

Property of Fern Beers.

Typed and put in this folder and given
to me by Barbara Eide Fromminga. 8-13-82.

The original copy and research was
done by John Kemp of Alden, Ia.

Given back to John Kemp by Dalease Fern Beers
brother after her death in Oct, 16, 1986

REMINISCENCES . . . By F. E. Furry

It seems an odd thing that, having been asked to jot down a few of my early recollections of Alden, the very first one that comes to my mind should be so drastically uncomfortable. Taken all in all, Alden has been, off and on, a suitable and comfortable surrounding for anybody with good intentions, to inhabit. But my earliest information did not say so. My earliest information was not an invitation; it was a threat. And I took the threat very much to heart.

During the time of the civil war our family lived at Eldora where my father had a store and where I was born. At first we lived over the store but later the eight of us were housed in a dwelling not far away. One dreadful night midway between midnight and dawn all of us, young and old, were awakened by a man who had come from "up the river at Alden" with a considerable bag of money that had been hastily put in his hands by neighbors. He wanted all the powder and lead Joe Furry would let him have and if there wasn't money enough he would bring it later. And he was much in a hurry.

All my life-time I have believed his name was Boldon. The History of Hardin County says Asher Boldon died the year before I was born but that statement does not particularly shake me. It may be he died in 1867 instead of 1857 or, it may be, our visitor was some other Boldon than Asher. Whoever he was, he was a hero, risking his life in a wild night ride to protect his community from an impending rush of Indians, not knowing but he would meet them on the way. The greatness of our country is due in no small way to this brand of courageous, sacrificial love of home.

The only way to re-see one's early contacts with life is to look at them through the same pair of untaught eyes used in that far-away time. I was scared that night. So were all the other children. Even my father and mother were, and had good cause to be. It might be tomahawks and

scalps were only two dozen miles away and the name of that place was "up the river at Alden."

A year and a half later, when it was announced we were going to move to that dreaded place, my fear became vigorously active. With the help of my good friend, Will Porter, I was hidden in a weed patch for, I believe, as long as half or three-quarters of an hour. The way my father put me back again on the pile of household goods left no room for argument. The family came to Alden and unwilling I was of the number.

The largest part of the store was sold to my oldest sister's husband, John Q. Patterson, who continued it at Eldora for many years. But some of it was brought along and, with new additions, became another store. It was in a two-story brick building then standing at the northwest corner of the lots now occupied by the W. B. Miller & Son Lumber yard. About where their office now stands, Lysander Utley had a store and, near by it, Andrew Whitney had a furniture store with a casket factory in the rear. Caskets, or coffins as we called them, were made to order, always of wood not covered with cloth, and freshly varnished just before delivery. A little later S. M. Massey had a tin shop at the northwest corner of the next block and Martin Pritchard had a blacksmith shop about where the white Farmers' Savings Bank building stands. But both of these were later. At first the hardware store was in Mrs. Bucy's present home where, rumor said, two men had been struck by lightning some years before. And Martin Pritchard was working for Taylor & Brother in their steam saw mill on the bank of the river no great distance from the J. G. Lutz home. It was, I believe, a little farther upstream. The postoffice was a few rods still farther west and a huge wooden bridge spanned the river just back of the Mrs. Geo. Wiringa home. One can still make out the embankment approach on the north side.

(continued later)

October 17, 1981

Dear John Kemp

Through the kindness of Thora Hager Christensen I received the Alden church paper for August. I found it very interesting with news of several old time friends, particularly your talk to the Men's Brotherhood on the history of Alden, described as a very interesting presentation. So I would like to pass on to you some history that my father remembered. No doubt it appeared in the Alden Times in the early 1930's. My nephew, Leroy Furry, had the copy made for you. I believe you will enjoy reading it and perhaps passing it on to others who might be interested.

It is good to recall you and I remember your mother and father very well too. I often think of Alden. Of course I think of the Congregational church on the hill - but I'm sure the new church serves as well, even better.

5000 Fairbanks Ave
Alexandria Va. #631
22311

Best wishes
Margaret Furry

The new town had three important industries connected with its growth, the making of red oak dimension material at the saw mill, the quarrying of limestone rock and the burning of lime.

Most noisy and exciting of these was the saw mill. It could be looked at when in operation by youngsters only from a distance and this, of course, furnished a view of nothing but the outside. There was a long low cradle on wheels, which, in turn, were on a track. Every once in a while this cradle affair would dart out of the mill, speed to a pile of logs, have a log loaded on to it by five or six men and speed back to where it came from. And then the zipping roar and the puffing of the determined engine were quite wonderful. A few such noises in rapid succession and the cradle was out for another load. The logs were large and long and straight and the piles of them were high. They furnished all the dimension material built into the early houses. It is as sound now as then but as hard as a dry bone. Nails could be driven into it before it was seasoned, but not afterward.

The rock quarries were at various places all along the river, always on the south bank, that is, right in town. The material was bought and sold by the cord, like wood and so the piles were always stacked in orderly fashion ready to be hauled away. The slabs averaged something like two inches in thickness and many were large and smooth and even. Just like oak lumber, limestone is easily worked when fresh. It can be broken and trimmed with ease. But after exposure to the air for a time it becomes almost as obstinately tough as granite.

