

HISTORY

APR 21 1944

OF

Mitchell and Worth Counties,

I O W A,

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF THEIR TOWNS, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS, EDUCATIONAL, CIVIL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL HISTORY; PORTRAITS OF PROMINENT PERSONS, AND BIOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

HISTORY OF IOWA,

EMBRACING ACCOUNTS OF THE PRE-HISTORIC RACES, AND A BRIEF REVIEW OF ITS CIVIL AND MILITARY HISTORY.

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in Norway. Two children have blessed this union—Malcom and Charles W.

Reinhart Hartwig settled on his present farm, the southwest quarter of section 5, in 1877. This land is now all improved. He has erected a good set of buildings and set out shade trees and shrubery. He was born in Germany April 19, 1819. He attended school until fourteen years of age, when he engaged with a baker to learn the trade. He was married in 1847 to Minnie Berges. He then opened a bakery and carried on the business until 1864. He then came to America and settled in Mitchell county, on section 9, township 97, range 17. He improved that land, built a house and lived there until 1877, when he settled on his present farm. Mr. and Mrs. Hartwig are the parents of seven living children—William H., Reinhart T. M., Carl A. R., Fred W., Bertha M., Anna C., Louis F., and Christian R. Their son Fred, was born in Waldeck, Feb. 11, 1860, died July 9, 1880.

Adam Fox settled in Mitchell county in 1878. He bought the northeast quarter of

section 30, in township 98, range 17, and immediately went to work to make improvements. He has erected a good frame house and other farm buildings, has planted shade and ornamental trees and his home, which was such a short time back but wild prairie, now has the appearance of an old settled place. He was born in Columbia Co., Wis., in July, 1848, and there grew to manhood, receiving his education in the district school. He was married in February, 1871, to Catharine Fisher, who was a native of New York State. Three children have blessed this union—Philip A., John M., and Laura L. Mr. Fox's parents were pioneers in Columbia Co., Wis. His father, Jacob Fox, was born in Bavaria. His parents emigrated to America in 1847 and settled in Columbia county that year. His father bought land in Columbia township, which he improved, erected a good house and made that his home until the time of his death, which occurred in April, 1881. His widow now occupies the old homestead in company with a younger son, Frank.

CHAPTER XIX.

DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP.

Douglas township comprises 23,040 acres of land, a full congressional township. It is bounded by Jenkins township on the north, Howard county on the east, Lincoln township on the south, and Burr

Oak township on the west. The township is well watered by the Little Cedar river, which courses diagonally through the southwestern part, coming into the borders of the territory on section 18, and

leaving it from section 32; and Soap creek, a branch of Cedar river, which enters the township on section 4, and meanders in a southwest direction, to the southwest corner of section 18, where it forms a junction with the Little Cedar river. Besides these streams, the Wapsipinicon river enters the township on section 1, and runs south through sections 12, 13 and 24, and then flows into Howard county. The soil, in common with every township of Mitchell county, is of a deep, dark, productive loam. The surface of the land is for the most part, rolling. There is timber along the streams.

SETTLEMENT.

In the spring of 1855, F. A. Sprague and M. W. Cummings came to Mitchell county. Eben Cummings had entered land on section 29, township 98, range 15, while the land office was at Dubuque, and in what is now known as Douglas township. The first night they camped in Burr Oak on section 33, and cold and frosty was the night. The following day they took possession of what was known as the old Brink House, the only house in Douglas township at that time. Here F. A. Sprague and family took up their abode for about one year. The latch string hung out, and many a weary man, in search of land and a home, found lodging and something to stay the inner man. The next spring he took a claim in the way of a pre-emption, on the southwest quarter of section 31, where he erected a log house where he also accommodated travelers.

At this time game was very plenty, and one of the logs of which he built his house was felled by beavers and was

twenty feet in length. It was hauled from Jenkins township, on Beaver creek. After living there for several years, he sold out and moved to the land that he had entered at Dubuque. By this time quite a sprinkling of settlers had come in, among whom was John DeFord and family. Soon after came Mr. Alexander and Milford Hunt and families, and Mr. Goodrich, all of which were from New York State.

They purchased quite a large tract of land from Mr. Ladue, a preacher who had strayed to the county. F. A. Sprague, after living some ten years in Iowa, sold out his farm to M. W. Cummings and returned to Wisconsin, his former home.

Eben Cummings and his brother, M. W., returned to Chickasaw county, where they remained with their parents for about three years, when they returned to Mitchell county where they embarked in farming and where they have since remained.

