In forty years of writing I have not had such a hard assignment as telling the early history of Cedar Falls in a thousand word article. There is much to relate. There are many interesting anecdotes. I shall have to confine it to some of the highlights.

Before the year of 1837, so far as anyone knows, no white man had set foot in the region where the town of Cedar Falls was to stand. In that year a Frenchman, one Garvais Paul Somonoux, built a crude cabin on the banks of the Cedar, trapped and hunted, and then moved on to new haunts. Then came another trapper who lived near the stream for awhile, when he, too, vanished and only Indians inhabited the woods along the river until 1845. In that year a man by the name of Sturgis came from Michigan, built a cabin, claimed the water rights and called the place Sturgis Falls. A few months later a relative of his by the name of Adams arrived and built a cabin at the springs near the place which later was called Dry Run. Then came the Overman family, the first of the permanent settlers. They purchased the claim and water rights from Mr. Sturgis [who moved away, as did Mr. Adams] built a sawmill and gristmill, started a ferry service across the river, platted the town and gave a block of it for a potential courthouse. This last named never materialized, for in due course of time Waterloo [originally called Prairie Rapids]
Cedar Falls Observes 100th Birthday
July 2, 3 and 4, 1952

For more than six months intensive and concentrated work has been going on in the city of Cedar Falls. This work will reach its climax July 2, 3 and 4, 1952 when the first 100 years of the history of the city will pass in review.

Plans to make this a celebration that would happen only once in a hundred years are being developed.

Under the stimulus of the Senior and Junior Chambers of Commerce, a chairman and a steering committee undertook the work of making this series of events a glorifying manifestation of 100 years of growth.

This committee and all other active committee heads are listed on the inside back cover of this souvenir booklet.

The three full days include 'Young America Day' July 2, with the following program:

8:00 a.m. Inauguration of Youth as City Officials—City Hall
10:00 a.m. Youth Parade [carnival theme]
2:30 p.m. Talent Show for Children—Overman Park [Sponsored by Girl Scouts]
3:30 p.m. Relay Races, Games, Contests—Lincoln School [Sponsored by Recreation Commission]
4:30 p.m. Square Dancing—Overman Park
7:00 p.m. Pre-pageant Activities—ISTC Stadium
8:00 p.m. Pageant and Crowning of Queen—ISTC Stadium
9:30 p.m. Fireworks—ISTC Stadium
10:15 p.m. Street Dance [Sponsored by Teen Time]

July 3rd is set aside as "Danish Day." The all day activities include a Danish exhibit at I.O.O.F. Hall with serving of Ableskiver. There will also be concessions at Overman Park, Historical Window Displays, Flower Exhibit, etc.

10:00 a.m. Small band will circulate around town and end at Overman Park. Community Singing.
11:00 a.m. Children's Folk Dancing—Overman Park
11:30 a.m. Leo Olson's Family Music—Overman Park
1:30 p.m. Community Singing—Overman Park
2:00 p.m. Speaker at Overman Park
2:30 p.m. Adult Folk Dancing—Overman Park
3:30 p.m. Leo Olson's Chorus—Overman Park
7:30 p.m. Pre-pageant Activities—Exhibition dancing, barber-shop quartet contest, Beard Judging and Awards—ISTC Stadium
8:00 p.m. Pageant and Crowning of Queen—ISTC Stadium
9:30 p.m. Fireworks—ISTC Stadium

Looking Forward

Recorded history provides abundant evidence of man's struggle to achieve and preserve our American heritage. The history of any nation stems from the life of its cities and villages. The great events of our cities and villages are a direct result of the character of the people.

We, the people of Cedar Falls, admire those early pioneers who made untold sacrifices in order that our community might have a healthy and firm foundation. As we review the panorama of our history we are humbled that the past has bequeathed to us so rich a heritage, and it is in that spirit that we face the future in an effort to meet the challenge of a changing world.

I think it fitting and proper that we re-dedicate ourselves during our Centennial celebration to the defense of our freedoms by accepting and fulfilling our duties as stockholders in this democracy. Our freedoms are being threatened to a large extent because we have not faced our responsibilities with resolute determination. "Responsibility," in the words of Carl Sandburg, "cannot be imposed. It must be accepted. It implies freedom of choice. And freedom of choice is in itself the supreme responsibility."

The people of Cedar Falls have grasped the significance of this Centennial and have worked together as a team. May you in your own individual way enjoy yourself during the celebration, ever keeping in mind your re-dedication pledge to our American heritage.

On behalf of the Centennial Committee, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all those people who contributed so graciously of their time and effort in making this, "Our Centennial," a success.

—Don Eells, Jr., chairman Centennial Committee
Early Settlers of Cedar Falls

The first white man to enter the area, now Cedar Falls, was a Frenchman, Garvais Paul Somanaux. A hunter and trapper, he arrived here in 1837 and built a cabin on the north bank of the river, not far from what is now Island Park.

Remaining only a few months, he left to return again in the winter of 1848. He entered a claim and built a cabin where the village of Cedar City now stands. He died in his cabin in 1850 and was buried on the banks of the bayou near by.

Somanaux was not the only white man to enter the domain of the Sacs and Foxes in 1837. Robert Stuart, an elderly man, said to be a surveyor, spent the summer of 1837 in the vicinity of the Falls, engaging in trade with the Indians. According to statements by Stuart, the season was wet, and the river attained a level never again reached by the swift waters of the Cedar.

In 1855, an evangelist came to Cedar Falls and held meetings in the school house. He drew large audiences and it was understood that a collection would be taken in his behalf on Sunday afternoon. The house was crowded; the sermon was long; Robert Stuart, the pioneer of 1837, was among the audience; Stuart became tired; he was near the door and determined to leave; he rose to his feet, and deliberately marched up the aisle towards the evangelist. All eyes were upon him, for he was over six feet tall, gaunt, stoop shouldered, grizzly and dressed as a true frontiersman; he halted at the desk, thrust his bony hand deep into his trousers, brought forth a ten cent piece. He passed the money over the open Bible with the comment, "Here's my sheer!" Then, turning on his heel he passed out the door, leaving both preacher and congregation overcome with astonishment.

In the spring of 1844, Wm. Chambers, a genuine western frontiersman from Louisa County established himself at the Falls of the Cedar, built a cabin, and engaged in trading with the Indians. His cabin stood on the south bank of the Cedar at the head of the Falls. The south end of the Dubuque Pacific Railroad bridge at Cedar Falls is very near the spot where Chambers lived, "monarch of all he surveyed," in the summer of 1844. If Chambers ever made a claim, he abandoned it in the fall and never returned to the area.

The first permanent white settler was William Sturgis who came from Michigan in the spring of 1845, and built a cabin near the present vicinity of Washington and First Streets. That same fall, a brother-in-law of Sturgis, Erasmus D. Adams, a cabinet maker from Ohio, arrived. Both families came by overland wagon train, with but little money and an abundance of courage. The thick timber, the gently sloping hillsides, the river with its protective bluffs appealed to the eyes of these hardy pioneers.

