

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
DES MOINES COUNTY,  
IOWA,

CONTAINING

**A History of the County, its Cities, Towns, &c.,**

A Biographical Directory of Citizens, War Record of its Volunteers in the late Rebellion, General and Local Statistics, Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the Northwest, History of Iowa, Map of Des Moines County, Constitution of the United States, Miscellaneous Matters, &c.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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CHICAGO:  
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY,  
1879.

& Co., and under their management became one of the best paying institutions in the country, and the firm of Hutchcroft & Co. keep up their good name.

A tile-factory a mile south of Kossuth, has added to the business, and greatly benefited the country. Messenger & McClurkin were its founders, in 1871. Messenger & Pierce are the present proprietors. So great has been the call for their products that the aid of a steam engine and much new machinery has been required and provided the present year. W. H. Cartwright continued his successful mercantile career here till the close of 1869. J. L. Yost, S. B. Heizer, James Waddle, S. Pollock, J. J. Crowder, J. W. Chapman, B. F. Vanleaven, James Vannice, John Bridges, M. Crane, R. R. and F. Wycoff, R. S. Hedges, J. N. Covert, M. L. Heizer, Joab Harper, T. Rhodes and others have sold goods here at various times with various results.

The Free Church employed Rev. S. K. Kain in 1856, his pastorate lasting two years. Rev. D. Gilmore was their preacher in 1860. Rev. W. G. Kephart succeeded him, and preached till 1865, when Pastor and people were absorbed by the Yellow Springs Presbyterian Church, to which Mr. Kephart ministered until 1869. In 1870, April 13, the union of the Yellow Springs Church and that of Round Prairie was consummated and Rev. Alexander Scott became Pastor of the "First Presbyterian Church of Kossuth."

Kossuth has now two general stores, one steam flouring-mill, one furniture store, one nursery, three physicians, two blacksmith-shops, one shoemaker, one millinery establishment and one steam tile-mill. The present Postmaster of Kossuth is John Bridges.

#### NORTHFIELD.

Northfield is situated in the northeastern part of Yellow Springs Township. Part of the site of the village was claimed by Samuel Smith, who sold out to Silas Belknap. The latter entered the claim. The other portion of the present Northfield was originally claimed and entered by John Millard. Lewis Benedict was interested with Millard in the claim and sold the same to William Phiney. In the spring of 1837, James Carr came from Ohio and settled on a claim now partly joining and partly in Northfield. William Phiney, the founder of this village, was born in Connecticut, May 12, 1790, afterward lived in York State and Pennsylvania, from where, in 1836, he emigrated to Florence, Louisa Co., Iowa. There he kept a tavern and run a ferry-boat on the Iowa River. In 1843, he purchased the land heretofore referred to, which he improved and thereon built a frame house. The neighborhood soon became thickly settled and went by the name of Hickory Point.

In 1851, William McMullen and William Moore started a carding machine there, selling the next year to W. F. Robinson and Thomas Davis, who added much to the business and capacity of the establishment, and, in 1855, removed it to its present location. In 1852, the first dwelling-house was built by W. F. Robinson, and, in 1855, he was appointed Postmaster, the post office established and named Northfield. A store was started there in 1853, by Coty & Hiatt.

The town lots were laid out by William Phiney, and surveyed by J. Wilson Williams, in 1866.

In 1836, a German named Siedenbender established a claim just a half-mile north of the site of Northfield. He afterward sold to William Walter, he to Foster Carmean who now lives on it.

Francis Blake residing in Huron Township, about two miles east of Northfield, was born in Franklin County, Vt., September 9, 1804. From there he emigrated with his brother Calvin Blake, to Peoria, leaving Vermont in September, 1834. They arrived at their destination in December of the same

# BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY.

## ABBREVIATIONS.

agt.....agent	mach.....machinist
bdg.....boarding	mech.....mechanic
carp.....carpenter	mer.....merchant
clk.....clerk	mfr.....manufacturer
Co.....company or county	mkr.....maker
dlr.....dealer	P. O.....Post Office
far.....farmer	prop.....proprietor
gro.....grocer	S. or Sec.....Section
I. V. A.....Iowa Volunteer Artillery	st.....street
I. V. C.....Iowa Volunteer Cavalry	supt.....superintendent
I. V. I.....Iowa Volunteer Infantry	Treas.....Treasurer
lab.....laborer	

## BURLINGTON CITY.

(P. O. BURLINGTON)

[NOTE—When business is not mentioned, the location given is residence.]