There was always one and sometimes two huge lime kilns built into the rock ledge back of where the state bank building stands. Their draft doors were near the water's edge and their tops were even with the ground

above. Seasoned wood and limestone were loaded into these and set on fire and the fire kept burning continuously, night and day, for as long as necessary to convert the rock into lime. They were hideous things to look at in the night from the opposite side of the river. Cords of wood and rock and a small dwelling near by were the property of Orra Bigelow, proprietor of the industry.

The first mill dam I ever saw, and I believe it was about the original one for Alden, was a crude affair of whole trees laid lengthwise, their roots downstream and their branches ballasted with rock and mud. Some of the trees were willow and grew branches in unsightly confusion but, probably, strengthened the structure. The spillway was short, most of the stream's width being obstructed by a strong rock and dirt embankment springing from the north shore. This dam did not last long. When it was re-built it had a substantial base of rock-filled log cribbing roofed with sawed oak planks three inches thick. These planks were held in place with spikes like those used on railroads, only they were longer.

In addition to having a store my father bought some land half a mile north of town on the hill and started a farm. Most of the land was entirely wild and new but a log house had been built on it and a small part put in cultivation by Philemon Plummer who, beside being a farmer, was a hunter, a trapper and a preacher of the Disciples denomination. He had a large family and was most welcome to remain a near neighbor for as long as he wanted to which was several years. One of his daughters was the wife of Tom Bailey and a son, Hiram, was one of our most valued hired men. Years afterward Hiram became sheriff of Polk county, Oregon. After the Plummer family went away their currant patch continued to delight us for many seasons.

(Continued later.)

REMINISCENCES . . . By F. E. Furry

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Before our new house was built, we and the Plummers and the Hi Button family who lived on what is now the Granzow place co-operated in building a foot-bridge below the dam. This was made of split logs, flat side up, held above the water by straddling poles driven into the under or bark side of the logs in large auger holes. When any of us went on foot between the store and farm this arrangement saved a good many steps. It was a long trip around by the main bridge.

A part of our land was untouched forest, more than half, I think, red oak. Many of the trees were veritable giants. When we came to build the house, some of these came down and went to the sawmill and others were used for fuel and fencing, but my father was very proud and choice of them and saved an acreage that was known for a long time as "Furry's Grove." Celebrations, picnics, camp meetings, political oratory were brought right to us. We could sit on our west porch—after the house was built—and be delightfully entertained much of the time in the summer. But the baptisms that always followed the camp meetings and frequently followed the sermons of our Neighbor Plummer at other times, were usually above the milldam, in town. If we wanted to know anything about these occasions we had to hitch up a team of horses, get into the wagon and go, fording the river below the dam where the stream was wide and shallow. If any of us refused to go or forgot to go on these occasions I do not remember about it. Mr. Plummer was tall and strong and of stately bearing and the ceremony was impressive with the large audience on the shore singing hymns.

There came a day, long before we had built the house, that was deeply impressed on my mind largely, I think, because it was another profound scare. My father was at the farm driving some stakes where he wanted a fence built and I was tagging him back and forth for nothing at all, as children will. Mr. Utley, the other merchant, came. He wanted my father to come back to town. He brought bad news. Some volunteer riders had come through to warn

the people that the war had broken out again and everybody must be ready for attack. They had gone on west. It was like the story of Paul Revere. We went to town right away. People were gathered in the street and many of the women were crying. Nobody knew how near the danger. It might be that Morgan (I do not know who Morgan could have been) was as near as Colo or Marshall or Point Pleasant. Precautions of some sort were hastily arranged and two or three days later when the stage came and brought the newspapers with the deep black column rules that told about the assassination of our President Lincoln, everybody was as sad but none was as badly frightened. We were assured that the secret service and the military were in full control and that the conspiracy, it was nothing more, would be broken within a week. It was not a war. It was an assassination, a word I had never heard before.

Some people say there is a rule or a law or a regulation to the effect that flags must come down at sunset. That it offends good taste or something to let them remain up all night. Maybe so. It was not that way when Francis Scott Key was watching Fort McHenry through his spy glass, and it was not that way in Alden in the summer of 1865. The town flag was put at half-staff on the tall liberty pole that lifted itself toward the sky from the side of the next hill west of where the Congregational church stands. And it stood at half-staff night and day through storm and starlight from April until the Fourth of July. On the Fourth the short, tattered shred came down and a bright new flag that must have been six yards long flew like an eagle to the very prongs at the top of the pole. There was no brass band to salute it but the town's little two-inch cast iron howitzer harked for it good and hard and many times.

In those days every village, no matter how small, had a liberty pole and a community flag. Why have we discarded such rugged, patriotic customs? And why have our flags become too fail to breathe night air?

(Continued later.)