Mr. Sturgis claimed the north part of the present town of Cedar Falls, including the mill site, and Adams
selected his claim farther south, near what is now known as Dry Run.

Sturgis built a double log cabin and broke five acres of prairie. Adams built a cabin on his claim and also broke about five acres.

The site of these settlers was called Sturgis Falls after William Sturgis, and it went by that name until 1849 when the settlement was christened Cedar Falls.

During the years 1845-46, the John Hamiltons, the George Hannas and Mrs. Hannas' brother, John Melrose, William Virden and his family, James Newell and Harris Wilson all settled in the vicinity of Sturgis Falls, building their cabins and staking their claims.

In February 1847, the Overmans and John T. Barrick came to Sturgis Falls. Sturgis was trying to build a dam and mill, but his resources were limited and he finally concluded to sell, and during the next fall did sell to John D. Overman, D. C. Overman and Barrick his claim of 280 acres of land, including the mill site and improvements, for $2,200. Barrick borrowed $500 from James Newell to make payment for his share of the purchase. The new firm pushed the work with such energy that early in 1848 they had the saw mill, the first in this region, in operation, and by 1850, in a shed-addition to the saw mill, the company put in one run of mill stones cut from granite boulders in the vicinity.

A view of Cedar Falls taken from the corner of 2nd and Main Streets in 1875.

PROGRAM—Concluded from page 3

Activities on Independence Day, July 4, will begin with a gigantic parade.

10:15 a.m. Parade
2:00 p.m. Boat exhibition, water skiing, girls soft ball game
3:00 p.m. Band Concert—Overman Park
3:30 p.m. Old Time Gun Shoot, Baby Derby—Island Park
7:30 p.m. Address—Senator Estes Kefauver
8:00 p.m. Pageant and Crowning of Queen—ISTIC Stadium
9:00 p.m. Fireworks—ISTIC Stadium
10:00 p.m. Queens Dance and awarding of Queen’s prizes—Armory

Sunday, June 29th, will be set aside as Centennial Sunday in all Cedar Falls churches.

Early Barber
The first “ tonsorial artist” was Morris Lippold in 1855.

Pioneers Did Not Scare Easily
The frontier of Iowa was full of hard men, some whose past would not bear too close scrutiny. Among these men was one named Moses Bates, who came to the settlement on the Cedar in 1847.

On one particular occasion, Bates journeyed to the cabin of a neighbor, Henry Gray. For the trip Bates armed himself with a rifle, a tomahawk, three revolvers and a bowie-knife.

Bates informed Gray that he would give him “just three days to leave the country.” Gray, however, was not to be intimidated. He coolly removed his rifle from a peg over the door, aimed it at Bates and said, “D—n you Bates, I’ll give you just three minutes to get out of here. GIT!” It’s needless to add that Bates placed himself at a safe distance from Gray’s rifle.

Main St. looking north between 5th and 6th. Notice Oxford Hotel and Baptist Church.
MAYORS
of Cedar Falls
from 1852 to 1952

No definite record of the term of office for the first five mayors of Cedar Falls seems to have been kept. The first five in their order, however, were:

J. M. Overman
Edwin Brown
William H. Philpot
C. F. Jaquith
M. W. Chapman

From 1865, city files reveal the names and length of office.

T. B. Carpenter 1865-66
Albert Allen 1866-67
F. A. Bryant 1867-70
E. Townsend 1870-72
A. S. Smith 1872-74
F. F. Butler 1874-76
B. Culver 1876-78
A. S. Smith 1878-79
W. T. Williams 1879-81
C. C. Knapp 1881-84
H. H. Markley 1884-85
C. A. Wise 1885-87
William Morris 1887-89
L. H. Severin 1889-91
W. R. Graham 1891-95
Peter Melendy 1896-1901
L. O. Robinson 1901-03
H. C. Hemenway 1903-05
W. H. Merner 1905-09
H. Jacob Pfeiffer 1909-11
W. H. Merner 1911-15
J. B. Newman 1915-19
William Morgan 1919-21
A. H. Refaelson 1921-23
J. Foy Crites 1923-29
W. S. Williams 1929-35
C. N. McHugh 1935-43
R. F. Merner 1944-47
J. S. Lathe, Jr. 1947-49
Don T. Eells 1949-53
J. E. Cundy 1951

Municipal Government

February 19, 1857, sixty-seven people ordered an election to be held at Cedar Falls to decide whether said town should or should not be incorporated. The election was held according to order February 25, 1857. A second election was then ordered to be held at the same place on March 17 to choose three persons to draft a charter or Articles of Incorporation. The officers chosen under the charter were: J. M. Overman, mayor; George C. Dean, recorder; J. M. Benjamin, treasurer; J. M. S. Hodgson, marshal.

The prime object of the organization was not so much for police control as to provide ways and means for building a bridge across the Cedar. The great tidal wave of immigration was bearing an immense number of settlers to Black Hawk County and to Cedar Falls as well. The ferry boat started by John R. Cameron was too slow for Cedar Falls, was a disadvantage to its business, and a bridge must take its place. Accordingly, the town officers contracted for the erection of a bridge and issued bonds for payment.

The town's credit was not too good. The bonds were finally sold and later Andrew Mullarky bought them from the original holders for $1.50 on the dollar. They were finally paid off in full.

In 1888 the city council decided to build water-works and utilize the large never-failing spring at Dry Run, which bubbles up so strong near its mouth in the southeast part of the city.

A brick building one-story in height, 26x84 feet in size, was located at the end of Twelfth Street, east of Main, for the engines, pumps and boilers. This was the beginning of our present municipally owned light, water and gas plant located at approximately the same site.

Among First in Service in the 60's

The Hon. George D. Perkins was among the first troops sent to the war in 1861 and was in a company composed entirely of business men. He later became a distinguished journalist at Sioux City, and for eight years was a member of Congress.

—HON. GEORGE D. PERKINS
The first school established in Black Hawk County and Cedar Falls was a private one in 1847 and was taught by Mrs. Jackson Taylor. The school house was a "log cabin, with puncheon floor, clapboards riven out of slabs for a roof, with a mud and stick chimney in one end of the cabin, with earthen hearth, with a fireplace wide enough and deep enough to take in a four foot back log." The cabin stood on a lot now Main and Thirteenth Streets. Among the six scholars who attended were two daughters of Mrs. J. M. Overman, who related, "we lived some distance from the school, and every morning I was obliged to accompany my children to the opening of the thick timber near what is now 9th and Main for fear of Indians."

In 1853 a school district was formed and a school house built by subscription. The building was located at Cat-tail pond about where the Rock Island now crosses Main Street. In his book, "When Cedar Falls Was Young," Roger Leavitt writes, "The new school house on the banks of Cat-tail pond, made of sawed boards with doors and windows, with a smooth board floor, and plastered walls must have seemed like a palace. But it lacked one thing to make it a real school house— a bell in the tower. On February 22, 1854, a festival was held to raise money to buy a bell. The bell was purchased from Meneley, Watervliet, New York, and was shipped by train to Buffalo, by water to Chicago, by train to Dubuque, by horse and wagon to Cedar Falls. It is said that it sounded so good to the settlers that they rang it almost all the first night after it was hung. It was the first bell tower in Iowa. And now, after almost a hundred years of continued service, it is the editor's privilege to write that the bell is still a definite part of Cedar Falls, as it hangs in the bell tower at the Humbert School on West First Street, still sending out its clear call to the grandchil-
A College is the Key Educational Institution in the City

Of all the notable institutions which are located within the confines of Cedar Falls, the one which is known throughout the nation and on other continents is the Iowa State Teachers College. Fortunate, indeed, is the community which can justifiably be proud of the many achievements of this training center.