Abercrombie, J. C., 823 N. 6th.  
 Acott, John, blacksmith; res. 109 Plane.  
 Acres, Blackmar & Co., printers and blank-book makers, 206 N. 3d.  
 Acres, Henry, postal clerk, 1013 S. 9th.  
**ACRES, STEPHEN T.**, of the firm of Acres, Blackmar & Co., was born in Gibraltar Aug. 17, 1816; came to the United States in July, 1853; located at Waukegan, Ill., July 20, 1853; engaged in bookbinding business there about nine months; he then came to Burlington, arriving here April 29, 1854; engaged in bookbinding, which business he has continued ever since; for ten years he had charge of the circulation of the *Hawk-Eye*. Exactly one year from the date of his arrival in the United States, Mr. Acres signified a desire to avail himself of all the rights of an American citizen, and five years from the date of his arrival in New York City, he was admitted to citizenship by the Des Moines County Judge—Oliver C. Wightman. Mr. Acres has served for three terms as Alderman of the Seventh Ward of this city. Oct. 1, 1842, he was married, in Gibraltar, to Sarah Newman; she was born in Gibraltar July 29, 1817; they have eight chil-

dren living. Mr. and Mrs. Acres are members of the M. E. Church.  
 Acres, Thomas R., bookbinder, Central Block; res. 121 Clay.  
**ACRES, WILLIAM**, dealer in groceries, provisions, candies and notions, west cor. of Summer and Dill streets; was born Aug. 29, 1833, in Gibraltar, Spain, and moved to America and to Burlington in 1857, remained until 1863, then returned to Europe, and, in 1871, returned to Burlington, where he is permanently located. Married Oct. 16, 1865, Adela Molinare; they have four children—Thomas R., Arthur F., Mary C., Emma L.  
 Acres, William, Jr., car-reporter, 913 S. Boundary.  
 Adams, A. G., wholesale boots, shoes, etc., 310 N. Main; res. 727 N. 5th.  
 Adelheim, C., teamster, 1025 Ash.  
 Adolphson, John, carpenter.  
 Adkinson, William, plasterer, 214 S. 6th.  
 Affleck, John, boards 501 N. Main.  
 Agnew, D. Z., painter, 105 N. 7th.  
 Agnew, John, painter, 610 Washington.  
 Albertson, Albert, res. 1213 Spruce.  
 Allen, Christopher, plumber and gas-fitter, 408 N. Main; res. West av.  
 Allen & Whipple, hardware, 319 Jefferson.

Vennici, W. M., far., Sec. 5; P. O. Burlington.

Vixtrum, J., far., Sec. 3; P. O. Kingston.

**W**ALKER, E. S., far., Sec. 15; Burlington.

Walker, I., far., Sec. 33; P. O. Burlington.

Walker, J., far., S. 28; P. O. Burlington.

Walker, J. C., far., Sec. 27; P. O. Burlington.

Walker, L. J., far., Sec. 27; P. O. Burlington.

Walker, M., far., Sec. 3; P. O. Kingston.

Walker, M., far., S. 28; P. O. Burlington.

Wedeman, H., far., Sec. 18; P. O. Latty.

Welch, J., far., S. 3; P. O. Kingston.

Welch, J. W., far., Sec. 3; P. O. Burlington.

**WENZEL, KARL**, farmer and wine-maker, S. 30; P. O. Latty; born in Lobenstein, Austria, in 1821; came to Des Moines Co. in 1873. Married Treasa Bronche in 1847; she was born in German Lebaugh, Austria, in 1832; they have two children—Charles and Eva. Owns 200 acres of land. Mr. W. was in the Austrian army five years;

he has an extensive vineyard, and makes a superior quality of wine. Republican.

Wenzel, T., far., S. 30; P. O. Latty.

Weston, F.; P. O. Kingston.

Wishmiers, C., far., Sec. 29; P. O. Burlington.