At Eldora the liberty pole stood in the center of a wide space exactly where the court house is. It was taller than the Alden pole and was in three sections instead of two. And its kite prongs were longer. The wide prongs at the top of the pole were there to lay a string in by means of a kite if the rope needed renewing. All through the war the Eldora pole had frequent, sometimes almost daily use. It told the battle news. Judge Ellis Parker, to me one of the most wonderful men that ever walked on the earth, had charge of the large town flag. When there was news of a union victory he sent the flag to the top of the pole and when the rebels had won it went up to half-staff. In this way the community had its first news of the battles. There were ecstatic occasions when, by invitation, a very small boy went along to hold the folds from the ground while attachment was being made to the rope and then, when the hauling up was done, it was hard to believe the flag was stationary. The stripes seemed vigorously alive, coursing their victorious way through the clouds led on by the white stars. It was not my privilege to be acquainted with many men, so my contact with Judge Parker was an exceptional experience. I thought him grand. If he has a descendant somewhere, and I hope so, it is not possible for him to hold the memory of his ancestor more reverentially than I have done for more than three-quarters of a century.

With one exception my contact and acquaintance with grown men at this time was also very limited in Eldora. I knew Martin Pritchard a little and admired him very much. Three incidents contributed to this.

Firstly, one day I was sent from the farm for the mail the long way around by the main bridge. When I came to a place where the river was narrow and the surface of the water more than usually smooth it looked like good wading and I tried it. But, waist deep, the current was swift and I was in no hurry to try turning around. It was Martin Pritchard who saw the predicament, got me out and led me, big brother fashion by the hand around by the bridge.

Then, one day, there was an excited gathering on the shore below the dam. Why we were in town I do not know but my mother and I were of the number. Martin Pritchard was diving for the body of one of my most admired young acquaintances, Walter Massey

He finally brought it to shore but the young life had already left it.

The building of the railroad put strong, athletic Martin Pritchard once more under the hot spot-light of dangerous heroism and nearly finished his career on earth. The construction gang was made up of newly imported Irishmen. They were unruly and quarrelsome. They would drift into town at night and drink and brawl and fight. The young blacksmith tried to quiet them down, was set upon by both factions and so badly beaten up that his life hung by a thread for many days. Never, to the end of his time was he ever the stalwart man he had always been before. Long years afterward he became the husband of Walter's sister Lucy, was mayor of his home village and built the large residence now used as a funeral home.

The elder Henry Alden, founder of the town, whom I saw perhaps three or four times, was not a tall man and was inclined to quickness of speech and motion, resembling, in all three of these characteristics, my own father. His son Henry, father of Will, Charley, George and Ella, was taller and more deliberate in personality. Tom Bailey, the man who discovered Henry Alden and his hired man, Sumner Kemp, in the northern part of the state searching for a place to locate a sawmill and guided them to the location chosen, was a stocky, square-built man considerably younger than my father whom he frequently addressed as "Uncle Joe." He had the longest rifle I ever saw or heard tell of and would stand it in a corner of the room whenever he entered a house. He did not leave it out of doors or even on the porch, and his dangling traps could be unbuckled with their belt and laid on the floor beside it. One of his daughters, now Martha Bailey Proctor, lives at Seattle and is quite well-known to readers of *Muse and Mirror*, *Our Young Folks* and *The Christian Monitor*, particularly for her poetic writing. She has also published a book of verse entitled "Possessions."

Timothy Catlin, I would say, was taller than either of his grandsons, Ray Catlin or Clifford Miller. His son Steven, it seems to me, was much like him. Sumner Kemp, recently returned from the war, was tallest of them all, by far. Both he and the elder Catlin were remarkable for their voices which they used most eloquently in directing their trained oxen. I believed, at the time, I could tell which was which a mile away.

(Concluded later)

REMINISCENCES . . . By F. E. Furry

In those days every village, no matter how small, had a lively pole and a community flag. Why have we not continued such rugged, patriotic customs? Why have our flags become too frail to breathe the night air? There used to be panoramas and lectures and concerts in the evenings and church services on Sundays in the frame schoolhouse; afterwards there were school-days in the day-time and singing schools and penmanship schools and spelling bees and lyceums in the evenings in the new two-room brick schoolhouse; there were oyster suppers to buy the big school bell; Ludwig Rummel's frame blacksmith shop burned and the three-story stone factory was put up where heavy duty drays were built for customers as far away as Sioux City; the Myers boy whom I had never seen slipped off the mossy roof of the dam and was drowned; Martin Davis built a large hotel; the heavily loaded west-bound passenger and mail stage blew its five-foot horn half a mile east of town three times a week, thundered across the bridge, the four-horse team at a long gallop, and came to a stop in front of the postoffice; women wore hoops and carried their hair in waterfall nets and little girls went around in pantalettes; returned soldiers wore their pale blue overcoats with the shoulder capes to pull over their heads in stormy weather; Indians always begged for white flour and sugar, scorning the more plentiful corn meal and sorghum; the Plummer and Bailey families went away and the Palmers and Staggs came; there was Horace Greeley's New York Tribune, the Pickwick Papers, Petroleum V. Nasby's funny skits, Thomas Nast's cartoons in Harper's Weekly, Evangeline, Snowbound; in the almost new Alden's hall there were lectures by Schuyler Colfax and Harriet Beecher Stowe and Susan B. Anthony. All this and much more, interspersed with hoping and remembering and forgetting, were dovetailed together in the lives of the young people in the young

town. Alden was never a rough, rowdy frontier outpost. It had napkins and table linen and silverware and magazines and newspapers and books and music from the very first.