In the year 1863, Mrs. Annie Wittenmeyer called a convention in Muscatine, Iowa, for the purpose of devising ways and means of supporting and educating the orphaned children of the Civil War. From her efforts came the Iowa State Orphan Asylum. In 1876 the General Assembly established in place of this Orphans’ Asylum the Iowa State Normal School, to be known in future years as the Iowa State Teachers College.

From this humble beginning has developed one of the country’s leading teacher training institutions. From a staff of less than a dozen the school has grown to one which employs more than 600 full time personnel and has an enrollment of over 2500. The school has evolved through the diligent efforts of Presidents James Gilchrist, Homer Seerley, O. R. Latham, Malcolm Price and the current president, J. W. Maucker.

The future of this institution can only be bright with the outlook for larger enrollments and with a recently added graduate school.

Early Community Served by Steamboat

In 1858 the city of Cedar Rapids built a steamboat of some 100 tons capacity for upper river traffic. This steamer was named the “Black Hawk.” Due to the unusually high water that year, the river remained at a level suitable for navigation. A boat of similar nature was already in operation downstream from Cedar Rapids, and it was intended to link the two for a complete freight service. It was still two years until this frontier area was to have access to railroad service.

The steamboat “Black Hawk” made its first upstream appearance on October 8, 1858, in the midst of much flag waving, salutes and other joyous demonstrations. Many stops had been made along the way for fuel and to clear channel obstructions.

The citizens of Cedar Falls were also overjoyed at the news of the arrival of the “Black Hawk” in Waterloo. However, due to a dam across the river in Waterloo, the boat could proceed no further. A committee of irate Cedar Falls residents made a trip to the boat landing downstream and many threats were made pertaining to the removal of the dam. However, Andrew Mullarky of Cedar Falls had the steamer captain make several trial runs at the dam, but the water proved too swift to allow the boat near the structure.

The steamer was a short-lived method of cargo hauling and made only three or four trips before suspending service.

The Eating Habit -- a “Heritage”

The first restaurant was opened by D. D. Divine in 1860, and was located at the corner of Main and the mill-race, on the east side of the street. By the early 1890’s there were five restaurants.
Churches in Cedar Falls

As to the pioneer church of Cedar Falls there seems to be a question as to which one of the churches was first, the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist or Catholic. They all seem to have had evangelists on the ground in 1852-3-4, carrying the Word into the wilderness.

METHODIST
The Rev. Mr. Reed organized a class on the upper Cedar soon after its settlement. Rev. Simon Clark, a well known character, preached along the Cedar while hunting bee trees. Cedar Falls was made a station in 1857. Rev. Paxton came in 1859 and in 1861 the church was built during the ministry of Rev. Poor.

BAPTIST
The Baptist church was organized in the fall of 1854 by Rev. Knapp. They bought the old school house and converted it into a parsonage in 1854. During Mr. Eberhart’s stay, the church was built and it was dedicated in 1863.

PRESBYTERIAN
The beginning of this church dates from March 18th, 1855, when the society was organized under the ministration of Rev. J. M. Phillips, with seven members. The church was built and dedicated during the time of Rev. William Porterfield in 1858.

CATHOLIC
The first mass was celebrated by Rev. Father McGinnis at the home of Andrew Mullarky in January 1855. The corner stone of the church was laid August 11, 1876.

OTHERS
The German Lutheran was organized in 1865 by Rev. B. Durschner; the German Evangelical held their first services in the old school house in 1857; the Danish Lutheran was organized in 1871 by Rev. A. S. Nielsen; the Congregational church was organized in 1860; and the Universalists had services here in 1870.

In the 1890’s there were twelve churches, and today there are twenty Protestant churches and one Catholic church.

PIONEER HOMES AND REAL ESTATE

In describing the homes of 19th century Cedar Falls, Peter Melendy says, "The homes of Cedar Falls and their furnishings and surroundings give evidence of taste and appreciation of the more elevating influences of life. Visitors are impressed with the beauty and comforts of the homes; well kept lawns are a constant picture to the eye; shade trees are abundant; fences have been taken down, giving the city the appearance of an elegant park.''

As in Peter Melendy’s day, Cedar Falls is proud of her many new and modern homes, her avenues of trees, and well kept lawns, which have given to the city the name of the Lawn City of Iowa.
“The Push of Cedar Falls”

The Push of Cedar Falls was an organized group of civic-minded citizens with the welfare and improvement of Cedar Falls uppermost in their thoughts and actions. The photo on the left was taken in 1901 by Veatch.

EARLY HISTORY OF CEDAR FALLS

outvoted the Cedar Falls community and took away the county seat. In all probability the excitement of that episode has died down by this time, but a hundred years ago it was a calamity with all the earmarks of a modern movie, as Waterloo young men came up to take away the court records forcibly, only to be met by a deluge of eggs. Later the more lawful procedure of voting removed the records and the settlers’ dreams of being the county seat.

Mr. Andrew Mullarky came in 1850, erected a log building and opened the first general store. It was not only a place to buy merchandise, which had been hauled by team from Dubuque, but it was the meeting place of the settlers and housed the aforesaid court records in its low-ceilinged loft. As a young man in his twenties, our fatherubbed a road west of the Mississippi or a bridge across that river. They ferried across, for it was June, but Mr. George Clark, bringing out his bride from Wisconsin a little later, came when the ice had formed on the river and had to haul his young wife across on a sled. The Clarks had the first piano and the first coal oil lamp in the settlement and there was equal excitement over both. Although our grandfather was a farmer, taking government land where part of the airport is now located, he was closely associated with the new town, helping form the Republican party, which split from the Whigs, and representing the county in the first Iowa State legislature. I have in my possession a letter he wrote to my father from Des Moines a hundred years ago saying the Pike’s Peakers were beginning to run, his brother had left for Illinois by stage, that Des Moines people were skinning the legislators by holding them up for three dollars a week board and that he guessed he had done more “setting on unwise measures than anyone in the House.”

