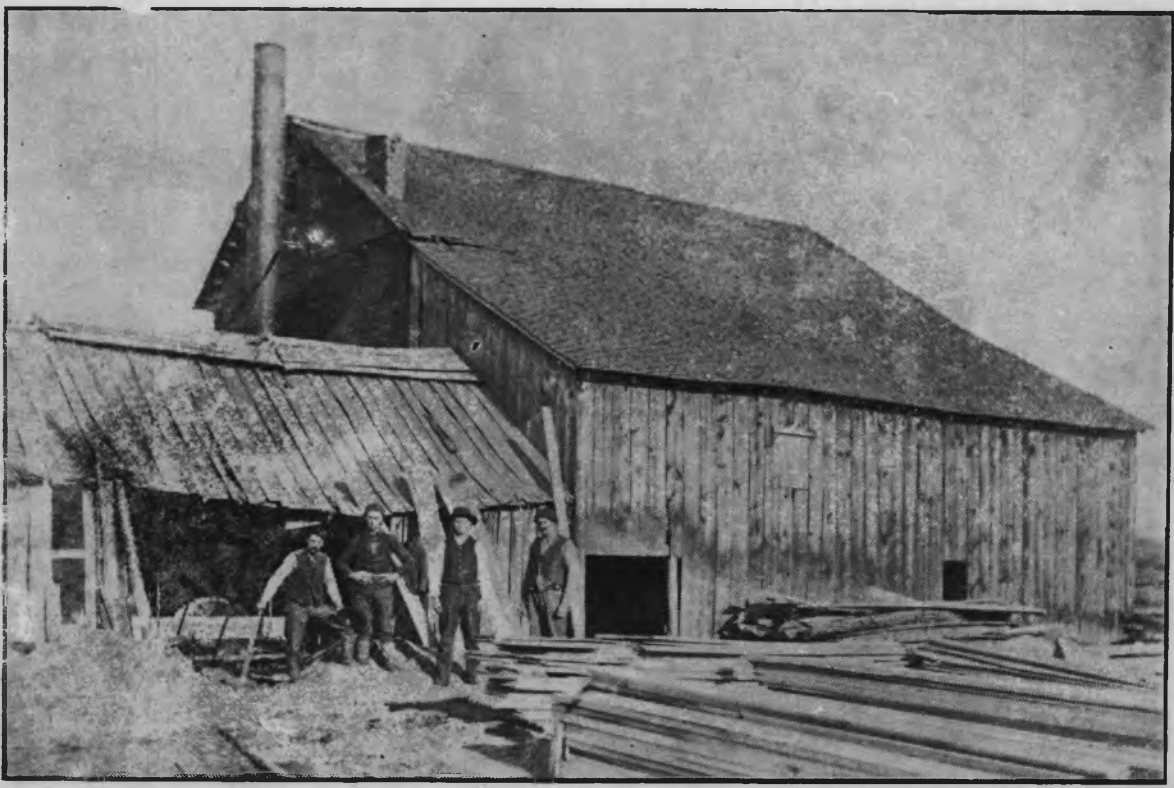
1. Record A .. p. 27, Wapello County Recorder's Office.
2. Recorder's Minutes, Town of Eddyville, August 16, 1858.
3. Eddyville Tribune, August 6, 1936.
4. Recorder's Minutes, Town of Eddyville, September 5, 1859.
5. Ibid., October 3, 1859.
6. Ibid., September 20, 1861.
7. Eddyville Tribune, June 4, 1936. See the complete list in the Appendix.
8. J. T. Wylie's Blacksmith Records.
9. Western Historical Company, op. cit., p. 475.
10. Record B .. p. 196, Wapello County Recorder's Office.
11. James T. Hair, Editor, Iowa State Gazetteer, Chicago, 1865, p. 475.
12. Veteran's Monument in City Park.
13. Western Historical Company, op. cit., pp. 543-53.
14. G. A. R. Charter, Legion Hall.
15. Western Historical Company, op. cit., p. 553.
16. The charter members and the veterans are listed in the Appendix.
17. Eddyville Tribune, June 4, 1936.





Eddyville Grade School Rebuilt and Enlarged in 1899

Lower: The John Leggett Sawmill which stood just east of the Rock Island Depot. The two-story brick with the chimney is the first public school, built in 1858-9. The frame leanto on the west and the engine room on the north were added by John Leggett. Men shown from left to right are Ed Leggett, Will Homer, Will "Forty" Ross and Frank Johnson.





## CHAPTER IV

## EDDYVILLE SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

The one thing in which the people of Eddyville have the greatest interest is the public school system. Many of the community activities are centered at the school. The Parent-Teachers Association, the Alumni Association and the various school organizations are very active. School traditions are highly prized and as a result those who have attended the school always seem to have the desire to keep in close contact with their favorite institution. Those who honor the traditions are willing to make sacrifices in the way of public taxation for improvement of the school plant. The latest addition is the new \$30,000 Auditorium-Gymnasium which was dedicated in May, 1938,<sup>1</sup> and it is proudly presented as another reason why the patrons believe they have one of the finest systems in the state.

The history of the schools is traceable back through a period of 95 years to 1843 when J. P. Eddy built a community hall on Lot 3 Block 7 to be used for public school and church purposes.<sup>2</sup> It was in this building that Walter Clement, later county surveyor, began the process of educating the pioneer children. Eddyville grew quite rapidly and the need for additional school room required the renting of facilities in various parts of town.

Between 1845 and 1859 Eddyville was a sub-district of the Columbia Township District. The schools were in charge of a board of officers and directors made up of such men as Heman Snow, Walter Clement, James Healer, James Workman and David Campbell.

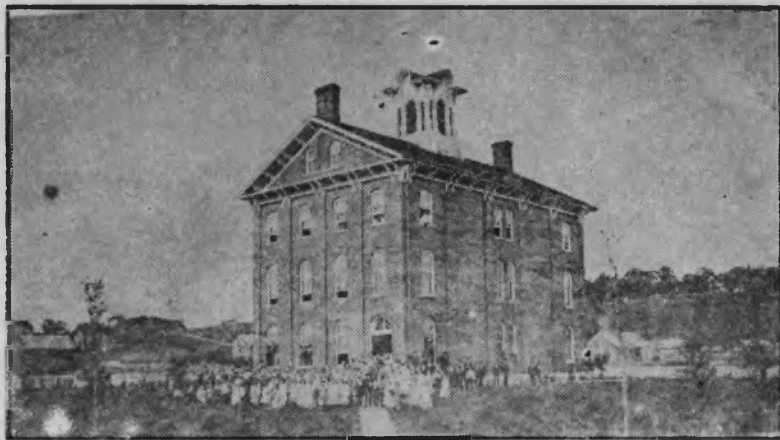
On April 23, 1859, the citizens who were eligible to vote responded to a proclamation issued by Mayor Benjamin Slemmons and voted on the proposition as to whether Eddyville "shall constitute a separate district from the Township district for school purposes." <sup>3</sup> The proposition carried and the Independent District thus began. In 1859 the district built a small two-story brick building at the corner of Sixth and Mill Streets and used it for school purposes until 1869. This building was used during the summers by private teachers who conducted what was known as "pay schools". The last teacher was a German pedagogue named Fuering. Being a strict disciplinarian the students promptly dubbed him "Old Fury". He collected a sum of money from about a dozen families and went east to buy books and never returned. In 1874 the Board of Education sold the building to J. S. Caldwell for \$300.00, taking in payment an organ valued at \$200.00 and a note <sup>4</sup> for the remainder. The old bell that had called the youngsters to school for ten years was finally sold to the Methodist Church in 1879. <sup>5</sup> Caldwell sold the building to Ed Leggett in 1879, who in turn, with John Leggett, made it into a saw mill.