**WUNNENBERG, H.**, farmer, Sec. 18; P. O. Sperry; was born in Calvorde, Germany, in 1821; came to Des Moines Co. in 1853, and since been engaged in farming. Married Emilie Rehfeld in 1853; she was born in Lenzarsigle, Germany, in 1833; they have nine children—Henry, born in 1854; Herman in 1858; Otto in 1860; Fred in 1862; Mary in 1864; Alvenia in 1867; August in 1869; Emma in 1872; Clara in 1876. Mr. Wunnenberg owns 145 acres of land, valued at \$6,000. Mr. and Mrs. W. are members of the Lutheran Church; Democrat.

Wykert, J., laborer; P. O. Kingston.

**Y**OUNG, J., farmer, Sec. 22; P. O. Burlington.

Young, L., far., S. 23; P. O. Burlington.

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

**A**LDRICH, G. W., farmer, Sec. 16; P. O. La Vega.

Allen, R. J., far., S. 12; P. O. Linton.

Archer, Henry, far., S. 14; P. O. Roscoe.

Armstrong, David, far., Sec. 24; P. O. Roscoe.

Armstrong, J. M., far., Sec. 24; P. O. Roscoe.

**B**ARR, JAMES, farmer, Sec. 27; P. O. Roscoe.

Barr, E. W., far., S. 26; P. O. Roscoe.

Bomby, C., far., S. 31; P. O. La Vega.

Bowman, Charles, far., Sec. 30; P. O. La Vega.

Brodie, David, far., S. 18; P. O. La Vega.

Brown, David, far., S. 20; P. O. La Vega.

Brown, W. O., far., S. 20; P. O. La Vega.

Buchanan, G. W., far., Sec. 32; P. O. La Vega.

Burnett, James, far., S. 27; P. O. La Vega.

Bazurth, W. F., far., S. 3; P. O. La Vega.

**C**ALDWELL, M. P., far., Sec. 11; P. O. Linton.

Carter, I. S., far., S. 9; P. O. La Vega.

Caven, H. M., far., S. 10; P. O. La Vega.

Caven, M. H., far., S. 10; P. O. La Vega.

Chapman, E. C., M. D., La Vega.

Cline, Henry, far., S. 24; P. O. La Vega.

Cockayne, John E., far., Sec. 17; P. O. La Vega.

Cone, A. S., far., S. 18; P. O. La Vega.

Conklin, John, far., S. 32; P. O. La Vega.

Coppas, Peter, far., S. 20; P. O. La Vega.

Crawford, D. B., far., Sec. 35; P. O. Pleasant Grove.

Crocker, Charles, far., Sec. 6; P. O. Mt. Union.

Croson, T. W., far., S. 10; P. O. La Vega.

**D**ARBYSHIRE, T., far., S. 29; P. O. La Vega.

**E**LLIOTT, J. S., far., S. 2; P. O. La Vega.

Elliott, R., far., S. 2; P. O. La Vega.

Enkee, Josiah, far., S. 3; P. O. La Vega.

Evans, Henry, far., S. 25; P. O. Roscoe.

**F**ETHERLY, W., farmer, Sec. 9 ;  
P. O. La Vega.

Frazier, A., far., S. 3 ; P. O. La Vega.

Funk, Geo., far., S. 29 ; P. O. La Vega.

Funk, Henry, far., Sec. 29 ; P. O. La Vega.

Funk, Peter, far., S. 32 ; P. O. La Vega.

Fye, Henry, far., S. 27 ; P. O. La Vega.

Fye, John, far., S. 19 ; P. O. La Vega.

**G**AUTT, URIAH, farmer, Sec. 12 ;  
P. O. Linton.

Gibbs, E. J. M., far., S. 6 ; P. O. Mt.  
Union.

Goudie, Fred, far., S. 24 ; P. O. Roscoe.

Green, Cyrus, far., S. 3 ; P. O. La Vega.

**H**ARRINGTON, J. D., farmer, Sec.  
31 ; P. O. La Vega.

**HALE, BARNARD**, farmer, Sec.  
28 ; P. O. La Vega ; owns eighty acres  
of land ; was born in Parke Co., Ind.,  
in 1826 ; his parents removed to Des  
Moines Co. from Indiana in 1837. Mr.  
Hale married in 1854 Susan B. Downer,  
a native of Pennsylvania ; have had  
seven children, five now living—James  
R., Angeletta E., Emma S., Elizabeth  
E. and Willis B. ; Emilius died aged 7  
years and one died in infancy. Mr.  
Hale settled on the farm he now owns  
in 1857. He is a carpenter by trade.