Soon after the town was platted new settlers began buying lots for ten and twenty dollars, and slowly but steadily modest houses went up here and there on the various streets, each with its barn, cow and chickens. The thick growth of trees along the river stretched to the south, thinning out farther away from its banks until only prairie lay to the south and west of the new town. For years there were stumps in some of the streets with wagon wheels curving around them. There used to be a story that anyone who had imbibed too freely was set to grubbing out

EARLY HISTORY OF CEDAR FALLS

[Cont’d from Page 2]

1. Levi Epley, Grocer
2. W. G. Weart, Lumber
3. W. A. Graham, Law
4. W. H. Merker, Law
5. L. W. Patterson, Shoes
6. Peter Peterson, Barber
7. W. A. McIntosh, Furniture
8. F. O. Loyer, Jeweler
9. L. F. Wolff, Barber
10. N. M. Graham, Dry Goods
11. Harry N. Israel, Clothing
13. Dr. A. B. Brodie, Vet.
14. G. S. Cummings, Insurance
15. Geo. Beppler, Barber
16. Le Claire Martin, Law
17. E. F. Axtell, Grocer
18. Charley Jennings, Market
19. A. N. Burr, Hotel
20. H. L. Chase, Jeweler
21. W. W. Willard, Clothing
22. W. A. Severin, Grocer
23. J. C. Radell, Hardware
24. Will. J. Jensen, Grocer
25. S. T. Walker, Editor
26. W. G. Dickey, Insurance
27. N. L. Peterson, Photog.
28. M. Van Tilburg, 2nd Hand Store
29. A. Aube, Laundry
30. Dr. A. S. Hansen, Physician
31. W. A. Bryant, Lumber
32. M. H. Benison, Dry Goods
33. L. G. Robinson, Dry Goods
34. Dr. C. B. Miller, Dentist
35. R. S. Hedden, Cigar
36. C. A. Humble, Variety Store
37. S. A. Bates, Grocer
38. Geo. Boysen, Shoes
39. H. Anderson, Shoes
40. Dr. T. C. Stephenson, Osteo.
41. C. M. Lawrence, Barber
42. E. A. Miller, Grocer
43. M. Holm, Tailor
44. B. H. Hagerthy, Law
45. F. N. Chase, Jeweler
46. George Lunn, Shoes
47. Mat. Wyth, Variety Store
48. M. E. Huffman, Market
49. H. A. Heard, Physician
50. H. W. Larson, Market
51. B. E. Hiebert, Drugs
52. Jesse Clausen, Dry Goods-Gro.
53. J. T. King, Grocer
54. M. Lawrence, Farm Imp.
55. Christ. Juhl, Harness
56. C. H. Wise, Drug
57. Henry Johnson, Hardware
58. Dr. A. Faber, Dentist
59. G. H. Hemenway, Bank
60. W. G. Whitworth, Mfg.
61. S. A. Alexander, Clothing
62. E. A. Snyder, Editor
63. R. A. Santee, Real Estate
64. Clifford Mills, Editor
65. J. L. Markussen, Barber
66. Geo. Wyth, Grocer
67. H. E. Olbrich, Fdy.
68. J. H. Bancroft, Buggies
69. Anton Friis, Grocer
70. H. J. England, Tailor
71. E. C. Johnson, Dentist
72. W. H. Read, Grocer
73. C. E. Gammon, Hotel
74. Jerry Burr, Hotel
75. C. E. Kohler, Hardware
76. Dr. J. Jensen, Dentist
77. V. Lingby, Law
78. H. W. Willson, Clothing
79. Geo. S. Mornin, Drugs
80. L. F. Ferri, Cigars
81. E. H. Carney, Drugs
82. Dr. F. H. Cutler, Physician
83. E. F. Wilson, Real Estate
84. C. A. Shelley, Grocer
85. E. W. Christiansen, Baker
86. F. O. Jackson
87. Ben Hiebert, Drugs
88. S. E. Grundy, Law
89. H. L. Severin, Bank
90. M. W. Sawyer, Clothing
91. Will Williams, Mfg.
92. S. B. Hurrard, Variety Store
93. Wm. H. McClure, Law
94. Joe Meyers, Barber
95. Wm. Bryant, Lumber
96. J. C. Patterson, Hotel
97. E. F. Daniel, Lawyer
98. R. K. King, Coal
99. Wm. O. Allen, Law
100. Frank E. Wise, Drugs
101. Henry Mazanti, Gro-Drs.
102. Mrs. Drooge, Bank
103. Rut. Harris, Mfg.
104. C. C. Wild, Shoes
105. M. Holst, Editor
106. H. F. Freier, Shoes
107. E. W. Hilsinger, Law
108. Charles Harris, Buggies
109. Louis E. Rice, Bicycles
110. J. G. Clark, Tailor
111. C. B. Santee, Real Estate
112. E. L. Henschel, Physician
113. H. C. Hemenway, Law
114. C. J. Fullerton, Physician
115. Norm. H. Harris, Mfg.
116. A. Delphi, Barber
117. L. C. Storer, Hardware
118. Jake Pfeiffer, Drugs
119. A. G. Parker, Furniture
120. Harry Onan, Rugs
121. F. L. Larson, Harness
122. Wm. Cox, Grocer
123. J. P. Austin, Photog.
124. I. H. Gray, Clothing
125. Jacob Hansen, Market
126. W. A. Dugane, Miller
127. G. W. Clark, Dray
128. S. W. Harris, Buggies
129. Henry Dahi, Furniture
130. O. L. Leonard, Bank
131. E. M. Brown, Furniture
133. Rollie Muncy, Barber
134. J. N. Paulger, Resto-Baker
135. G. H. Boehmer, Bldg. & Loan
136. A. W. Smith, Editor
137. Dr. J. S. Stevens, Physician
138. Dr. F. N. Mead, Physician
139. W. T. M. Aitken, Insurance
140. Roger Leavitt, Bank
141. W. N. Hoss, Black
142. Amos Boysen, Barber
143. E. G. Bude, Dry Goods-Clo.
144. S. O. Bailey, Hardware
145. W. H. Hurd, Editor
146. O. L. King, Justice Ins.
147. Dr. R. P. Buehler, Physician
148. W. C. Moring, Grocer
149. A. Willetts, Barber
150. W. W. Verbeck, Photog.
151. Dr. C. H. Nims, Physician
152. M. D. Phillips, Dr.
153. Dr. J. C. Mermer, Dentist
154. Dr. K. M. Fullerton, Dentist
EPILOGUE

EPISODE I

From Snow Clad Peaks of Washington to the Sunny Shores of Florid, from the Rock Mountaintop of Maine to the Golden Sands of California, our quests arrive at Miss Columbia and her nieces from the forty-eight states, representing the different sections of our country, from the borders of Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, assemble to pay homage to HER ROYAL HIGHTNESS.

EPISODE II

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters... THEN CAME MAN."

EPISODE III

Our story begins with the Red Man because the way of life which he called American belongs to the frontier, and the first inhabitants of the frontier were the Copper Sons of the Soil, the Indians.

EPISODE IV

In lifting the veil of time, we see the arrival of the next visitors at this point who were destined to make a more permanent location. The year is 1848, and the month is March. Here William Sturgis, former, his wife, and Emmas D. Adams, cabinet maker, arrive at the cabin previously occupied by Chambers. This venture had been made by the trio in search of homes and desirable water power.

EPISODE V

The Sturgis family is now moved into their larger cabin and while the men are working we see Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Sturgis busy about daily chores in the cabin. The men are working hard as pioneers had to do.