By 1865 it became necessary to have four schools to accommodate the increased numbers of children. There was a Catholic Church and school on the west side of the street between the residences of Klein and Traister. Here a school was taught by Katharine and Mary Welch, daughters of Michael Welch, through the Civil War to 1869. Several Protestant children attended the school because their parents objected to a number of negro students being in attendance at the other school.

Another school building used in 1865 was the two-story gravel house, known as the "Gravel Shop", at the corner of Fourth and Elm Streets. A fourth building was the two-story frame, known as the "Old Planing Mill", which stood at the corner of Fifth and Walnut Streets. At times the old Presbyterian Church was used as a class room as was a portion of the house now occupied by William Schaefer. <sup>6</sup> H. L. McGinitie had daily sessions of his select school in "Old Benedict Hall" in 1865 and 1866. <sup>7</sup>

Some of the early teachers in the schools previous to 1869 were: Daniel Van Ness, Mr. Shane, Maggie McCloney, Lou O'Hara, John Piper, Miss Bishop, Mrs. Hull, Walter Clement and Mrs. Ret Johnson.

The increased need for additional room caused the Board of Directors to bond the district for \$10,000 and that with some accumulated funds was used to purchase the present school site and build a three-story brick



Old Eddyville School, 1869 to 1899

Lower: Eddyville High School Built in 1917





building in 1869.<sup>8</sup> The building cost a total of \$18,000 and was ready for use in the fall of 1869. When opened it had two primary, two intermediate and one grammar and high school class rooms.<sup>9</sup>

The new building was considered to be one of the best in the county and as the district was enlarged students came from the neighboring farms to attend school. In less than twenty years after the school was built it had to be rebuilt. Some people objected to the proposed bonding of the district to make such changes that seemed unnecessary. Those who favored reconstruction argued: ". . . that the present building as everyone knows is entirely too high for the foundation upon which it rests. The building is not only shaky but is very inconvenient as well as damaging to the health of both scholars and teachers. Climbing those steps into the air is too much to impose upon scholars when our district owns as much as our district does. The plan proposed is about as follows. The present building is about 40 X 60 feet, three stories high. The plan outlined by the Board is to take the third story off and erect a wing on the south of the main building about 35 X 65, the down floor to be made with two rooms and the top floor to be used for the High School with a recitation room. This arrangement would add more room to the building, which is badly needed, and at the same time make a building that would be secure and much more convenient."<sup>10</sup>



With such thoughts in mind the Board submitted the question of bonding the district for \$6,000.00 which passed by a margin of 165 to 118 in the March election of 1898.<sup>11</sup>

All of the indebtedness of the district had been paid by March, 1916 so again the district was bonded to build the present High School building at a cost of \$25,000.<sup>12</sup> Basketball was becoming a favorite sport at that time in southern Iowa so a gymnasium was included in the plans for the new building. The present "cracker box" was at its beginning the best gymnasium in three counties.

The enrollment in the public schools in 1875 was the same as in 1915, being 322. More significant is that in periods of five year intervals between those two dates the lowest enrollment was 308 in 1910 while the highest was 345 in 1895.<sup>13</sup> During the same period the number of people in the district of school age gradually decreased to about 40 per cent of the number at the beginning of the period. In spite of the decrease the enrollment stayed rather constant. This was due primarily to the fact that a greater proportion of those who were of school age attended school, stayed for a longer period and were gradually given better opportunities to attend school. The first class to graduate from high school, in 1885,<sup>14</sup> was made

up of only four members while the class following, with fluctuations, has steadily increased until at the present time the graduating classes have as many as 35 members.

The local tax levy for school purposes has increased gradually from 10 mills in 1874 to 15 in 1881, to 22 in 1886, and to 39 in 1914.<sup>15</sup> This has been due to additional buildings, more and better equipment, better salaries, additional teachers, changes in the total valuation of property in the district, additional courses and greater activities on the part of the schools.

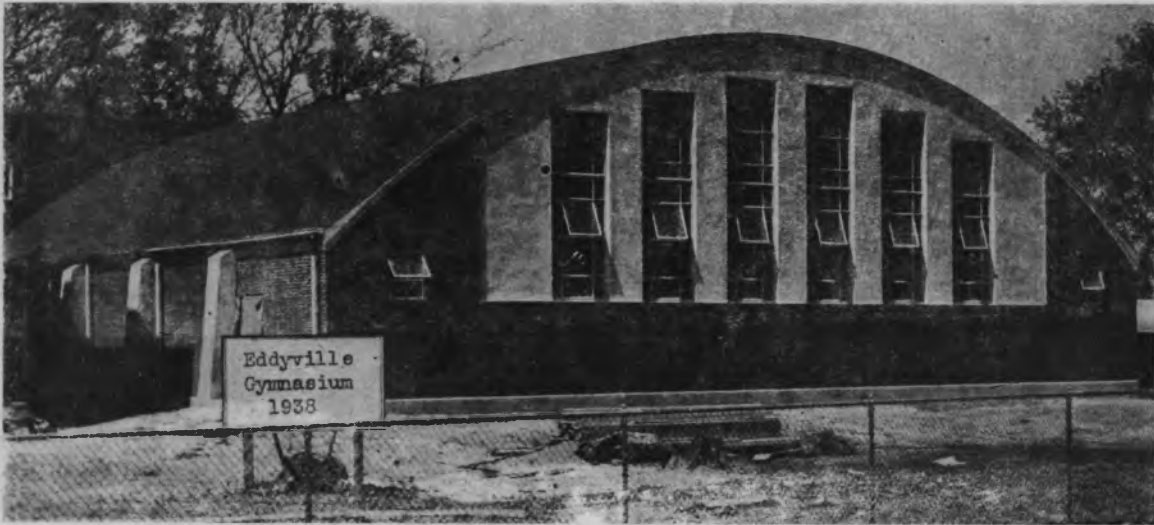
The Eddyville High School Alumni Association,<sup>16</sup> which was organized in 1889, meets annually at commencement time and gives a banquet to the graduating class. This tradition is always looked upon as the outstanding event of the school year and the attendance is usually beyond the 200 mark. At the 1938 meeting a former Principal, J. A. Wiley, who headed the schools from 1887 to 1890, was a guest of honor. In his address he noted some of the changes that have come about in the theories of education since he was the principal at Eddyville. He illustrated one theory by saying, "Today, if a boy does not like school the teacher switches his interests. When I was Principal we really switched their interests."

Before 1900 very little attention was given to the care of school records and as a result Eddyville has

no records except those that are in the "Minutes" of the Board. People who have tried to establish their age for old age assistance and other purposes by school files have been disappointed.

There is a grand old man in the public schools who is almost a tradition. In 43 years he has watched the children of three generations enter and leave school. In July 1895 Albert "Sandy" Seeress was chosen by the Board of Education to replace A. Rose as janitor and he has served continuously since that time.<sup>17</sup> His nearest competitor in years of service to the school was F. M. Epperson who for forty years was the Treasurer of the district.<sup>18</sup>

The schools have been headed by 26 administrators in the past 78 years. Some of them stayed for only a few months while others stayed long enough to bring the average tenure of office to three years.<sup>19</sup> C. E. Baldwin was the Superintendent for fourteen years and has the honor of serving longer than any other person. During his administration the schools progressed very rapidly. As Publisher of the Edyville Tribune and Secretary of the Board of Education he is the most influential man in Edyville today. His interests in young people and community affairs make him one of the town's most respected citizens.



Eddyville School Auditorium-Gymnasium  
built in 1937-38 at a cost of  
\$30,000. Dedicated in May  
1938 by Robert E. O'Brian  
Secretary of State



Most of the churches trace their history back to the community building that Eddy built in 1843. It was there that the circuit riders preached to the mixed congregations. The churches continued to use the building until each of them had their separate place of worship.