If I may be permitted to do so, from the maze of it all I will select the episode of one afternoon for short mention and close. It is a special privilege to not omit it because it was the most majestic spectacle I have ever beheld, testifying at once to the wonders of the universe and the miracle that men's minds could accurately foretell it. Exactly as scheduled the total eclipse of the sun came to us on the afternoon of August 7, 1869. And nothing has ever quite equalled it. It was oat harvest but we took our smoked pieces of window glass with us to the field. Work stopped when the first notch appeared on the north face of the sun and the sky began to look dark and stormy in the northwest. Then it looked more and more stormy as the darkness widened and came toward us, until, all of a sudden, the line of totality swept our faces like the wind of an express train. An instant later we could see it sweeping up the wooded hillside, three long miles away to the southeast. The rapidity of the shadow movement was astonishing. We are accustomed to regard the movements of the moon as quite unhurried. The movement of its shadow that took us from noontime to midnight in a split second was like a dash of swift wind.

Approached from any direction, Alden presents a quite different appearance from what it did nearly a hundred years ago. It used to be a town of houses and shrubbery. Now it is an expanse of tree-tops. It was widely scattered from the first and what houses there were stood out in bold relief. If anybody wants to know anything about the town today and its ten times as many and better houses, he must come in under the trees and look at them. And live in one. And be happy.

(Signing off)

THE HISTORY OF ALDEN

1854 PART ONE 1914

This historical and informative report was compiled in 1972 by John S. Kemp of Alden, Iowa.

There is so much to tell about relating to the growth, events, happenings and remininices of the Alden area, it would take a big book to hold them.

Alden is known as the, "Best Town by a Dam Site."

Of the towns in Hardin County as they exist today, Alden is the second oldest. Eldora, only, being older.

Alden and Alden Township 1854-1914, 59 years, half of the towns years of existence.

For much of the report I am indebted to the 1883-1911, Histories of Hardin County, Alden Centennial Folder, and the Alden Times files at the Alden Library which ~~was~~ run from 1878-1944. My father Sumner Kemp and my mother Eva (Howe) Kemp, my half sisters Eva (Kemp) Rummel, Mark (Kemp) Patterson, my half brother-in-law, Charles Rummel. All of the above are deceased. My nephew, William B. Rummel (deceased April 1976) of Waterloo, Iowa. A nephew, Frank ~~Choslin~~ ^{Choslin} (deceased March 1973) of Albuquerque, New Mexico. A neice, Cora (Patterson) Moore ^{deceased Nov 1957} of Prescott, Arizona, Laura Robins (deceased November 1976) a former Alden resident of Pasadena, California. Some of the following persons born in Alden or Alden Township, who have lived practically all their lives here.

As near as I can ascertain the oldest, over 90 years old is Mrs. John (Maude Harris) Carney, (deceased December 1974) of Ackley, ^{Pres. Union Home} Geo. Fay Bigelow, (deceased August 22, 1979 almost 94 years old) of Waterloo, Iowa. Over 80 years old Mrs. Bessie (Stebe) Schiller (deceased August 1972). Sixty Five to Eighty-Guilford Trousdale (deceased April 1974), Mrs. Leonard (June Burnham) Orpin, ^{deceased Oct 24, 1985} Irwin Johnson, Mrs Irwin Josephine (Knudsen) Catlin Johnson, ^{deceased Jan 22, 1983} John Harms (deceased June 1977), Howard Wood (deceased May 1973), Anton Pingel (deceased March 1981), Keith Wood, Otto Vinski (deceased March 1977), John Heinzeroths (deceased February 1977), Arthur Klem, John Sweers, John Kemp, and James Idso, all living in or near the Alden Area today. ^{born 1897 died Alden Ia 1982 85 yrs. old} Fred and Harry Lawton ^{both over 80 years old, were born just over the line in Franklin County. Josephine (Urmson) Halberstadt spent three years in Buckeye ^{deceased 1982} If I missed anybody in the above categories it was not intentional.}

The Alden Centennial Celebration, as most of you know was held in 1954.

The growth of the community, population wise, has shown little change from the early days to the present time. Community growth industrially, religiously, educationally, recreationally, and business wise has shown more or less change.

Indians were here first. Indian scares were very little in the Alden area and there were no hostilities

with them. People were worried some after the Spirit Lake Massacre of 1857.

Hearing glowing reports of a vast, beautiful, rich and unsettled land west of the Mississippi, many Easterners came west and wound up as settlers in the Alden area. All, either became farmers or business men of one sort or another, or were builders and industrial men.

First homes were three sided affairs, built with logs, with a place for a fire on the open side. Next came log cabins, then with the advent of a sawmill and a brickyard, frame and brick houses were put up. In the late sixties a limestone quarry opened up and several buildings of limestone were put up. The remains of the old brickyard can still be found on our farm across the road from the County Conservation Park. Mounds in the pasture, if dug into with a pick axe or crowbar yeild bricks or parts of bricks.