EPISODE VI

Here is the beginning of Cedar Falls, we see a very busy little community. In the background, we see a three-story flour mill in evidence. As the members of the little community go about their business, let's look in retrospect.

EPISODE VII

The Civil War is over. A happy homecoming for many, and yet many sad hearts ached for their loved ones. As the past once more comes into view and the sound of the bugle reaches our ears, we witness a scene of which the outcome was the "Soldiers Orphans' Home," the first real planted in the great tradition of the Teachers College.

EPISODE VIII

Here we witness the gathering of the first advertising was being made for the future buildings. There was great rejoicing by the people of Cedar Falls on this occasion. The Overman had contributed fifteen thousand dollars in valuable lots, the avails of which were to be applied toward erecting buildings.

EPISODE IX

As we recall in brief the accomplished history of our community we dedicate the next scene to all families in our district and county. It is with no particular church in mind but we give you a view of an early church service. It is with the thought of God in mind that we give you a replica of an early Sabbath meeting.

EPISODE X

An election was ordered to be held in Cedar Falls on February 19, 1857, to decide whether said town should or should not be incorporated. The election was held according to order, February 25, 1857.

EPISODE XI

This is the 31st of March, 1841, and the place is Cedar Falls where the residents of the Little pioneer community, who had been hoping for a railroad for several years, were at last about to see their hopes realized. A committee of eight had been chosen to decorate the town and guide the celebration. The arrival of this trip was to be commemorated by a parade and banquet for the residents and later the officials were to be treated with great entertainment. Yes, there was excitement, running at high pitch for the 1840s inhabitants of Cedar Falls.

EPISODE XII

A dark shadow spread itself over the entire nation. Disunion was taking hold of these United States. In its place... Slavery. Strange that a burning issue, destined to fume into war between the states.

EPISODE XIII

The Great Wheel of Progress turns courageously into the next century.
Business and Industry

The history of Cedar Falls is a history of industry. From the days of the pioneers, the community was destined to be built around key industries. Cedar Falls was originally settled on account of its magnificent water power that in early days made manufacturing possible.

The original industry, a mill situated on the bank of the river, was started by William Sturgis, and before its completion was sold to John D. Overman, D. C. Overman and Barrick.

Peter Melendy, in his book, "Historical Record of Cedar Falls, the Garden City of Iowa," published in 1893, mentions 62 manufacturing and industrial plants in Cedar Falls, making 193 different articles. These 62 plants were conducted on a capital of $1,166,000.00, employing 785 hands, paying $493,340.00 yearly wages, and yielding products in 1892 in value of $2,576,463.00.

A steam saw mill, owned by Shepard Wilson, Samuel Rownd and Arthur Morrison, was run in 1857 on the south side of Dry Run at the present site of the bridge on Waterloo Road.

The Cedar Falls Starch Company was started in 1866, and some of the early fathers sunk $80,000 in the plant.

In the winter of 1886, John Forrest, who had been engaged in manufacturing oatmeal in Scotland and Canada, established The Forrest Milling Company in Cedar Falls, with authorized stock $200,000. Products from this plant were shipped all over the country as well as to a dozen foreign nations. The mills, located on the river front, operated day and night, manufacturing the famous "Oven Baked Breakfast Rolled Oat Meal." The main oatmeal mill was a large six story stone building 100x100 feet in size. The machinery was operated by water, using three thirty-six inch Leffel water wheels of 100 HP. The plant had a capacity of 350 barrels a day or a yearly output of 127,750 barrels.

The Cedar Falls Paper Manufacturing Company occupied a four story stone building located at the east end of 3rd Street with an adjoining bleaching room and boiler room. The machinery in this plant was operated by five water wheels of 175 HP under the main building. There were also engines of 150 HP to be used in case the water supply for the wheels be damaged.

The oat straw for the paper was procured from farmers.
locally and in counties near-by. Twelve cars of straw, four to six cars of soft coal, and forty bushels of lime were used per day. The capacity of the mill was eight tons of heavy wrapping paper per day.

The Ranch, a building built by Wm. P. Taubman in 1853, located on Main Street, was so-called by the early settlers, and used for a boarding house, tailor shop, law office, saloon, justice office and surveyor's office, all at the same time.

From 1855 to 1865 Cedar City and the east side of the river had three full fledged taverns or inns to accommodate the large number of teamsters and others who came to the end of the I.C.R.R. with their farm produce and received goods for the return trip.

The Cedar Falls Iron & Brass Works was organized in 1867 by Mr. Olbrich and was located on the east end of Second Street. The building was a two-story and basement brick structure, 60x83 feet in size. The main building on the first floor was the machine shop, and on the second story were the pattern shops and store room. Here they manufactured all kinds of building works, store columns and fronts, window caps and sills, sash weights, crestings, stair casting, fencing and hitching posts, lawn furniture, horse powers, feed grinders and cookers, sleigh shoes, guarantee heating stoves, and the Pritchard's electric water wheel governor, a Cedar Falls invention.

The Cedar Falls Novelty Works was established in 1884 by F. Weisbard & Son.

Others included Hammond's Cooperage Works in 1876; the Cedar Falls Cheese Factory in 1870; the Cedar Falls Canning Company in 1882; the Cedar Falls Barb Wire Fencing Works with the "Cedar Falls Beat-em-all Barb Wire," the invention of Salmon Thompson, a Cedar Falls resident, in 1885; the Cedar Falls Brick & Tile Works started in Cedar Falls in 1852 by A. M. Dixter, and later operated by Joseph Wild and his nephew G. A. Wild; the Cedar Falls Vinegar and Cider Works located on Bluff Road at the southeast city limits, with the plant capacity of 1000 bushels of apples a day, or one barrel of vinegar per day; the Harness Manufacturing plant operated by R. M. Harris in 1855; the first bakery in Cedar Falls in 1862, operated by Wilson & Tate; and Cedar Falls first nursery in 1856 with Page and Sleeper as operators.

Interesting items manufactured included others such as balusters, chimney tops, eveners, foot rests, middlings, newel posts, pressed bottles, shirt boards, sulkies, skiffs, Terra Cotta flower pots, vases, window caps and stationary, trap elbows, wooden shoes, wind mills, and many others.

And so it has been throughout the years; the city has enjoyed being headquarters for many and varied industrial concerns, until the list today includes rotary pumps, humidifiers, ice cream, butter, flares, tractor hitches, printing, blankets, gates and other farm equipment, fences, hog waterers, plastic display materials, car seat covers, oat hullers, golf equipment, mayonnaise, conveyors, overhead doors, window and door hardware and trailers.

**Hotels and Taverns**

The Stage Taverns of Iowa were in their day thoroughly characteristic organizations with their long stoops on the sunny side of the tavern, with its benches and settees, and Cedar Falls had its fair share.

The Winslow, afterward the Western and then The Carter, and The American were the influential centers of political thought and opinion, and together with the corner grocery, did much in molding opinions of the day. Each and every tavern and hotel had its "Habitue," who, by his wit and waggery became the local "Genius Loci," whose jokes were passed from stage to stage and town to town.

The first hotel was built by E. D. Adams in 1850 and was a story and a half frame building.