Rev. B. A. Spaulding of the famous "Iowa Band," and Mr. Reed organized the Congregational Church, January 31, 1845.<sup>20</sup> Rev. Spaulding was their minister until relieved by Rev. G. B. Hitchcock in 1847. The Long and Dunlap families were instrumental in the organization and success of the church. The Eddy family deeded Lots 7 and 8 of Block 24 to William H. Dunlap to be held in trust for the use of the Congregational Church.<sup>21</sup> It was on these lots, east of the public square, that the first Congregational Church was built. Hitchcock who was pastor until 1854 deserves much credit for the erection of the building. "Eddyville had a joyful dedication January 8, 1853, Mr. Spaulding of Ottumwa preaching the sermon."<sup>22</sup>

The articles of incorporation of the church were adopted August 5, 1853.<sup>23</sup> This first building was sold to the Baptists in 1859 as it was too small for the growing congregation. They built a large frame building at the corner of Fifth and Elm Streets, the present location, which was dedicated April 7, 1864.<sup>24</sup>

The church was remodeled and enlarged to its present form while A. S. Kilbourne was the pastor.

Rev. John K. Nutting who supervised the building of the famed "Little Brown Church in the Vale" was ordained and preached for a few months at Eddyville<sup>25</sup> in 1858.

The Sunday School was organized in 1845 with William H. Dunlap being its first superintendent, a post which he held for over twenty-two consecutive years. It started with an enrollment of less than twenty members and by 1866 it had an average attendance<sup>26</sup> of 150.

Rev. Thomas Kirkpatrick was the first resident pastor in Eddyville. He laid the foundation of Methodism in 1844. The Methodists erected the first church in the town on the lots south of Dr. Prevert's residence. This small frame building was used until a large frame was built on the present site. The first was erected in<sup>27</sup> 1848 and the second in 1862. The latter building burned in the fire of 1901 and was replaced by the present brick. The Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated March 27, 1852. The Board of Trustees was composed of James Hosler, Robert Cook, John Newell, Benjamin Anderson, Edwin McElhany and Lewis Scott.<sup>28</sup> The Methodist Church has the largest membership of all the Churches.

When Eddyville was first settled there was quite a number of Baptists in the community. They were

organized under the leadership of Rev. Pest. The Baptist minister is credited with the movement that brought the mail to the town twice a week in 1848. The Baptists purchased the Congregational Church in 1859 and held services until after the Civil War. The size of the congregation dwindled and became inactive. Some years later they reorganized and built the large frame church which stands on the corner of Fourth and Elm Streets about 1895.<sup>29</sup> The church is inactive at the present time.

The Christian Church was organized after the Civil War. About seventy-five years ago they built their church on the present site. It has been remodeled, enlarged and modernized in recent years. It is one of the most active churches in the community.

The Saint Mary's Catholic Church was organized by Father John Kreekel in the 1850's. It was originally located on south Ninth Street where it was used as a church and school during the Civil War. The present church which is located across the street from the Congregational Church was built about 1880.<sup>30</sup>

The German families who were of the Lutheran faith built a small brick church on the site south of the Wig Harding residence in 1854. Their congregation was small and after their pastor, Rev. J. G. Shafer, moved from the town they disbanded and sold their

building to the Presbyterians. The latter group was headed by Rev. Holliday until the organization became inactive and was dissolved. The little church was vacant, except for a time when used by the Baptists, until it was sold to the Adventists about forty years ago.

When the Adventists repaired the building they had purchased from the Presbyterians they opened the cornerstone which tradition credited with holding a bottle of sacrificial wine. The thirsty men that had gathered around were disappointed when they found that the stone gave up only an 1854 almanac, a church letter, a copy of the local paper and three copper cents. The Adventist membership was large for a number of years, but the church was soon empty again. The building was torn down a few years ago and the materials were used to build the house which is now the residence of Kenneth Powell.

Quite a number of Pella Hollanders came to live in and around Eddyville after 1908. They held services until their own church was built in the present Baptist Church. The Dutch Reformed Church was built on north Third Street. Their building is new, being built immediately after their first one burned a few years ago. Members of the Reformed Church are very active.





Ezra Meeker



Eddyville Churches in 1927

## Footnotes: Chapter IV

1. Eddyville Tribune, May 12, 1938.
2. Ibid., June 4, 1936.
3. Recorder's Minutes, Town of Eddyville, April 23, 1859.
4. Secretary's Minutes, Board of Education.
5. Ibid.
6. Eddyville Tribune, May 2, 1931.
7. Eddyville Star, December 2, 1865.
8. Secretary's Minutes, Board of Education.
9. Eddyville Advance, November 18, 1875.
10. Eddyville Tribune, January 22, 1898.
11. Ibid., March 18, 1898.
12. Secretary's Minutes, Board of Education.
13. Ibid.
14. Principal's Report, Board of Education.
15. Secretary's Annual Reports, Board of Education.
16. Secretary's Minutes, Eddyville Alumni Association.
17. Secretary's Minutes, Board of Education.
18. Ibid.
19. See the roster of school heads in the Appendix.
20. Truman O. Douglas, The Pilgrims of Iowa, Pilgrim Press, Chicago, 1911, p. 79.
21. Record F., p. 201, Wapello County Recorder's Office.
22. Douglas, op. cit., p. 111.
23. Articles of Incorporation, Wapello County Recorder's Office.

24. Douglas, op. cit., p. 337.
25. Ibid., p. 128.
26. Midville Tribune, January 31, 1935.
27. Ibid., August 10, 1906.
28. Articles of Incorporation, County Recorder's Office.
29. Midville Tribune, June 4, 1936.
30. Ibid.
31. Ibid.

## CHAPTER V

## EARLY DOCTORS OF EDDYVILLE

The first medical doctor to live in Eddyville was the pioneer practitioner William R. Ross who arrived there in July, 1843.<sup>1</sup> Ross and his family came from Burlington where he had been for many years an outstanding citizen. At Burlington he helped organize Des Moines County; was Clerk of the Circuit Court, County Treasurer and Recorder,<sup>2</sup> Acting Postmaster in the only postoffice in the Territory, and the only physician as well as an operator of a dry goods and grocery store.<sup>3</sup>

Upon arriving at Eddyville he assumed the role of leadership that he had carried out for ten years at Burlington. Ross was the first postmaster, having been commissioned September 12, 1844, when the postoffice was established,<sup>4</sup> a charter member of the Masonic Lodge<sup>5</sup> and an agent for J. P. Eddy in the sale of town lots.

In August, 1906, the Oakaloosa Globe ran a story relative to the Old Settler's Meeting at Eddyville which brought the following letter from the daughter of William and Matilda Ross. "Tracy, Iowa, August 29, 1906, Editors Globe: In reading an account of the old settlers reunion at Eddyville I noticed that my father's name, Dr. Wm. R. Ross was not mentioned as one of the old settlers, as he was largely instrumental in building up the town



in connection with Mr. J. P. Eddy, who was a fast friend of my father's I thought I would mention a few things for your paper. My father moved his family from Burlington, Iowa, to Eddyville in July, 1833. My father's house was the first house built in Eddyville, being a log house. It stood in Block 12, as he owned the block as well as several others in the town. Being a doctor he was kept quite busy as there was a great deal of chills and fever in the early settling of Iowa. He was often called to go miles to visit the sick and he had a great practice for many years. My parents were among the first white children born at Burlington, Iowa. I was born on the seventh of April, 1836, so I am one of the old pioneers too. My father helped to lay out the town of Burlington and was the first doctor. He helped build the first church they had and was interested in building up the town. My parents have passed away several years ago. I reside in Tracy, Marion County, Iowa. Mrs. Nancy (Ross) Eddiver."