At the time of settling, the country between the "Wapsie" and the Little Cedar was one vast wilderness, and often they asked if they would ever live to see it settled.

The pioneers say they never enjoyed life better; their larders being supplied with good fat venison. Eben Cummings was an excellent marksman, and many deer did he kill with his trusty rifle. In the summer, prairie chickens and quail were found in abundance on their tables. On one occasion M. W. Cummings was out hunting and was late getting home; he shot a deer after sunset, it being so dark he could hardly see the sights on his rifle, but he killed his game and started for home. Hauling it to the top of a high

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hill in sight of home, he called for help. Eben hearing him thought he was in trouble, as he had seen some large wolves near the house a few minutes before, so he shouldered his rifle and went in the direction of the call, and found M. W. all right but nearly exhausted from his tramp and hauling his game. He said he had not thought of wolves and did not fear them in the least, while he had his trusty rifle with him. The next morning he went back on the trail and found a good hard beaten path where the wolves had traveled backwards and forwards over the trail.

FIRST EVENTS.

The first birth in Douglas township was Henry R., son of Jehial George, born Oct. 4, 1857.

The first death was a child of Richard Prichard, in 1863, and buried at Burr Oak. The next death was a child of John DeFord in 1865.

The first marriage was Walter B. Talcott to Chloe S. Holbrook, July 4, 1856. The ceremony was performed by Hugh Sweeney, Esq., at the house of the bride's parents. Mr. Talcott enlisted in the 7th Iowa Cavalry, company B, and went to the frontier, and was killed by the Indians in 1864. In 1883 his widow was living at Osage.

The first land broken in the township was on section 19, by Frederick A. Sprague, in 1856.

The first postoffice was established on section 15, and called Nelson. G. N. Holbrook was the first postmaster. This postoffice was on the Walker's route and continued till the railway was completed through Osage. The postoffice at New

Haven was established in 1878, with John Eshwiler as postmaster. He was succeeded by John R. Berger and he by Robert Riordan.

ORGANIC.

The first election in Douglas township was held at the house of John De Ford, Oct. 11, 1859. The township then comprised fifty-four sections, and was at first called Richfield. The first township officers were: Merrill W. Cummings, Milford Hunt and G. N. Holbrook, trustees; A. Hunt, clerk; S. J. Morris, assessor; John Marshall and F. A. Sprague, justices of the peace; Silas Yunt and Harry Council, constables; S. J. Morris resigned and Milford Hunt was appointed by the trustees to fill the office of assessor.

In 1882 the township officers were: J. C. Sheldon, trustee; M. W. Cummings, assessor; P. J. Griffin, clerk; J. C. Sheldon and J. D. Griffin, justices of the peace.

In 1883 the township officers were: John Murray, John Carroll and J. C. Sheldon, trustees; M. W. Cummings, assessor; P. J. Griffin, clerk; J. D. Griffin and J. C. Sheldon, justices of the peace.

RELIGIOUS.

The first religious denomination to organize a society in Douglas township was the Methodist Episcopal, who formed their society in 1869. The first preacher was Moses Mapes, an itinerant preacher, who held services once in two weeks in the school house at De Ford's corner. There were twenty members at the time of organization. In 1883 the society held service at the New Haven school house.

1862, to Anna M. Ecard, a native of Chicago, Ill. Five children have been born to them—Florence A., Roy N., Lucy J., (deceased), Ray E., (deceased), and Herbert A.

James Murphy was born in La Tappe, France, June 11, 1816. He is the son of James and Johanna Murphy, natives of Ireland. The father was a soldier in the English service. He was quarter-master of the 18th Light Dragoons. In 1815 he went to France with his regiment, and was wounded at the battle of Waterloo. He served the English government twenty-one years. In 1821 he returned to England. In 1833 he emigrated to America, landing at Quebec, where he died eleven days after. He left a widow and six children, four in this country and two in London. They lived in Canada until 1850, then moved to Wisconsin, where they bought an improved farm. In 1850 James went the overland route to California, being 136 days on his journey. He mined and prospected until 1851, then returned by way of the isthmus of Panama to Kenosha Co., Wis. There they lived twelve years. In 1859 he bought 160 acres on section 17, Douglas township. In 1861 he moved his family, rented Pritchard's farm on section 21, built a frame house and broke thirty acres of his own. In 1863 his family moved to their present home on section 17. He was married Dec. 11, 1842, to Sallie R. Judd, a native of Canada. They have had fourteen children, twelve of whom are now living—Hannah, wife of A. F. Kerr, of Altoona, Penn; James, Sarah E., Madeline V., wife of D. S. Turner, of Dakota; John, Albert J., Lilly,

Laura, Mary, Harry, W. P., Frederick P. and Artemus J. Charles E. died in 1844; William A., deceased at ten years. He is a member of the P. E. Church. He is a democrat and has held several offices of trust in the township.