In 1853 J. H. Winslow built the "Winslow House" which was later replaced by the Burr House and was located on Main Street between First and Second Streets.

The Calumet, a four story frame building, was located on the corner of Main and Fifth Streets, opposite the Burlington Depot.

In August 1861, Cedar Falls had ten liquor shops.
Transportation and Communication

First Railroad to Cedar Falls

In the dreary, rainy spring of 1861 the hopes of the pioneer community of Cedar Falls were to be realized. The railroad was coming at last!

The Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad, now the Illinois Central, was welcomed, not only by the city itself, but by the residents of the surrounding countryside. For here, at last, was a method by which freight could be brought to Cedar Falls and merchandise shipped out by a rapid means of transportation.

A committee of eight leading citizens was named to make plans for the celebration and the community's 1600 inhabitants turned out to a large dinner for the crew of the first train.

A second celebration was planned for the arrival of the officials of the railroad. A formal banquet was held with military salutes and a big parade. A new era and the end of isolation with contacts to the east had begun.

"The shriek of the approaching locomotive tingled the nerves of the excited crowd in such a way that a galvanic battery would have been put to shame." Thus wrote Editor George Perkins.

When the train arrived with officials of the railroad their eyes feasted on a celebration without parallel in the frontier of early America. Here they found Cedar boughs woven into decorations for the Horticultural Society headquarters where the grand ball was to be held. A giant wreath had been woven to be placed around the smokestack of the engine.

At 4:45 p.m. on May 11, 1861 the first train came into sight in Cedar Falls, cannons boomed and festivities were underway. Great was the joy of all Cedar Falls and of all Iowa, for this part of our nation was no longer a frontier.

Strangely enough, only two weeks later, the railroad was to carry away the first Cedar Falls Company to the great strife which tore the nation in two. History was being made.

Communication

In 1861, at a banquet given at the opening of the Illinois Central Railroad and being held at the Carter House in Cedar Falls, Platt Smith, a resident of Dubuque, said in a speech, "The four great cities of the north, Cedar Falls, Dubuque, Chicago and New York—you must have a telegraph as soon as possible"—and so it was, on December 9, 1863, telegraph came to Cedar Falls. Smith, the speaker from Dubuque, sent the first message, "Did I not tell you so."

Telephone history began in 1881 when the Hawkeye Telephone Company of Cedar Rapids established an exchange here. Today the Northwestern Bell Telephone gives service to more than 5,575 patrons in Cedar Falls.

Talkies Created Sensation in Cedar Falls

Old records of the late 1920's show that Cedar Falls was among the first cities in Iowa to enjoy 'talky' movies. A large gathering of local dignitaries from the Iowa State Teachers College, civic organizations and the press and radio attended a premier performance of sound movies at a local theater, on April 5, 1929.

It is interesting to note that in spite of the fact that this entertainment was much ahead of other communities of Cedar Falls' size, this same year found an intra-city fight over Sunday showing of movies. The Chamber of Commerce Retail Bureau found itself lined up against a religious group who were in disfavor of the proposal. Today's industry apparently indicates the wishes and desires of the general public.

Cedar Falls Platted

The town of Cedar Falls was first platted in 1851, but this plat was never recorded, so in 1853 it was permanently platted. The original plat extended from the Mill Square west to Olive Street, and south to 6th Street. The first lot sold was the lot at 2nd and Main Sts., now occupied by Kays' Grocery Store. The lot sold for $10.50.
TRAGEDIES AND DISASTERS

Fires have taken their toll of many Cedar Falls establishments during the years. This one shows the burning of Willard & Alexander's, Bennison & Robinson's Dry Goods.

FIRES

The dwelling of T. L. French, built of Ft. Dodge gypsum, was destroyed by fire July 1872. The house had been constructed at a cost of $24,000.

July 16, 1867 a fire caused by the explosion of a lamp in T. Hazlett's store destroyed several buildings.


March 16, 1872 Mr. Mullarky's building caught fire and in the fire S. B. Packard lost his law library and the Cornet Band lost their instruments.

DROWNINGS, STORMS, ETC.

Andrew Mullarky, the pioneer merchant of Cedar Falls, was drowned in the mill race near the saw mill December 1863. His body was recovered within ten minutes after his first call for help, but too late.

John Callen, who resided six miles south of Cedar Falls, started for home in the storm of March 12, 1867, leaving Cedar Falls in the evening. He was found three days later about one half mile from home, having frozen to death. He had fastened the lines so tightly to the sled stakes that the horses were unable to move, one of them having its feet badly frozen.

Conductor A. W. Putnam of the Burlington road was run over by the tender of his own train at the Cedar Falls depot in 1874.

FIRST WHITE CHILD

The first white male child was Henry F. Adams, born October 4, 1846 to Mr. and Mrs. Erasmus D. Adams. The first white female child was Jennette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Sturgis, on October 1, 1846.

HENRY F. ADAMS

FIRST WEDDING

The first wedding occurred February 27, 1851, and united in marriage James Vifien and Charlotte Pratt. The license was obtained from the judge of Buchanan county, and George Hanna, justice of the peace, officiated.

FIRST DEATH

The first death was that of James Monroe Hanna, infant son of George and Mary Hanna, who died October 18, 1845.

OLD TIME CELEBRATIONS

Horse drawn floats coming down Main Street at 5th. Note the old Church long since removed. Weisbard Bros. float in foreground. Depot is still in use today.

Buggies seem to be the chief mode of transportation to this 4th of July celebration. View taken from Main and 2nd Streets.
The Cedar Falls Band Down Through the Years

One of the city’s most successful and one of its older organizations is the Cedar Falls Municipal Band, organized in 1891, and incorporated under the laws of Iowa on January 20, 1916, as a non-profit organization. It is one of the most unique band organizations in the country inasmuch as no member receives remuneration for his services.

In the sixty-one years of its existence, it has had but three directors. Mr. F. A. Fitzgerald, the originator, had charge for thirteen years. He was succeeded by F. L. McCreary, who continued until 1927, when because of ill health he resigned, and James A. Melichar took over the leadership.

The band became known as the "Convention Band" of Iowa, attending thirty national and state conventions and five national conventions as the official band of the state of Iowa.

In 1913, this band won first prize in Denver, Colorado, at the 32nd triennial conclave of the Knights Templar; in 1924 the band won third prize at the American Legion national convention in St. Paul, Minnesota; and in 1930, 1931 and 1935 the band won first place in the Great Chicago-land Music Festival sponsored by the Chicago Tribune.

Woman’s Club Outstanding Civic Organization

Organized in 1914, the Cedar Falls Woman's Club has grown throughout the past thirty-eight years to one of the city's leading organizations. The Club was admitted to the State Federation in 1915 and to the General Federation in 1916.

Thru the benevolence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer and Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Pfeiffer, along with other community-minded citizens, the club was able to erect their present quarters in 1929. In honor of the donors, the structure was dedicated to Mrs. Emma Merner Pfeiffer on September 29th of that year.

The institution is democratic in nature and contributes liberally to the promotion and welfare of the city.