Dr. James Nosler arrived in Eddyville in May, 1846, where he practiced medicine for over thirty years. As a public spirited man he promoted several enterprises for the benefit of the town. On the lots now occupied by the Standard Oil Station he built a two-story frame building which became his home and drug store. Nosler was the town's mayor during the Civil War, a member

of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Church, President of the Eddyville Toll Bridge Company, a charter member of the Eddyville Mutual Institute, Secretary of the Odd Fellows Lodge, an early school director and a man who always had the welfare of the people in his community activities.

The second doctor was Samuel Fish who came to the town in 1843 with his son, E. D. Fish, and lived in retirement. He was active in building the first library and school. Another son, John Milton Fish, became the outstanding citizen of Eddyville during the Civil War.

Probably the most interesting of all the early mediceos was Dr. Francis H. Bask. A few of the older citizens remember the old doctor and have interesting tales to tell about him. Bask built the two-story brick residence now occupied by L. W. Klein. In the attic of this house was found an account and cash-book which offers information that is pertinent to Eddyville in his day. In his ledger, dating from 1854 to 1870, he lists the names and accounts of almost 600 patrons who lived in and around Eddyville during that period. Many of them have descendants living in the community. The ledger includes a cash record, the accounts, names and relationship of people, their residences, a number of medical concotions and a record of his consultations with Drs. Shields and Cousins.

A present day obstetrician will wonder how a doctor could become wealthy by driving into the country to give obstetrical attention for five dollars and in event he arrived too late he would get from \$1.50 to \$3.00. Where instrumental delivery was necessary the fee was placed at \$10.00, but that method was seldom used. Where he was called to remove the placenta or in cases of abortion the fee was placed at half the price of regular delivery. Sometimes he increased the professional charges to \$5.00 in such attention, but in most instances it was \$2.50. For surgical service the fees ranged from 25¢ to \$15.00. One dollar was the standard price for a professional call which invariably included a bottle of medicine.

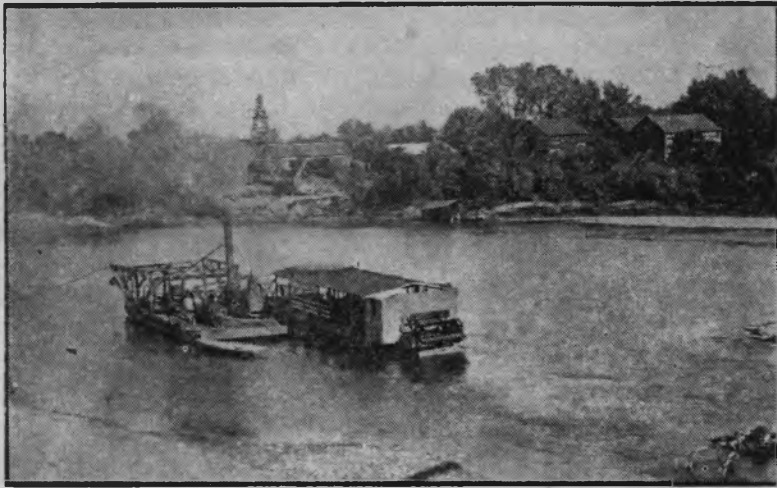
In the mixing of his medicines a great deal of faith was placed in the different forms of potassium which he used in at least fifty per cent of the mixtures. In one formula of water and potassium sulphate he noted that it was "magical in its effect." In another where three forms of potassium were used in the treatment of acute gonorrhoea he noted, "always successful." His hair-dye was made of acetate plumbi, lac sulphur and rose water.

Dr. Buck served the community in several official capacities as the town's first mayor, an alderman, a member of the bridge company and a founder of the Mutual Institute.

## Footnotes: Chapter V

1. Oakaloosa Globe, September 5, 1906.
2. J. B. Newhall, A Glimpse of Iowa in 1846, p. 67.
3. Western Historical Company, A History of Wapello County, p. 371.
4. Harrison L. Waterman, Editor, History of Wapello County, Iowa, S. J. Clark Publishing Co., Chicago, 1914, vol. 1, p. 354.
5. Bills of Sale, vol. 1, p. 14, Recorder's Office.
6. Oakaloosa Globe, September 5, 1906.
7. Dr. F. H. Buck's Account Book.





W. S. Keller's Eddyville Sand Plant and Fleet in World War Times.



Eddyville Band of 1869



Street Scene, Eddyville, Iowa.

## CHAPTER VI

## POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

The first bridge across the Des Moines River south of Des Moines was built at Eddyville. Construction started soon after the incorporation of the Eddyville Toll Bridge Company April 15, 1856. For several years there had been much agitation for a bridge to care for the ever increasing travel on the route between Burlington and Council Bluffs. Too often the river was too deep for fording and the facilities of the ferry were very limited. In either case there was considerable delay and confusion for those that had to cross the river.

About the same time that the plank road fever was at its peak in Iowa the people in the vicinity of Eddyville were devising plans to bridge the river. In 1850 a group of prominent men called a mass meeting at Eddyville to consider the feasibility of building a toll bridge, but nothing more than the creating of public interest in favor of the project was accomplished. Five years later the people formed the Toll Bridge Company with a capital stock of \$30,000.00 and began construction. Everyone seemed to have a lot of enthusiasm but little money to invest. Many of the signers of the articles of incorporation failed to give their financial support and the burden of raising the money fell to a few interested citizens and the town.

Engineer W. Dalton W. Clark of Springfield, Illinois, recalled the building of the bridge when he wrote in 1906: ". . . Fifty years ago last June I landed in Eddyville to construct the bridge crossing the beautiful Des Moines. The bridge was located at the wrong place, and I had many embarassments to encounter. I have learned an iron bridge has been constructed south of the old site, and the old bridge discarded. When I went to Eddyville it was mostly by stage and was 24 hours from Burlington. I passed through Ottumwa by daylight. Then it did not require a millionaire to buy the whole town. I learn it is a flourishing town now."<sup>2</sup>

The Toll Bridge Company gave the contract of construction to Stone, Bromer and Bryington who completed the bridge that was dedicated with a rousing celebration May 12, 1858. The east double span was built on a round pier from which a drawbridge would swing open to let the steamboats through.<sup>3</sup> On the truss above the drawbridge was the warning sign, "Five dollars fine this bridge to pass faster than a walk with horse mule or ass." When boats no longer plyed the river the pier was made solid and the drawbridge feature eliminated.

Frank Cawley was the last toll-keeper when the ice gorge and high water of 1885 destroyed the bridge. Until the present bridge was built in 1887 the river was crossed by means of a ferry operated by "Shanty" Sparks. Sparks named the ferry "Maria Halpin" in commemoration of Grover Cleveland's campaign sweetheart.<sup>4</sup>

The people of Midyville had to wait until ten years after the town was laid out before having the advantages of a newspaper. They knew of papers in smaller towns and were anxious to have one of their own. No one was willing to establish a paper alone so the people formed a company and incorporated the Midyville Free Press July 15, 1853.

J. W. Norris was selected to be the editor and the first paper was published Thursday, August 11, 1853. The stockholders were members of both Whig and Democratic Parties which caused the paper to be neutral in politics. Norris left the Free Press to become associate editor of the Des Moines Courier at Ottumwa.

Norris was succeeded by J. V. Meeker who was the editor until 1856. The paper then came under the management of Benjamin H. Palmer and editor William H. Allison. Palmer changed the name to the Commercial and it was thus known until late in 1859. Palmer published all the notices, proclamations and other items as authorized by the city council.

In the first issue of the Free Press the editor estimated that the business transactions, for the year previous to the edition, of the town amounted to at least \$100,000.

The oldest lodge is the Independent Order of Odd Fellows No. 26. The lodge was organized July 5, 1850,



granted a charter July 18, 1850, and was incorporated December 31, 1855.<sup>8</sup> The charter members were William H. Dunlap, William B. Shepard, F. H. Busk, John Kline, John Newell, Thomas K. Newell and Walter H. Cross. At the time of incorporation James Hoaler was the Secretary and J. V. Meeker was Noble Grand. At present the Day Lodge is headed by C. H. Stuber, M. G., and J. A. Roberts, R. S.