Charles Murray settled on section 7, Douglas township, in 1864. He is the son of Charles and Margaret (Connor) Murray, and was born in Antrim, Ireland, in 1834. He emigrated to America, June 3, 1853. He worked in Bergen at railroading, then went to Adam's Basin, working on the canal. In 1856 he went to Dodge Co., Wis. He went south, remained six months, then went to the lumbering camp at Watertown Wis. In 1859 he went to Dane Co., Wis., and worked until 1864, when he came to Mitchell county. He was married to Catharine Agen, Sept. 26, 1863. They have eight children living—John W., Mary, Charles, Catharine, Margaret, Rose, Frank, Hugh and George. Hugh died June 29, 1880, and is buried in New Haven in the Catholic cemetery. They are members of the St. Peter's Catholic Church at New Haven.

Peter Carrol was born in Bridgewater, Oneida Co., N. Y., Oct. 29, 1835. In 1846 his parents emigrated to Genesee, Wis. He assisted on the farm and attended the district school. In 1856 he came to St. Ansgar, Mitchell county, purchased property in the village and built a dwelling. In connection with it, he rented land and farmed. In 1867 he bought eighty acres on section 8, Douglass township, and built a log house. In 1873 he purchased the adjoining eighty, on section 7, now having as fine a farm as is in the township. He was married in Dodge

Co., Wis., March 6, 1865, to Bridget Agen, a native of that State. They had ten children, seven of whom are living—Peter J., Rosanna, Mary H., Laura J., Josiah F., Delia G. and Henry A. Mr. Carrol takes an interest in public affairs. He has held several offices of trust, and at present is one of the school board.

P. J. Griffin came to Mitchell county in 1865, locating on section 17, where he now owns 276 acres of valuable land. He is regarded as one of the enterprising farmers of this county. He was born in Westfield, Mass., Feb. 22, 1838. When he was six years of age his parents emigrated to Dodge Co., Wis., where he grew to manhood, receiving a common school education. He was married to Jane Eagan in Dodge county. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are living—John, Mary Jane, Frank, Annie, Rosa, James and Fred. He came to his present home a poor man, but by dint of hard work and good management, has secured a large and comfortable property. Politically he is a staunch democrat, and has held local offices of trust.

David Marley was born in Wampa, Erie Co., N. Y., June 25, 1850. He is the son of John and Theresa (Sedgewick) Marley, who emigrated to Douglas township, Mitchell county, in 1868. They bought forty acres of wild land on section 6. In 1875 David bought sixty acres on section 5. In 1881 he built a frame house which is now his home. He is republican in politics, and a member of the Catholic Church at New Haven. He married Mary Sullivan Jan. 11, 1881. John Marley, a brother of David, was born at Melford, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Oct. 31, 1856. He

has always lived at home, and has inherited the homestead. He is unmarried.

John Murray has been a resident on section 17 since 1868. He is the son of Charles and Margaret (Connor) Murray. He was born in Ireland, May, 1840. He emigrated to America in 1858, going first to Jefferson Co., Wis., and from there to Dane county. He was engaged for some time in steamboating on the Fox, Wolf and Mississippi rivers. In 1864 he came to Iowa and bought eighty acres in Douglass township. He then returned to Wisconsin, where he lived until 1868, when he moved to his present home. He has since added to his land, until he has 240 acres. He is a democrat, and has held local offices. Aug. 17, 1868 he married Catharine McCarty, a native of Wisconsin. They have eight children—John Charles, William J., Cornelius F., Dan J., Mary E., Margaret A. and Edward.

J. G. Schultheis is one of the prominent farmers of Douglass township, where he located in the fall of 1869. Though he came with limited means, by thrift and labor he has accumulated a comfortable property and home, having 250 acres. He is a practicable farmer, his land being kept under the highest state of cultivation. He has the banner farm of the township. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, July 29, 1838, and followed the occupation of shepherd, as did his father. He emigrated to America in 1854, landing in New York city, where he remained a few months, then went to Dane Co., Wis., where he married Rebecca Hadden. They removed to Minnesota in 1860. They were the parents of nine children—Albert G., born Nov. 16, 1860; Jay N., born April 18,