**HALL, OLIVER**, farmer, Sec. 24 ;  
P. O. Roscoe ; owns 400 acres of land ;  
was born in Rensselaer Co., N. Y., in  
1810 ; came to Des Moines Co. from  
New York in 1838, and settled on Sec.  
8, Franklin Tp. ; in 1854, he settled on  
the farm he now owns. He married  
in 1837 Marietta R. Whittaker, a native  
of North Adams, Mass. ; they have eight  
children—Susan F. Talbot, Harriet A.  
Talbot, William H., Edward J., Charles  
M., Lincoln C., Margaret C. Williams  
and Oscar ; have lost three children—  
one in infancy ; Gideon, a member of  
the 39th Regt. I. V. I., died at Jackson,  
Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862 ; Rollin died in  
1876. Mr. Hall has been County Sur-  
veyor and Justice of the Peace for many  
years. He owns a farm of 320 acres in  
Clark Co., which was in charge of his  
son Rollin at the time of his death.

Hicks, Willis, far., S. 9 ; P. O. LaVega.

Higgerson, Wm., far., S. 9 ; P. O. LaVega.

Hoover, J. B., far., S. 32 ; P. O. LaVega.

Hopkins, W. H. far., S. 5 ; P. O. LaVega.

Howard, Wm., far., S. 19 ; P. O. LaVega.

Hudson, John, far., S. 10 ; P. O. LaVega.

Huggins, R. R., far., S. 8 ; P. O. Mt.  
Union.

Hutchcroft, Geo., far., S. 14 ; P. O. La  
Vega.

Hutchinson, John, far., S. 12 ; P. O. La  
Vega.

**I**BOTSON, GEO., far., S. 28 ; P. O.  
LaVega.

Ibotson, S., far., S. 22 ; P. O. LaVega.

**J**ONES, B. I., far., S. 35 ; P. O. Pleas-  
ant Grove.

Jones, W. E., far., S. 24 ; P. O. Roscoe.

**K**REIGER, J., far., S. 32 ; P. O.  
LaVega.

Kneen, John, far., S. 18 ; P. O. LaVega.

**KLINE, ANDREW C.**, mer-  
chant, LaVega ; was born in Pennsyl-  
vania in 1836 ; he came to Des Moines  
Co. with his parents in 1852 ; they  
settled in Franklin Tp., where they re-  
sided until their death. Mr. Kline  
came to Yarmouth in March, 1876 ; he  
began mercantile business in August of  
that year ; was the first engaged in busi-  
ness in Yarmouth, except Mr. Shirk,  
who began the blacksmithing business  
in June of the same year. Married in  
1861 to Kate Scott, a native of Frank-  
lin Tp., Des Moines Co. ; born in 1840 ;  
her father, Wm. Scott, was one of the  
first settlers of Des Moines Co. Mr.  
Kline has three children—Rufus, Scott  
and Amy.

Kline, W. F., far., S. 21 ; P. O. La  
Vega.

**L**EFFORGE, JOHN, far., S. 23 ; P. O.  
LaVega.

Lefforge, L., far., S. 23 ; P. O. LaVega.

Lefforge, Melville, far., Sec. 23 ; P. O. La  
Vega.

Linder, Isaac, far., S. 17 ; P. O. La Vega.

Lines, J. R., Postmaster, La Vega.

Lines, Robt., far., S. 34 ; P. O. La Vega.

Long, A. C., far., S. 16 ; P. O. La Vega.

Long, S. P., far., S. 16 ; P. O. La Vega.

Long, Chas., far., S. 21 ; P. O. La Vega.

Lotspiech, Eden, far., S. 22 ; P. O. La  
Vega.

**M**CCALL, D, far., S. 3 ; P. O. La  
Vega.

McClurkin, J. C., far., S. 1 ; P. O.  
Linton.

McClurkin, J. M., far., S. 1 ; P. O. Lin-  
ton.

McElbiny, R. A., far., Sec. 12 ; P. O.  
Linton.

McKune, W. A., far., Sec. 34; P. O. Pleasant Grove.

Mason, Martin, far., Sec. 11; P. O. La Vega.

Michael, Daniel, far., Sec. 28; P. O. La Vega.

Miller, E. A., far., Sec. 6; P. O. Mt. Union.