The Midyville Masonic Lodge, No. 74, A. F. & A. M., was created June 8, 1855, and granted a charter at Oskaloosa June 4, 1856. James M. Hale was Secretary and J. J. Garwood the W. M. when the articles of incorporation were filed for record June 22, 1861.<sup>9</sup> Dr. F. M. McGree, D. A. Mater and Balsar Heki have been the only members of the local lodge with more than fifty years as a Mason. The lodge claims the distinction of having had, from the standpoint of years as a Mason, the oldest Mason at the time of the death of Balsar Heki. Heki was a charter member of the lodge in 1855 and was a Mason until his death, thirteen days before he would have become 96 years of age, in 1912. Before coming to Midyville he had joined the lodge in Springfield, Illinois, a few days before he was 21 years old. His seventy-five year record as a Mason was not disputed.

In 1937 the officers were C. E. Baldwin, W. M., A. E. Gray, S. W., C. E. Chord, J. W. and L. W. Klein,



Drum Corps taken September 24, 1895  
at the reunion of the 36th Iowa Regiment



S. P. Crosson and his crew as they built the first  
concrete rural highway in Iowa in 1908

Secretary. On January 1, 1923, the total membership of the lodge had reached 478.

The first rural cement highway in Iowa was built at Eddyville in 1908 and after thirty years of service is still in good condition. For many years the farmers and haulers using the prairie road were handicapped by a quarter-mile stretch of deep sand which made the road almost impassible except when the ground was frozen. Being an important road something had to be done to make it passable.

After the flood of 1903 had carried away the wood sidewalks of the town the people began replacing them with those of concrete. Someone had the idea that a re-enforced sidewalk, heavy enough to carry the loads of hay to pass, would be the means of solving the road problem. The idea seemed good and soon afterward Jim Wylie, Jay Oldham, Charles Oldham and a number of other farmers subscribed several hundred dollars in work, raised several hundred dollars among business men, and induced the Mahaska County Board of Supervisors to donate \$500.00 worth of cement.

Jim Wylie was chosen to supervise the construction of the road and the contract for the paving was let to S. P. Grosson. The rubble stone for the foundation was obtained from John Lafferty's quarry and the gravel from the river. During the construction and

after the completion of the pavement engineers from Ames made regular inspection trips to the project to see how well the concrete road was functioning. The first strip was almost six hundred feet long and eighteen feet wide. In 1911 and 1915 the road was completed into town.

During the Spanish-American War the citizens made up a purse of money and sent Wallace Johnson, Otis Terrell, William L. Brown, George Myers, Jr., Clinton Roberts and Charles Vane to Iowa City for army examinations. The first four listed were accepted and enrolled in Company G at Ottumwa. They were sent to Jacksonville, Florida, where they were in camp until <sup>11</sup> mustered out at Des Moines.

Terrell and Brown are the surviving veterans. Terrell lives in Des Moines while Brown lives with his mother on a farm east of Eldyville. The late Henry Surbuer was a veteran of the same war and Memorial services are held over his grave in the same manner as are held over the graves of the veterans of the Civil and World Wars.

During the World War the community sent a total of 129 soldiers and sailors into service, <sup>12</sup> four of whom lost their lives. A monument has been erected in the public park in memory of J. L. and Ed Linderman, Wells Bescoe, and Samuel G. Allison. The American Legion Post was organized August 10, 1920, and is named in honor of



J. L. and Ed Linderman. The Service Star Legion was organized the same year.

Many people have a lot of satisfaction in knowing that Ezra Meeker, pioneer of the Oregon Trail, and the only man to go over that route both ways by ox-team, train, auto and airplane once lived in Eddyville. His brother, J. V. Meeker, was an editor of the Free Press and he still has cousins living in Eddyville.

Ezra Meeker, son of Oliver Meeker, came to Eddyville with his young bride in the fall of 1851 and remained until after their son was born in 1852.<sup>13</sup> He was then outfitted his ox-team, joined one of the wagon-trains and started west over the old Oregon Trail to Oregon where he made his home at The Dalles. In January 1906 he started back over the trail to mark it at various places and to sell souvenirs along the way.<sup>14</sup>

The Tribune kept its readers informed of the trek by reprinting stories that western papers carried relative to Meeker's visit to that particular city. When he reached Eddyville he stayed two days visiting his relatives and entertaining the crowds that gathered about his ox-drawn wagon.

Footnotes: Chapter VI

1. Articles of Incorporation, Wapello County Recorder's Office
2. Eddyville Tribune, December 21, 1906.
3. Ibid., June 4, 1936.
4. Ibid.
5. Articles of Incorporation, County Recorder's Office.
6. Eddyville Tribune, June 4, 1936.
7. Recorder's Minutes, October 15, 1859, Town Records.
8. Lodge records and charter.
9. Articles of Incorporation, County Recorder's Office. The charter members of the various lodges are given in the Appendix.
10. Eddyville Tribune, June 4, 1936.
11. Interview with William L. Brown, May 29, 1937.
12. Roll of Honor, Postoffice, Eddyville.
13. Interviews with Mrs. George Glass and Mrs. S. A. Norman, cousins of Ezra Meeker.
14. Eddyville Tribune, November 16, 1906.

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### Manuscripts

1. Records A, B, D, E, F, G, and Articles of Incorporation, Wapello County Recorder's Office.
2. Secretary's Minutes, Eddyville Board of Education, Eddyville High School Alumni Association, Wapello County Commissioners, Town of Eddyville, American Legion Post No. 108, and Town Assessor.
3. Charters, Eastern Star, I. O. O. F., Masonic, Service Star Legion, American Legion, G. A. R., Woodman, and Town of Eddyville.
4. Personal Account Records, Jabish Phillips Eddy, Dr. Francis H. Buck, J. T. Wylie.

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- Eddyville Advance, November 18, 1875.  
Eddyville Star, December 2, 1865.  
Eddyville Tribune, 1886-1938  
Oskaloosa Globe, September 5, 1906  
Knoxville Journal, September 25, 1930

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2. Hair, James T., Editor, Iowa State Gazetteer, Chicago, 1865.
3. Fulton, A. R., The Red Men of Iowa, Des Moines, 1882.
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6. Waterman, Harrison L., Editor, History of Wapello County, Chicago, 1914, vol. 1.
7. Western Historical Company, History of Wapello County, Chicago, 1878.

**Interviews**

1. Barnett, Lavisa Underwood
2. Brown, William L.
3. De Long, Mrs. W. W.
4. Glass, Mrs. George
5. Norman, Mrs. S. A.
6. Seifert, O. H.
7. Williams, T. J.



**APPENDIX**

**Charter members of John Wilcox Post No. 138, G. A. R.:**

F. M. Epperson, H. G. True, D. H. Hudson, A. M. Lafferty, Silas Chase, J. C. Logan, William Allison, R. M. Young, W. A. Edwards, William Spencer, J. M. Welch, H. C. Beamer, Hiram McKim, F. R. Barnett, S. P. Totman, W. L. Palmer, W. A. York, John Kirkpatrick, J. M. Ryan, H. M. Sparks, B. B. Heki, J. Free, J. Jager, S. Stewart, D. W. Ward, O. H. Vance, J. B. Kummert, and E. G. Wellman.