EARLY SETTLERS: Dr. John Crawford, the first settler and also the first physician, came in 1851. In 1852 Asher Bolden settled where the Weaver Limestone Quarry now is. A grandson, Elmer Bolden (deceased 1979) lived in Webster City. Thomas Bailey, Pleasant Jones, and J. L. Hitt all came from Indiana in 1852. Philemnon Plummer, a preacher, who had 19 children, whether at this time or later came from Indiana and Wm. Myers from Virginia in 1853, and John Barrett came from New York in 1854. In 1855 W. H. Foote came from Wisconsin and another William Myers came

from Indians. J. O. Shuffy came in 1856, also Jesse (Deacon) Rogers, Martin Pritchard and Franklin Draper, a brick and stone mason (grandfather of Laura Robbins). Alden Catlin a carpenter, came from Massachusetts and a little later his brother, Stephen Catlin arrived; both were the sons of Timothy Catlin and his wife Electa Aiden Catlin, a sister of Henry Alden. Arriving that year also was Albert Button and sons Loren and J. A. Button.

In 1857-1858 more early settlers arrived, including Robert Treat, I. G. Whitney, J. Allen Spencer who served as an early county surveyor, C. D. Pritchard, Loren Burnham, M. J. (Squire) Davis, and Stephen Whited who was an early county auditor. C. A. Johnson came in 1865, W. R. Mason in 1867 and Grandison Wood in 1864. Some descendants of these early settlers are June Orpin ^{deceased Oct. 24, 1985} granddaughter of Loren Burnham; Eleanor and Evelyn Schiller descendants of Squire Davis, Irving (Chunk) Johnson descendant of C. A. Johnson, and Keith Wood grandson of Grandison Wood.

Nelson Gibbs, a brick mason and farmer, another early settler came in 1856. He owned a considerable amount of land northwest of town and was active in representing the township in county affairs. He served on the first board of Supervisors, organized on January 7, 1861. He was elected chairman of the board in 1864-1866 and 1867. He moved to Eldora and served three two year terms as Sheriff of Hardin County, 1868-1874.

Taylor Brothers had a steam saw mill in the lower town in 1856, and from then on a lumberyard and grain business. Later on they were builders of many business places, houses, elevators, and were dealers in livestock.

Henry Alden, 53 years old, sixth in line of descend-
muzzens
 ency of John and Priscilla Alden of Mayflower fame, left ~~Shepley~~ *Edwin Way*
 Massachusetts in the spring of 1854. He was joined by a
 young man, Sumner Kemp, 21 years old, *from Shepley*
ring town ~~also of~~ Massachusetts. *a neighbor*
 Together they left, Naperville, Illinois, by covered wagon
 and a team of oxen. The wagon contained pioneer equipment
 of the times and parts of a saw mill. They went to East
 Dubuque on the Mississippi and traded the oxen for a team
 of horses and cash to boot. They then crossed the Mississippi
 River on a ferry. They came to the Cedar River near Waterloo,
 looking for a saw mill site. They went North along the
 Cedar River and then went to the Iowa River near Belmond.
 They decided to go to the growing outpost town of Souix City.
 There, at Belmond, they met Tom Bailey, a hunter and trap-
 per mentioned previously. He told them of an area down-
 stream with several settlers, rapid falling water and much
 timber along the river. They arrived there in late June
 1854 and pitched their tents. Pleased with the prospects,
 Henry Alden purchased twenty acres for \$125.00, from Tom
 Bailey for a sawmill site. Part of Alden's main street is
 on this 20 acres. Bailey had previously entered the land
 in his name from the goverment at Fort Des Moines No. 2,

which is now part of the city of Des Moines.

Later in May 1855, Mr. Kemp and Ira Plummer, one of Philemon Plummer's boys started for Fort Des Moines No. 2, walking both ways and taking about seven days. The streams were swollen from May rains and they had to tie their clothes and belongings to the top of their heads and back of their necks when swimming these streams.

Kemp entered ^{a so called} 120 acres of homesteaded land from the government for himself and 80 acres of what is now the original plot of Alden for Mr. Alden. This land of the Kemps has been in the family for ^{133 1988} ~~127~~ years, now in the second generation. The original deeds for about 120 acres was signed in 1855 by Franklin Pierce, 14th President of the United States. This land is presently owned by John S. Kemp. It was also in this year, 1855, that Sumner Kemp married Hannah Button.

During the summer of 1854 they built a rude dam of trees, butts downstream and branches filled with stones and dirt. When going up the river to get logs etc., they found two scaffolds in the timber laying in the crotches of the trees nine or ten feet above the ground. On these trees were two dead Indians, in a decomposed condition, laying east and west with their heads propped up and their faces facing the rising sun and their personal belongings such as beads, bows, arrows, tomahawks, etc. laying up there with them. Presumably they had died during the

winter and could not be buried in the frozen ground. This also made it so the wolves could not get at them.

Alden also laid out in the years of 1855-1856 what is known as the Original Town of Alden, deservedly naming it for himself, and later the township took his name also.

During the summer and fall the settlers lived in tents and crude log cabins were built to get thru the winter. The winter being unusally cold and with lots of deep snow; the wolves of which there was a lot at that time, both timber and prairie wolves, became hungry and they howled around the cabins and scratched on the door and at the sides. Alden said he would stop that. He picked a glowing firebrand out of the fireplace, opened the door a short ways, and threw it onto one of the wolves backs. The wolve's hair started to singe, it ran away with a howl, and all the other wolves went along with it.