Mrs. C. P. Colegrove, the former Nellie Redley of the college history faculty, was the first president of the Woman’s Club.
DANES COME TO CEDAR FALLS

Another early settler who arrived in about 1860 was Christian Petersen, also from Schleswig. In those years, Cedar Falls was known as a railroad town, and many of the Danish immigrants found employment with the railroad.

In the spring of 1867, immigration began on a much greater scale and continued until the late 1880's and the early 1890's. On May 10, 1867, sixty Danes got off the train at Cedar Falls, and were to locate where the village of Fredsville now stands.

The first child born to Danish parents in Cedar Falls was a girl, Mary Mathilde Silena Dinesen. She was born October 7, 1867 in a house at 508 Bluff Street.

The first two Danish people to apply for a marriage license and to be married in Cedar Falls were Jens Petersen, 24, and Karen M. Nielsen, 26. The marriage certificate is recorded at the Black Hawk county court house and dated March 10, 1872.

Rev. C. L. Clausen from St. Ansgar came here in 1867 and conducted religious services and was influential in the founding of the Fredsville Nazareth church.

The Nazareth church in Cedar Falls was organized in 1871 with Rev. A. S. Nielsen, a missionary sent here from Denmark, as the first resident pastor. In June, 1897, the Bethlehem Lutheran church was organized.

The early Danes who came to Cedar Falls maintained schools for their children, but when the public schools were established, the Danish schools were closed and the children attended the public schools.

The Holst Printing Company originated in 1882 and is one of the earliest businesses in town today.

The Dannevirke is another of the city's Danish heritages.

The Lyren Society was organized September 30, 1889.

Jens Nielsen and his half brother Rasmus P. Rasmussen, his wife and child, left Denmark April 14, 1870 and arrived in Cedar Falls May 10, 1870. Nielsen, a quiet and reserved man, was an inventor, and as a result of his work, the Viking Pump Company, now the city's largest industry, was started. Through the work of J. George Wyth and P. C. Petersen, in 1911, the plant grew from an employment of 2 people to the world's largest rotary pump factory.

And so it goes on, the Danish people will continue to be a definite part of Cedar Falls.

SARTORI HOSPITAL

"Gentlemen: The undersigned offers and proposes to give to the City of Cedar Falls, Iowa, the sum of twenty-five thousand [$25,000] dollars, to be available as required, said sum to be used in the building and erection of a City Hospital, exclusive of furnishings and grounds"—thus did the Sartori Hospital have its beginning on the 8th day of November 1912 by J. F. Sartori.

Further reading of Mr. Sartori's request to the mayor and city council of the city of Cedar Falls, Iowa, revealed his desire to have the building called "The Sartori Hospital" in honor of his parents, Joseph and Therese Sartori.

W. C. Nuhn, W. H. Merner, H. S. Gilkey, M. F. Arey and E. A. Snyder were to comprise the committee to work on the project.

The Sartori Hospital will long be a living memorial to one of Cedar Falls noble Christian families whose very life was spent in doing good for others.

A living memorial to Cedar Falls—the Sartori Hospital built in 1912.
Newspapers of Cedar Falls

The first newspaper published in Cedar Falls was The Banner, and had its beginning in 1854.

In 1893 there were three English and three Danish weeklies, one Danish and one English monthly, being published at Cedar Falls.

The aggregate circulation of the weekly papers of Cedar Falls then was 10,500. At that time Cedar Falls also had three book and job printing plants.

The Cedar Falls Daily Record had its beginning in 1900, and is the culmination of the dream of two young students at the Iowa State Teachers College, Samuel T. Walker and Joseph O. Johnson. They published the paper in a building across from what was then the Burr Hotel between 1st and 2nd Streets on Main Street. One of the earliest subscribers was Forrest Wynegar, who moved from his farm west of Cedar Falls to town in 1902.

J. W. Jarnigan bought it from Walker & Johnson and kept the paper for ten or twelve years, when he sold it to L. A. Bladine. Bladine sold it to C. A. Coddington, who in turn sold it to Gene Flaherty. In 1940 it was sold to the present owners, W. S. Rupe, William V. Anthony and Hollis Nordyke.

Early Physician

Dr. W. H. Pettit was one of the early pioneer doctors in Cedar Falls.

The first physician was Dr. J. S. Keller in 1846. By 1893 there were "ten physicians of different schools" practicing in Cedar Falls.

CEDAR FALLS HISTORIANS

Nineteenth Century Historian

The pioneers of Cedar Falls had faith in the future of the village on the Cedar. They spent many years of their lives laying the foundation so essential for a good community.

Peter Melendy might be thought of as being symbolic of all these early pioneers. When community duties and private interests conflicted, he chose the former, giving freely of his time, strength and money. Whether it was improvement of educational facilities, change in land cultivation methods, church affairs, honesty in municipal government, or creation of the Cedar Valley Horticultural and Literary Society, Peter Melendy's leadership was an inspiration to all. Melendy, left the imprint of his personality on the life of his community, state, and nation.

Death came to Peter Melendy quietly on October 18, 1901, at the age of seventy-eight. Tributes which reviewed his services to Cedar Falls, to the state of Iowa, and to his nation came by telegraph, by mail, and in the press to Mrs. Melendy. As the people left the church after the funeral services, a little girl from the Sunday School was heard to say, "We shall miss Mr. Melendy, he was always there; he never failed us."

CEDAR FALLS LIBRARY

The Cedar Valley Horticultural and Literary Association was organized February 18, 1859, with Peter Melendy as president. By the following fall the Association had accumulated a library of about 500 volumes and had made arrangements to provide a cabinet of fossils, minerals, insects, curiosities and relics.

The Association, which had had a very healthy existence in spite of the war, (1860) gave way in January 1865 to the "Library Association of Cedar Falls," which was organized with Peter Melendy as president and S. N. Pierce as secretary and librarian. The books were destroyed in the fire of March 9, 1871, but the Association proceeded to secure another supply.

In 1890 they had 4000 volumes on the shelves and occupied two large rooms in Union block on Main Street.

Now the Cedar Falls Public Library is Carnegie endowed, contains 22,200 volumes and has a circulation of 46,032 books. The building is located on Sixth and Main Streets on property given to the city for that purpose by Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Dayton.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin N. Dayton

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1853  Mrs. Geo. W. Clark brought the first piano to Cedar Falls. It was still being used in the late 1890's.

1854  Cedar Falls Township was organized Feb. 6, 1854. First election of officers was held in April 1855.

1853-1857  John Cameron operated a ferry boat on the Cedar River, the landing on the west side being near the Dayton Mill.

1857  Because the ferry boat was too slow, a contract was let in 1857 for the construction of a wooden bridge across the river. It was 340 feet long and 16 feet wide. Upon completion a toll house was erected and a toll keeper appointed. Shortly afterward the toll house disappeared, and the bridge was declared free.

1857-1860  The ten acres bounded by Clay and Tremont and Seventh and Eighth Streets were the Cedar Valley Agricultural Society Fair Grounds in 1857-60.