**Eddyville men lost during the Civil War:**

W. P. Shipley, C. L. Ladd, C. Moulton, William McKissic, D. Gashwa, Samuel Hughes, I. Gumpson, Charles A. Michael, James McDonnell, Homer C. Gibbs, Gabriel Dennis, David Dennis, William Bradley, Thomas Fallerton, Thomas McKissic, John Pickrell, Justice Stauber, John Marshall, P. W. Baker, J. F. Watkins, H. Warner, A. C. Field, Theodore Bee, Zebulon Pike, John Scott, J. Barber, A. Morton, S. A. Warner, J. W. Woodruff, John Seerist, James Seerist, T. J. Burgoine, Benjamin F. Crispin, Courtlan Brown, William H. McGonagel, Charles Gardner, John Walters, Abner Barnard, Serg. J. C. Stoddard, Charles Starkey, H. B. Gordon, Captain. T. B. Hale, Louis Myers, James Matteen, William Warner, Thomas Reed, Levi M. Mathews, Charles Andrus, H. H. Lyman, A. W.

Ignan, H. G. Ignan, Peter Stuber, G. W. Hielly,  
Michael Kirfman, William P. Kirfman, Thomas G. Robb,  
Hoyes Chisman, Robert B. Miller, William Martin,  
William M. Mayers, Jacob Brown, Isaac Stanley,  
Henry C. Gordon, Thomas R. Robb, Robert Fullerton,  
William Ross, William L. Myrick, Elias Whited,  
Norman Terrell, William A. Heacock, James Dalin,  
R. E. Clark, Thomas P. Gray, C. R. Kincaid, Hiran  
D. Wolf, Henry G. Wolf, Alexander Sackett and  
J. C. McDole.

**Superintendents of Eadyville Schools:**

John Piper, 1861-1868; Mrs. Hull, 1868-1869;  
W. H. Horner, 1869-1873; Abe B. Markel, 1873-1876;  
Mrs. M. M. Munger, 1876-1877; A. Messer, 1877-1878;  
J.K. Pickett, 1878-1879; Abe B. Markel, 1879-1880;  
Miss A. C. Latham, 1880-1881; William H. Fleck,  
1881-1882; L. M. Johnson, 1882-1884; A. C. Hancock,  
1884-1885; John Q. Thompson, 1885-1887; J. A. Wiley,  
1887-1890; M. D. Hayes, 1890-1892; J. S. McMahan,  
1892-1893; W. T. Tayler and Frank S. Thompson,  
1893-1894; Frank S. Thompson, 1894-1900; F. F. Frost,  
1900-1901; Joseph Parks, 1901-1904; L. P. Breeden,  
1904-1905; J. A. Yeager, 1905-1908; Frederick C.  
Wildes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  yr., 1908-1909; Miss Emma Nye, 1909-1919;  
Clark E. Baldwin, 1919-1933; Charles E. Lewers,  
1933-1936; and L. C. Taylor, 1936-1938.

**Signers of the Articles of Incorporation of the Edyville Toll Bridge Company:**

James Nosler, W. C. Herrin, J. H. Benedict,  
 Homer D. Ives, William H. Dunlap, E. L. Smith,  
 Francis H. Buck, N. H. Scribner, J. H. Colter,  
 S. H. Gardner, John M. Fish, W. W. Amos,  
 Butcher and Cox, Lewis Scott, Lewis Scott and  
 Co., John Newell, Stephen Roberts and Bro.

**Charter Members of Edyville Lodge No. 74, A. F. & A. M. :**

William Thompson, W. M., Solomon Jenkins, S. W.,  
 Strange Brooks, J. W., John B. Pike, Thomas C.  
 Ogden, Zebulon W. Pike, Joseph Sherrod, James  
 Cline, William Black, Peter Francis, Balser Heki,  
 William R. Ross, Leonidas Thompson, J. B. Miller,  
 Montgomery Pike, William Cox, James Sherrod,  
 H. H. Grover, William McPherrin, James Boller,  
 Ebenezer L. Smith, Isaac Shields and G. W. Black.

**Founders of Edyville Mutual Institute:**

Dr. James Nosler, Dr. Samuel Fish, George B.  
 Hitchcock, Walter Clement, Homer D. Ives,  
 J. H. Benedict, J. B. Morgan, Robert Cook,  
 William H. Dunlap, J. E. Waldrige, T. W. Nosler,  
 Thomas Newell, and Francis H. Buck.



A portion of the town plat in 1851:

Walter Clement, who surveyed the town and drew up the original plat, bought lot 1 Block 2 for \$50.00, and thereon built a log house. The last building on the lot was the one owned by O. H. Seifert which housed the post-office when it burned in 1927. The lot is now a small park.

In 1843, J. H. Benedict built the first saw mill in the vicinity of Eddyville on the lots just north of the Highway Commission Building. A grist mill was added four years later.

On the lot now occupied by Madonna Scott, Alfred "Deacon" Trim had a woodworking and furniture shop.

Henry H. Groves lived on the corner where Dr. Eppie McGree has her home.

Homer D. Ives, Eddyville's first lawyer and city attorney, had his office in a log house on the corner where Clint Roberts had his store until 1934. The site was occupied by the Fausnaugh and Hall store in 1906.

George W. Surbaugh's smithy was located on the corner where Phillip Scott now has his Blacksmith shop. Surbaugh had learned the trade of his father in Virginia, near Harper's Ferry. His residence was on Lot 4 Block 2.

David Campbell, an early school director, owned Lots 7 and 8 Block 17.

J. H. McNamee established the first pottery on the northwest corner of the Benedict Block. His residence was in the same block. Holland Benedict built the first three-story building on the southwest corner. The brick warehouse was torn down after the Civil War.

On the lots back of the Tribune office Dr. F. H. Buek and Dr. William R. Ross had their offices. Buek's office was moved to the lot now occupied by McCombs Grocery.

Behind the present City Hall, Lot 7 Block 2, was the store of Michael Welch. His residence was on the alley north of the store.

William "Uncle Billy" Mummert had his residence and tailor shop south of Fish and Danlap's store, in Block 4.

South of the tailor shop was the famous structure known far and wide as "The Old 1001". It was first used as a store and later as a printing shop. During the era of steamboating it was the rendezvous of all those who were interested in a brothel, saloon or gambling house.

In 1846 Jonathan Morgan purchased Lot 4 Block 6 which was a highly-prized location. Today it is a weed patch along the river.

Lot 2 in Block 5 was an excellent location in early Eddyville. The last service it saw was when the old ice-house stood on it until a few years ago. The lot was purchased by Adam Detrick of Logan County, Ohio, in 1847.

David A. Ekerson purchased Lot 6 Block 11 and erected a dwelling which he sold to J. P. Eddy for \$200.00. Jacob Holbrook bought Lot 4 in the same block in 1848.

Harrison Workman, Justice of the Peace, was deeded Lot 5 Block 3 January 13, 1845 for \$100.00.

The first building used solely for church purposes was the Methodist Episcopal Church erected on Block 16 in 1848. The frame building was located on the lot which is now between the residence of Dr. W. W. Frevort and the office of Dr. F. E. Vance.

The southwest quarter of Block 12 was colloqually known as "Hell's Half Acre". Over a large cave was built a store and saloon. The cave is now owned by Harve Powers, and it is all that remains of the hey-day of Hell's Half Acre.

The first frame house built in the town was erected by J. P. Eddy on the northwest corner lot of the block where O. J. Lind lived in 1906. It was a two-story frame and for a long time the upper floor was used as a lodge room by the Odd Fellows, Masons and Good Templars. The building was familiarly known as the Eddy barracks. Homer D. Ives finally bought the house and moved it up on the lot where Knemeyer's Garage now stands. The building burned in 1901.

The house in which Frederick Johnston, Jr. lives is one of the oldest buildings in Eddyville. William Cox and Richard Butcher used it as a store in 1846. It became the home of N. H. Scribner after he purchased it in 1850.