The dam built and all succeeding ones were on the same location. The first mill building was built near the upper end of the mill race and at the edge of the dam. it was made of sqared or hewed logs. It was without a roof until the following year when the machinery was installed and the saw operating to get the boards for it. The mill was operated by a flutter wheel being four paddles attached to an upright wooden shaft, all homemade. The saw was what was called a "one way saw," operating very similar to a hand saw and cutting on the down stroke only.

it operated so slowly one could take a good nap while it was cutting off a twelve foot board, but it worked night and day. After a couple of years 1856, Sumner Kemp left the mill to develop his land for farming.

In 1857, Henry Alden sold a quarter interest and water rights to J. W. Cowles, who operated the mill until August 1859, when Greenleaf Woodbury of Marshalltown purchased the other three-quarter interest in the property. Later he purchased Cowles interest also. In 1858, a grist mill building was built below where the sawmill stood. Woodbury improved the dam in 1859, supplied the necessary machinery and commenced operating the grist mill the following winter. The improvement of the dam just mentioned was made by protecting the face of it with hued logs or planks to keep the stones etc. from being carried away each spring when the ice went out. These logs or planks were also protected on the lower ends by a face of stones to keep them from being washed out in high water. During the freshet in the spring of 1862 an ice gorge formed just above the top of the dam and as it went out a big cake of ice carried half of the sawmill with it and more ice carried away the rest of it. The grist mill lower down was not damaged by the ice. Mr. William Sherrard bought it in 1864 and made additions and improvements to the property. He was a hearty pioneer and every morning, the year around, he would go down to the mill flume, strip to the waist and

take a bath in the running water. One spring the ice formed a jam just above the dam and Mr. Sherrard fearing that when the ice went out it would take the dam with it, he borrowed a crowbar from Orra Bigelow (Fay Bigelow's grandfather) to loosen the ice. On one of his first attempts to loosen the ice the crowbar slipped through his hands into twelve or fifteen feet of water. That night the ice went out and the next morning Sherrard swam out about 25 feet to where the bar went down, dove down and recovered the bar on his first try.

Mathias Von Berg of Galena, Illinois was the next owner getting it October 1, 1872, and selling it April 24, 1874 to William Pagel. The mill burned July 2, 1880, Mr. Pagel rebuilt it with a building housing five floors of machinery. He also changed it from a grist mill to a roller mill. Pagel sold to A. G. Brown on October 1, 1894. Under the ownership of Mr. Brown and the A. G. Brown Mfg. Co. of Chicago a steam engine was added to operate the mill in periods of low water. This made the mill as fine as any in Iowa. The mill which had been doing a thriving business did even more now. Farmers brought their grain in for processing from as far as Belmond on the north and Story City on the south.

H. F. Schultz purchased the property August 5, 1877. That summer the center of the dam went out and Schultz rebuilt the whole dam in 1898. The construction was of the

crib type and the logs which went into it were cut from trees on the Brande and Brassfield properties (where Mick Nelson and Bud Stober now lives) and were either floated down in high water or were hauled down, the workmen getting \$1.00 per day. After the cribs were made the spaces were filled with rock and then planked over. The former dam had a slanting spillway but this new dam had an apron attached to the slanting spillway so that the water would shoot away from the dam instead of boiling back and undermining it.

On October 3, 1901; Mr. Schultz sold to Hoskins and Pritchard who operated the mill until 1914, when the dam went out in the center the water having worked a hole through the plank at the back of the dam and through the rock fill. The dam was not rebuilt.

The first drowning occurred in 1864, a son of a Mrs. Myers. The second drowning occurred June 8, 1878 on a Sunday. Six young men Walter Massey, Asa Russel, Charles Rummel (my half brother-in-law), a Schultz, a Byers, and a Fuller were in a boat above the dam. The river was high; and the boat was being carried toward the dam, Walter Massey, who was rowing, was trying hard to row to shore, and he lost one of the oars. Rummel, Schultz, Byers and Fuller jumped from the boat, and made it to shore. Massey and Russel also jumped just above the dam and were carried over the dam. Russel finally came to the surface about eight rods below the dam, and if not for immediate help,

he was so exhausted, he would have drowned. Massey was seen momentarily, being carried downstream, as he disappeared. A rope with dozens of hooks on it was stretched across the river three-fourths of a mile below the dam. A search was carried on until midnight. Then it continued the next morning. By 10 P.M. that night the body was finally found near the north shore, one half mile below the dam.

In September 1890, one other drowning occurred. The small 12 year old son of William Pagel, the mill owner. Bennie Pagel, was found floating in the mill race by Charlie Alden (a grandson of Henry Alden). He was hanging on a piece of driftwood by a wooden frame that prevented driftwood from passing through the mill wheel. Alden quickly drew his body ashore and went and summoned Dr. Frisbee, a local doctor, but it was too late, he couldn't be revived. No one will ever know, but it is believed he accidentally fell in the mill race and died from exposure. Had he not hung on to this piece of driftwood he would have went through the wheel and probably down the mill race and it would have been a long time before he would have been found.