Miller, Marion, far., Sec. 23; P. O. La Vega.

Miller, M. F., far., S. 20; P. O. La Vega.

Miller, S. P., far., S. 20; P. O. La Vega.

Montgomery, W. G., far., Sec. 13; P. O. Roscoe.

Morrison, John, far., Sec. 15; P. O. La Vega.

Murphy, P., far., S. 15; P. O. La Vega.

Musock, J., far., S. 30; P. O. La Vega.

**O**BERMANN, JOHN, far., Sec. 30; P. O. La Vega.

O'Kell, Frank, far., S. 4; P. O. La Vega.

Orchard, A., far., S. 29; P. O. La Vega.

**P**ACKWOOD, A., far., S. 15; P. O. La Vega.

**PECKHAM, R. M.**, far., S. 30; La Vega; owns 300 acres; was born in Washington, D. C., in 1812; removed thence to Columbus, Ohio, in 1834; settled on his present farm in 1855. He married, in 1845, Melvina Webb, who died in 1872; has ten children—Emma, Charles, Martha, Ada, Caleb, Hugh, Sarah, Annie, Katie and Richard; lost two children—Rosabel and Lily.

Peel, S. K., far., S. 4; P. O. La Vega.

Petsinger, John, far., S. 8; P. O. La Vega.

Portlock, W. A., far., S. 21; P. O. La Vega.

Pricket, Elias, far., S. 31; P. O. La Vega.

Priest, John, far., S. 31; P. O. La Vega.

**R**EDFEARN, ISAAC, far., S. 18; P. O. La Vega.

Redfearn, John, far., S. 18; P. O. La Vega.

Reed, David, far., S. 2; P. O. Linton.

Riffle, John L., far., S. 27; P. O. La Vega.

**S**SCHOMP, P. J., far., S. 29; P. O. La Vega.

Selser, Peter, far., S. 15; P. O. La Vega.

Shields, M., far.; S. 25; P. O. Roscoe.

Smith, Fred., far., S. 21; P. O. La Vega.

Smith, F. M., far., S. 26; P. O. Pleasant Grove.

Smith, M. C., far., S. 6; P. O. La Vega.

Starkee, Henry, far., S. 21; P. O. La Vega.

Sterrett, D. B., far., S. 4; P. O. La Vega.

Sterret, R. E., far., S. 4; P. O. La Vega.

Sterrett, Wm., far., S. 4; P. O. La Vega.

**T**TALBERT, EDWIN, farmer, Sec. 14; P. O. Roscoe.

Talbert, L. J., far., S. 33; P. O. La Vega.

Thomas, T. W., far., S. 24; P. O. Roscoe.

Tippin, J. R., far., S. 10; P. O. La Vega.

Tucker, Abram, far., S. 24; P. O. Pleasant Grove.

Tucker, J. M., farmer, Sec. 29; P. O. La Vega.

**V**EGTIC, JOHN, farmer, Sec. 20; P. O. La Vega.

**W**EINRICH, Chas., farmer, Sec. 27; P. O. La Vega.

Wilkison, George, far., S. 26; P. O. La Vega.

Welch, H. B., far., S. 28; P. O. La Vega.

Willard, W. P., far., S. 21; P. O. La Vega.

Wilson, John, far., S. 23; P. O. La Vega.

Williams, T. O., far., S. 13; P. O. Roscoe.

Williams, W. W., far., S. 27; P. O. Pleasant Grove.

Wilson, J. R., far., S. 2; P. O. Linton.

Wilson, S. E., far., S. 1; P. O. La Vega.

Wright, E., far., S. 16; P. O. Linton.

Wilson, S. E., far., S. 13; P. O. Linton.

Wright, J. B., far., S. 11; P. O. La Vega.

Wright, S. R., far., S. 13; P. O. Roscoe.

Wilson, A. M., far., S. 11; P. O. Linton.

Wright, Wm. L., far., S. 11; P. O. La Vega.

**Y**AGER, HENRY, far., S. 33; P. O. La Vega.

Yohoe, A. S., far., S. 10; P. O. La Vega.

Yohoe, J. C. E., far., S. 10; P. O. La Vega.

**Z**ZION, A., far., S. 26; P. O. Pleasant Grove.

Zion, George, mer.; P. O. La Vega.