### Eddyville Business Firms in 1865:

Robert W. Boyd and John O. Wilson were insurance agents; John M. Fish & W. P. Wightman were dealers in agriculture implements; Reuben Binder and Joseph C. Black were the town bakers; John Dyen, Prestly T. Edwards, A. Foster Fairchild, James R. Thompson, J. T. Wylie, Lemuel Briggs, and James Boyd were the blacksmiths; William P. Broderick & C. Walton, Henry C. Goldback and Charles Lutz were boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers.

Smith and Crosson were the brick manufacturers; Flavel Gaylord, William Schaefer and Nicholas Fessler were cabinet manufacturers and dealers; Levi Baldwin, David Gwin, A. J. Oden, Larned brothers, Isaac Meeker and Thomas Walker were the carpenters and builders; Timothy Jennings was a manufacturer of wagons and carriages; A. W. Haines, Presbyterian, David Lane, Congregational, L. T. Rowley, Methodist, and John O. Wilson, Baptist, were the clergymen of the town.

Forsha brothers and Stanley were the clothiers; Samuel Gandler was the only cooper; John L. Moore, D. W. McManus, and Washington S. Scott were the druggists; William H. Danlap, Stiles E. Forsha, Alexander L. Forsha, Isaac M. Stanley, Edwin Manning and Samuel T. Caldwell were the dry goods merchants.

John Gish and James Penick were the proprietors of the Valley Flour Mills; William H. Dunlap, Alexander K. Dunn, M. Y. Kinne, James W. Stockwell, A. P. Mintonye, and Michael Welch operated general stores; John W. Faxon, William H. Long, Thomas R. Scott, Charles S. Parsons, Samuel B. Paylor, Isaac Shields and John Cole operated grocery stores; John H. Fish and Charles E. Hewitt sold hardware and cutlery; John J. Schott was the dealer in hides, pelts and wool; W. W. Amos was the proprietor of the Amos House; Andrew Cowan and Son operated the Slemmons House; Joseph Work and James H. Pointer managed the Union House.

Homer D. Ives was the only lawyer; Walter H. Cross, Johnson, Harvey and James operated the livery stables; Edward J. McGavie, W. Wray and William McGavie, and J. W. Scroggs were lumber dealers; Merrill J. Hazeltine and William S. Stoneaker were dealers and operators of the marble works; James Reeves owned the meat market; Miss S. B. Benson and Mrs. W. S. Cross were the town's milliners and dealers in millinery goods; Aaron Melick published the Mayville Star; Austin Grey was the nurseryman; John M. Wilson, Benjamin Eggleston and Luther Parker operated the packing plant and slaughter house.



Eugene F. Doremus and Robert M. Kemp operated the photograph gallery; John Beal, F. H. Back, John H. Frey, and James Mosler were the town's physicians and surgeons; George W. Surbaugh and Joseph E. Phillips manufactured plows; Andrew Seifert, John M. Fish and Zachariah Groub were saddle and harness manufacturers; William Parker operated the saloon; Henry F. Bau did the tailoring; Joseph Perry manufactured wagons; Leverett M. Barker had a jewelry store; Joseph H. Benedict was a wool carder and a manufacturer of woolen goods; Richard Butcher and William Cox were dealers in wool as well as other products.

**Charter Members of Knights of Pythias Lodge:**

Grant Cowley, G. W. Bullock, C. Poulton, J. Q. Thompson, G. D. Ogden, J. K. Schae, J. F. Oliver, A. A. Seifert, W. M. Ekinman, W. W. DeLong, C. L. Phillips, G. S. Gibson, A. L. McMahan, S. W. Harting, R. J. Oldham, C. J. Wells, W. J. Boyd, J. M. Kussart, David Ogden, L. L. McCord, T. J. Williams, J. R. Kussart, J. J. Mintonye, William Roberts, J. S. McMahan, W. F. Burns, O. W. Mathews, F. W. Fais, C. L. Myrick, C. E. Hoopes, M. E. Crosson, J. L. Moore, Jack Williams, Ed Leggett and J. B. Nelson.

Portions of the "General Bill" as recorded in J. P. Eddy's  
Account Book, Ottumwa Public Library:

27 beeves @ \$35.00 - \$935.00; Expenses of Hard  
Fish to Burlington \$26.25; Expenses for waggons  
and horses 10 days, \$30.00; 75 blankets @ \$5.50  
\$407.00; 5 horses \$500.00; 2 mules \$200.00;  
By the Proffit 1 doz. sholls \$36.00; By Hard  
Fish 13 pr. blankets @ \$7.00 - \$91.00; three  
barrels flour \$24.00; 1 bullock \$30.00; 1 hog  
dressed \$7.50; 40 loaves of bread \$4.00; 100#  
powder \$75.00; 1 box for the dead \$7.50; 25  
strings wampum \$1.25; Patterson's beef bill  
\$86.50; 48 lbs. vermillian @ \$4.00 - \$192.00.

Members of Eddyville Band of 1869 as shown in picture:

Top row: Sam Van Ness, William Goodman, Daniel  
Van Ness, John Rector, J. M. True.

Seated: left to right, William Gaylord,  
Daniel Hamilton, George Johnson, Arnold Johnson,  
Sr., (father of George Johnson)

Letter by Mrs. Sarah Morris to the Eddyville Tribune.  
August 24, 1906:

"I noticed in the Tribune the history of the old settlers that came at a very early date and I also noticed a few errors. Mr. N. H. Scribner, my father, built the first house in Eddyville. It was a four-room, hewed log, two story house on the lot between John Ryan and Miss H. Johnson. This was built in the spring of 1843. Mr. Eddy built his house of lumber. I remember when Eddy built his house on the lot just South of where Amos Gray lives now. As the lumber had to be hauled from Keokuk or Burlington, it was more than a year before the house was completed. Mr. Eddy was an Indian trader and had his trading post about a mile south of town. He had a clerk by the name of Dan Mudge. John B. Gray lived over the river but the family did not come till later in the summer. I saw them cross the river as they were going over to their home. Mr. Wylie and Caldwell were here when we came, but they had just been here a few days.

The year 1850, my father bought the house and two lots where Mrs. James Boyd now lives and the house on the corner was partly finished. My father finished the house, it was used as a hotel and known as the Valley House. He bought the houses of a man by the name of Sam Hoon (no "Cal" to it), he left Eddyville for California to dig gold. I want to say right here that my father, N. H. Scribner, gave the ground where the old grave yard is to Eddyville for a grave yard. There were only two families here when we came to Eddyville. Their names were Tucker and Gray. This Mr. Gray was Abigail Gray's father-in-law. This town was an Indian town, we lived in wigwams until our houses were finished.

Respectfully, Mrs. Sarah Morris."

#### Editor's Notes:

"Mr. Eddy's house was the first frame house. The lumber was hauled from Burlington.

The Old Settler's chair went to Mrs. Abigail Gray and Mrs. Barber, daughters of John B. Gray, as the earliest settler in attendance at the meeting. The committee having been informed that John B. Gray and family came here in November 1842. Mr. J. T. Wylie came here April 25, 1843.

The name of the original proprietor of the Valley House was given to me as Calhoon. A second informant gave it to me as Mrs. Morris has it, Hoon. I enquired of three or four others as to which was correct and they gave it to me as Calhoun, so that is the way I put it.

The old graveyard was given in trust to the three acting trustees of Harrison township, the last surviving being J. T. Wylie who transferred control thereof to the Ladies Highland Cemetery Association, whose zeal and good work, the past dozen years, has rescued it from weeds and neglect and transformed it into a last resting place most desirable and beautiful."

Letter by Mrs. Abigail Gray to the Eddyville Tribune,  
September 25, 1906:

Albia, Iowa, Sept. 25, 1906

Mr. Hugo Seifert: In reading the article in the Eddyville Tribune of August 24th, headed "Correction to Eddyville History" and signed by Mrs. Sarah Morris, she says that John B. Gray lived over the river and that the family did not come over till later in the summer. It is true that he lived over the river after the first day of May, 1843, at which time he took his family all with him onto his claim in what is now Monroe County.