OFFICERS OF THE TOWNSHIP IN 1855

Justice of the Peace-Milton Clover and James Holden
Constables-George Nelson and James Gibson

Trustees-Summer Kemp, Henry Alden and Julius Cowles
Township Supervisor-Orra Bigelow
Township Clerk-Martin Pritchard
Township Assessor-Elwood Collins

In 1856 Clovers addition and the so called lower town was laid out down the river. The Central addition was laid out by Raymond, Peabody, and Hawes in 1857. They purchased the land from Henry Alden for \$100.00 per acre. Later the Duane addition was plotted out near the Illinois Central Railroad, then the Schoenhalls Addition, the River Addition, the Pritchard Addition and the South Side Addition were plotted.

In 1869 a Mr. Winch built a dam and two story grist mill on the river by the present Howard Wood place. A. J. Thomas leased the lower mill in April 1879. It had operated successfully for 14 years when in 1884 a huge ice gorge destroyed the dam and part of the mill. It was abandoned when the machinery was removed. The machinery was taken to a mill near the Webster City, area.

Alden was incorporated as a town in 1879. 61 votes were cast for and 19 against.

Henry Alden worked hard to induce a big settlement of the place. He succeeded. It was a bigger town in the late 1870's and 1880's than it is now. People traded in Alden for miles around.

What did the early settlers use for food? For staple

foods such as; salt, pepper, sugar and flour before the mill started operating, they and the early merchants had to go on horseback or with a team and wagon to Cedar Falls. Later the stage brought some things until the railroad, south of town, came through in 1869. Other foods came fairly easy, as the country in those days would be a present day sportsman's paradise. Prairie chickens could be shot from the windows of the houses on the edge of town or in the country. Breasts of prairie chickens and later native chickens were dried and used later. Sweet corn was also dried for later use. Ducks, geese and cranes were plentiful as there were so many sloughs, marshes and ponds at that time.

The woods and brush abounded with squirrels, raccoons, woodchucks and rabbits all of which were considered good food if properly prepared. Even muskrats were eaten. By cutting out the musk glands, the meat could be prepared and was considered very good. The old timers called them swamp rabbits.

Speaking of swamps on Iowa Highway 359 the blacktop south of Alden there was a long grade north of where Robert Hoffman now lives called the Willow Grade named for the Willow trees that grew along each side of the road from the 1870's to the early 1900's. Originally an unimproved dirt road, later graded and gravelled. The road sloped downhill from the north to the south to the grade and

from the south end of the grade sloped uphill to the south, (now in 1982) it still slopes some. In the early days, Indians came to the area to get willow shoots for making baskets etc. Charles Rummel, husband of my half sister, Eva Kemp, born in 1857, oldest daughter of my father and his first wife, Hannah, told me the following incident:

Before he married her in 1879 he took her to picnics and dances in a single horse buggy. They were going to a dance held in a big farmhouse in Buckeye Township. I have forgotten the name of the family there. There had been heavy rain earlier. The grade was noted for many years for persons getting stuck there; after such rains it became a quagmire. They started down the grade, the farther they got the deeper the horse and buggy sank into the mud. Charles said "there is no use trying to go farther," so he unhooked the singletree, got the horse out to the back of the buggy, fastened a chain he had in the buggy, to the singletree then to the back of the buggy and the horse pulled the buggy out to solid ground. Charles had been in the mud to his knees; Eva, also, got out of the buggy, she said, "it might be easier for the horse to pull it out without my weight in it." Her dancing shoes and dress were covered with mud. They headed back to Alden. What had promised to be a night of entertainment turned out to be a farce.

It might be interesting to know where the old stage

went. It stopped at the old stone house on the blacktop east of town. It then came across the old fjord at the east of the old town, and stopped at the house across from Edna Carys, which was an early day hotel. It then went southwest of town to the stone house on the place where Everett Harms farms, southwest across the road from Leonard Warschkos, and then on to Webster City. Another stage went northwest of town up along the river to the old Popejoy place. Covered wagons stopped on this trail this side of the bridge near the Howard Wood place, quite often, for overnight stops.

The streams were clear due to no tile and drainage ditches. Fish could be seen and stabbed with a pitchfork or other sharp instrument and thrown out on the bank.

A favorite trick of the early settler was to take a chunk of tough beef tie a cord on one end and shred the other end into narrow ribbons. This was thrown over the edge of a boat or from the river bank. Soon you could see and feel a pronounced tugging. With a quick jerk you pulled the beef out of the water into the boat or onto the bank. Practically every shred would have a bullhead hanging onto it.

Northern pike and pickerel were plentiful. Fish could be taken in the winter and kept for a long time.

The fat on skunks was used for a penetrating oil or salve for chest colds, etc. and it often worked, believe

it or not.

Wild crab apples, gooseberries, currents and grapes were eaten or made into jell. Wild strawberries, black cherries, plums, hickory nuts, walnuts, butternuts, and hazelnuts were all plentiful.

Knudt Olson, father of Ray Olson, grandfather of Marlyn Olson, had a sorghum mill on his place, above us, when I was a small boy. My father took sorghum cane to his place to be made into sorghum and it sure was good on corn bread and corn meal muffins. The early settlers soon had garden plots and small patches of grain which became bigger as the outlying farming area developed. An interesting fact is-Henry Alden who liked dandelion greens, ~~he~~ brought dandelion seed from Massachusetts. Not native to Iowa the dandelions spread for miles. The early settlers also had sheep and when they were sheared the wool was taken to the woolen mills in Iowa Falls where they would get it in spools for the spinning wheels to make into yarn to knit socks, hoods, and mittens etc. There were no sewing machines so the clothes had to be sewed by hand. There were no modern conveniences what so ever. The children had no toys.