1858  The last Indian Council in the vicinity of Cedar Falls was held August 5, 1858 between the Winnebagos and the Pottawattamies. The pipe of peace was lighted and passed to all. A large number of Cedar Falls residents were present.

The Indian name of Black Hawk, the great Sac chieftain, was Ma-Ka-tai-me-she-Kia-Keah.

1860  The first Teachers Institute in Black Hawk County was held at Cedar Falls in October 1860. It was conducted by J. L. Enos of Cedar Rapids. Thirty-one teachers attended.

1861  A Busy Day. On Tuesday, December 17, 1861, there were nearly 400 teams on Main Street. The wagons were loaded mostly with wheat and pork. The street was completely blocked by the wagons lined hub to hub. In October 1861 Black Hawk County had 60 schools, 2347 pupils, 44 male teachers, and 64 female teachers. Average pay per week: males $5.21; females $3.16. Total amount for all teachers for the year, $6353.60.

A Card. "On account of the panic in Illinois and Wisconsin currency, we shall delay our banking house in this place until money matters assume a more settled state, when we shall be prepared to transact a general banking business." Townsend and Knapp. August 20, 1861.

1876  The Cedar Falls Parlor Reading Circle was organized in 1876, and is still an active organization.

1887  The Boulder Creek Mining Company with headquarters in Cedar Falls, was organized in 1887, with authorized capital of $200,000. H. H. Markley was the president. This was a Cedar Falls enterprise, with their plant located in Idaho on the Kootenai River, and containing rich gold and silver deposits.

1890  The assessor's books listed the following data:
   427 horses valued at $33,000.00
   222 cattle valued at 5,280.00
   272 vehicles valued at 14,505.00

1892  In 1892 Cedar Falls had:
   1005 dwelling houses
   4 depots
   572 barns
   5 hotels
   6 schoolhouses
   194 businesses
   1 opera house

The combined assessed valuation of all the above was $4,292,600.00.

EARLY HISTORY OF CEDAR FALLS [Cont'd from Page 11] stumps on Main Street. Even in my childhood there were a few blocks of native growth which had never been touched. Grace Simpson (Mrs. S. O. Bailey) and I used to play in the "Hemenway Block," which lay between Clay and Franklin and Ninth and Tenth streets, or more strictly speaking, we played on the edge of it, for going very far into its dark underbrush was too much of a venture for our childish nerves.

The first school was a private one in a log cabin, and the Overman girls [from whom came the Howland, Waterbury, Chase and Williams families] attended, but were accompanied always by an adult as the little girls were afraid of the Indians. The first public school was built near a swampy spot called Cat-tail Pond at the corner of Main and Fifth.

EARLY HISTORY OF CEDAR FALLS [Concl'd Page 23]

CEDAR FALLS

In the winter of 1849 a post office was established at Cedar Falls, the first in the county, under the administration of Zachary Taylor, the twelfth president of the United States.

D. C. Overman, father of Chas. Overman, was appointed the postmaster.

For some time the mails were so small that the postmaster used to carry the letters and papers in his hat, delivering them as he chanced to meet the persons addressed.

Cedar Falls has the honor of having the first free mail delivery in Iowa.

The mails were carried on horseback from Dubuque by Thomas W. Case, and the receipts were two and one-tenth dollars per quarter.

In 1892, Cedar Falls boasted 25 street mail boxes.

The first city delivery was started in 1894 and the first rural delivery in 1899.

POST OFFICE

George Fagan delivers the first parcel post in Cedar Falls during the year 1908.

Today, the city has 5,152 mail stops, with gross receipts approximately a quarter million dollars.
SPECTACLES:
Roland Seeright and Mrs. Gordon Rhum
CAST: Mrs. William Bakewell
SCENARIO: Mrs. Charles Hearst
COSTUME, MAKE-UP: Mrs. Ruth G. Adamson
PROPERTIES: Willis H. Wagner
CONSTRUCTION: Harry Merrill
MUSIC: Lester Rumbaugh

SPECIAL EVENTS:
V. S. Nelson and Mrs. Gus Rasmussen
PARADE: V. S. Nelson
HISTORICAL WINDOWS: Mrs. Robert Hill
CELEBRATION BALL: George Moorehead
FIREWORKS: Dick Kennison
FLOWER GARDEN: Mrs. Roger Wardin
KANGAROO COURT: Jack Newman and Roland Merner
BARBER SHOP QUARTETS: Oscar J. Thompson
SPECIAL DAYS:
July 2, YOUNG AMERICA DAY: John White
July 3, DANISH DAY: Ed Refshaug
July 4, INDEPENDENCE DAY: Gene Fisher
CENTENNIAL SUNDAY SERVICE: Dr. H. D. Temple and Rev. E. D. Hughes

HOSPITALITY:
V. W. Johnson
HOME COMING CONSULTANT: Robert Mershon
TRAFFIC SAFETY: Al Riebe and James Machholz
HOUSING: L. V. Miller
TRANSPORTATION: Henry Stoko

EARLY HISTORY OF CEDAR FALLS [Cont'd from Page 21]

streets and in it was hung the first tower bell in the state. Many a benefit supper had been given to raise the money and it was purchased from a Watervliet, New York firm, from where it was shipped by train to Buffalo, around the lakes to Chicago, by train to Warren, Illinois [the end of the line], by stage to Dubuque, and by merchandise team from that point to Cedar Falls. Small wonder that the residenters in their exuberance took turns ringing it all night long.

In the spring of 1860 it was no longer necessary to have merchandise hauled into town, for the railroad was completed from Dubuque. But here it stopped, not to be built farther to the west for four years or more, as the Civil War was beginning. [Stage coaches, however, continued on their south and north trips.] There was a big celebration at the completion of the railroad, a banquet, speeches, and a private train of officials out from Dubuque. Economically, one could almost say that the town was built around the milling business: flour mills, barley mill, oatmeal mill, paper mill. Religiously, the first settlers were church minded and almost every denomination was represented before many years had passed. Educationally there was deep interest in good schools from the first. Politically, the new town was predominantly Republican. There was no crossing of party lines. People took their politics not only seriously but vindictively, handing down their beliefs to a new generation. I was a big girl before I realized that a Democrat did not necessarily have hoofs and horns. Socially, it would be nice to say that it was all one big happy family with no social barriers, but it would not be true. There were little cliques from the first, as in many new communities, but let a calamity befall, such as the Civil War with its duties to the soldiers' families, and everyone turned in to help.

Elections were a bit on the free and easy side. One of our father's stories was about the time they held open the polls for him when he had not yet arrived from Dubuque with his merchandise load. There are a hundred other omitted references: the torchlight parades, the drilling in the park by the volunteers, the agricultural fairs, the race track somewhere south of Eighth Street, which was then outside the town, the news of Lincoln's assassination and how the people, even to little children, wore crepe, the fiasco of the railroad which was never built, the beginnings of countless businesses. But it is all a tale that is told.

And from these beginnings has come a fine modern little city. A town seems always to carry in its character something of the spirit of its founders. Viewed from afar off, Cedar Falls still seems to embody some of that interest in the best things of life which its first settlers possessed.