Her statement that the family did not come till later in the summer is no doubt due to her misunderstanding her informant at some time when she saw us cross the river during the summer, for my father was in the habit of taking his family with him to Eddyville. I will relate one incident that occurred at the time of one of these visits. It was the death of a little girl, the first death I had seen. The girl was lying on a bark bed in one of those bark houses that had been vacated by the Indians. The people's name was Tilly. I remember them well for they moved from Eddyville onto a claim west of where we lived. They had another daughter named Elizabeth. I remember the name Dan Mudge, and have seen the man named Sam Hoon. I remember the persons that Mrs. Morris named, viz., Messrs. Caldwell, Wylie, and Scribner, and a good many others that were not mentioned in the paper. In Eddyville there was Dr. Ross, Jim and Sam Vase, a John Morgan, and a man named Cross and one Corosson. There were three Roberts brothers. On the west side of the river there were Scott Steele, a Mr. Mecker, a Mr. Grain, a Neddy Davis, a Mr. Beedle, and Wm. McKinney, and lots of others. Alfred Wilson, who married Mary Ann Steele in 1844, was here in 1843.

I will give a little history of John B. Gray and family prior to and during their moving to the place that is now Eddyville, and onto the claim in what is now Monroe County. In the early fall of 1842 we were residing in Illinois, where my father had been selling goods. He also had some interest in a turning lathe and furniture establishment. We had relatives in Burlington, Agency City, and the place



known as Eddyville. In my father's preparation to change his place of residence he visited the places named, taking his family with him. At Agency City my mother's brother-in-law named Sturdevant, who was a gunsmith for the Sas and Fox Indians, resided, so as we stopped there. From there we came to Eddyville to visit another one of my mother's sisters. Her husband's name was Wm. Melvain. He was employed by Mr. Eddy. They lived in Mr. Eddy's double log house situated a short distance below the Indian village in plain view of the village. My mother and Aunt Melvain went to the village taking myself and two younger sisters with them. We went into some of the houses. They were built by setting poles into the ground with a horizontal pole attached to them to form the frame, and covered with bark peeled from elm trees. Some of the houses had steep roofs formed by a comb pole and covered with bark. For beds they had stakes set in the ground with horizontal poles attached to them and the side poles of the frame of the house, and bark laid on, forming a shelf or platform against the inside of the house. The floor was of sand. The houses were deserted when we were there except for fleas and there was evidence of other vermin in the cast-off leggins and other garments that they had left behind when the Indians had gone into winter quarters. While visiting at Mr. Melvain's we met Mrs. Eddy and her daughter, Marilla. This was in October, 1842, when my parents came to the Mississippi River to make preparations for my father's winter sojourn and business in Eddyville, leaving us children with our Aunt and her neighbors. There was a man named Stricklin in some way associated with Mr. Sturdevant. My parents returned to Agency the first week in November on their way to Eddyville. The weather was very threatening on that cold day in November and the snow was falling on us sometime before we reached that little log house there on the Knehakinoch, in the edge of the woods, with a clearing in front of the house where the Indians had raised corn. There was plenty of skinned trees, from which the Indians had taken the bark, in view from the house.

I remember how frightened we were when the Indians would pass by riding so fast and whooping so loud, and how uncomfortable we felt when they would crowd into the house to look at the goods and make purchases, and how sometimes all the food would be given to the Indians if they happened in when Mother was preparing a meal or had one ready. I have seen father sell them bars of lead and mold bullets for them. There was no goods kept only such as was suitable for the Indians, such as blankets, calico shirts, bright colored braid for wrapping the hair, and leggins and ammunition. Father made frequent trips to the Mississippi river to bring supplies for the trade and his own use.

At such times we felt timid, as we had no protection but a sixteen year old boy father had taken to raise. There were two men with us when we arrived at that log house in November 1842. They were at our house one other time during the winter, and in the spring they helped father build his house, and they and some Indians helped them cross the river. To do this they went up the river above the Steele place to land so as to avoid crossing any streams. They took the wagons apart and took them one piece at a time and his other property, as much as the canoes would hold. They swam the stock across, so that you could readily see that anyone living in Eddyville could not have seen us cross the river the first time we went to our home on the first day of May 1843. I have lived in Iowa continuously since that date, and in Monroe County until after I was married on December 18, 1853, so I am entitled to the distinction of being fifty years married in Monroe County, Iowa.

The Mr. Gray who Mrs. Morris mentioned was my husband's father, but I never saw him for we left Eddyville the first day of May and they arrived the second of July.

I will relate a few incidents of the winter of 1842-43. On one occasion my father was in the woods, and for some reason the Indians took his gun from him and kept it for several days. He made several visits before they consented to let him have it. I know it caused him a great deal of anxiety, and finally when there was a time set for him to have it he took me with him to the camp, and I remember how glad mother was when we returned.

Another time I went with father to a wigwam (tent). There was a sick child in the tent. When we came in sight of the tent there was an Indian coming out of the tent in great haste. He climbed up to the opening for smoke as fast as he could and covered the smoke hole. When we went into the tent the child was dead. I did not see the child but saw the Indians pass to and from an inclosure of some kind, hid from the main view by a curtain of matting of some sort. There was a considerable commotion among them. My parents said that the place was covered to keep the spirit back.

My mother and some of the squaws got on borrowing terms and bartered such things as they had to exchange. We got dried corn from them, and we still have some bowls made of knots from trees. They were very hard and smooth. The squaws would get our iron kettle to wash with. They would make their fire in the ice, cut a hole in the ice to get water from, and do the washing on the ice. We used to watch the little Indian boys shoot birds and practice with their darts, and a long slender rod shaved down very limber, with a ball

made on one end by cutting away the wood of the handle to the required thickness and elasticity. They would throw it in a circular, swinging motion. The field in front of our house was a popular place for practice.

Besides the regular burying grounds there were other graves scattered around, some hung up in trees stapled to pieces of bark, some leaned against trees, and some put into the ground in a slightly inclined position, but all wrapped in something that covered them from view. There was one tree in Eddyville hung full of beads of all colors and sizes. There was a platform up in the tree with a dead Indian on it.

I have only mentioned such things as would appeal to a child's feelings, and especially of fear, but I now believe the Indians had nothing but friendly designs toward us notwithstanding our fear. For on one occasion came into the yard where mother was and for some reason mother said "Puckachee" (go off). One of the squaws picked up a piece of bark and motioned to strike. The bark broke, striking mother on the cheek and causing blood to flow. The squaw immediately tried to show that she was sorry and didn't mean to fight.

They visited us after we were on our claim as late as the winter of 1844. I know the date because it was after my oldest brother was born, which was in September 1844. He was crying with the colic. The squaw took him and put him under her blanket and in a few minutes he was quietly sleeping.  
(Mrs.) Abigail Gray

Myself and sister wish to express our thanks to the Eddyville Old Settlers Association for their generosity in bestowing rewards, and the committee for their gentlemanly manner in carrying out their wishes.

Abigail Gray  
Mary F. Barber"

Eddy's receipt for payment of land on which became the site of Eddyville. Recorded in Wapello County Records:

United States	No. 10819 Receiver's Office at Fairfield
to Certificate	Iowa Territory
Jabish P. Eddy	October 10, 1844

Received from Jabish Philips Eddy of Wapello County Iowa the sum of one hundred and sixty-one dollars and eighty-five cents, being in full for the North West fractional quarter of the Section No. 6 in Township No. 73 North of range No. 15 west containing one hundred and twenty-nine acres and forty-eight hundredths at \$1.25 per acre.  
\$161.85 Duplicate Samuel J. Bayard, Receiver

Filed for record February 10, 1845.  
Milton J. Spurlock, Recorder  
by Charles Overman, Dept'y.