F. E. Furry (well known Alden resident for years) tells about the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad coming from Cedar Falls south of Alden and on to Webster City. He was eleven years old at the time. This was in 1869.

It came through Rocksyvania, across the deep gorge of the river up through the Alvord cut to Duane, named for Duane Young, but afterward called Alden, to and across the South Fork and out north of Rose Grove to a place afterwards called Williams. The delivery of a dressed beef once a week from my father's herd, for several consecutive weeks, to the kitchen car of the construction train gave frequent opportunities for even the younger members of the family to see what was going on close at hand.

About this time a good deal was being said and printed in the newspapers about an Irish secret society called Fenians, which had been formed in the United States for the purpose of, it was understood, resisting British authority in Ireland. A military raid which came to no good end, had even been undertaken to invade Canada from this country, and there was a general impression that the society was made up of a most uncomfortable class of people.

This idea was considerably heightened locally when one, Saturday night, the Irish track layers, who were supposed, correctly or incorrectly to be Fenians, had a drunken brawl on the streets in Alden. A young blacksmith (the first in Alden) by the name of Martin Pritchard tried to pacify them, and as a result was pitched onto and nearly killed. Afterward Mr. Pritchard was a prominent merchant in Alden, and its mayor for several years, but the scars

of the Fenian mob were with him all his life.

J. M. Fisher was the first station agent and telegraph operator. Across the tracks was the Duane addition or South Alden. Here was a grocery store, several homes large and small, sprang up to surround two large grain elevators and commodious stockyard. It certainly looked like a boom town that would be the death of the fourteen year old settlement a mile and a half north in the valley, but the river was too much for the boom town and its platted lots were soon plowed up and planted to oats and corn. The Railroad station and elevators remained and they too finally disappeared. For a considerable time the elevated tank was the main water supply for the engines between Ackley and Webster City. From the time of its installation until his death it was cared for by James Crisp, the father of Miss Hattie Crisp, and afterward by his widow who took up the work in 1874. At first the pump was operated by hand, later by horsepower. After a pump was put in at Iowa Falls, the South Fork equipment was not used so much, but the tank was kept full in case a passing train should need water until finally the structure was set a fire by an engine, and the buildings later were taken down. Miss Crisp, until she became a well known resident of Alden for several years, had spent most of her entire lifetime at the tank station and the home two miles west nearby the town of Wilkie which was not heard of until recently." End of Furry's account.

For a sum, I am not sure how much, the railroad could have been brought to the edge of Alden by curving in toward town, instead of going straight the way it is now. The town was to furnish half the money and the railroad half; but the town did not want to spend the money. Had the railroad come next to the town, Alden might now be the size of Iowa Falls, and Iowa Falls the size of Alden. Railroads at that time meant a lot to a community.

They were always coming out with the idea of a railroad out of Eldora to the northwest from about 1879 on, but groups of persons and prominent people met with one another and the railroad officials from time to time. If out of Eldora which way would it go, wind around or go straight. Would it go as far as Iowa Falls and no farther? Thus, the name "Slippery Elm" or "Slip" was applied to the railroad by the Alden community; as it seemed to slip out of Eldora and then back in again. Finally in 1882, Martin Pritchard of Alden convinced the Chicago, Iowa, and Dakota Railroad that they should come all the way into Alden. The contract was finally let and by December 28, 1883 the "Slip" was within one and one half miles of the Alden depot grounds. Not only did it come into Alden they also decided to go north of Alden with it all the way to Oakland Valley then to Dows and Eagle Grove or Belmond. They started grading on it in June 1884 having leased the right of way. The Rock Island then the Cedar Rapids, Burlington and

Northern was building northwest of Alden in the Dows Area in 1880. It looked like Oakland Valley would be a ghost town and Popejoy and Dows boom town^s; as the Railroad abandoned their work after reaching a few miles north of Alden. Not so many years, ago the leasers of the right of way, including myself, received quit claim deeds from the Chicago and the North Western Railroad and the Chicago, Iowa, and Dakota (C. I. D.). It finally became the ~~C. I. D.~~ ^{Chicago and Northwestern} around the year 1900.

The railroad south of Alden finally became the Illinois Central.

In the summer of 1884, Ben Lighthall and Stephen Whited started to build a grain warehouse, elevator and coal house near the C. I. and D. depot which was built the same year. They had plans to build another elevator, weather permitting.

Now that the transportation of perishable products by refrigerator cars assured, Cleveland and Bro. leased a portion of land owned by the C. I. and D. and southeast of the depot. They erected a 20 x 36 foot creamery capable of making 500 pounds of butter per day. The creamery on this spot burned down and a new creamery was built farther west near the center of the town in the forepart of 1896. It was hauling 7,000 pounds of milk a day by April 1, 1896.

A large stockyard complete with a well, windmill and

water tank was also erected north and east of the railroad. These are all gone now. Alden now had, two telegraph lines the instruments having been put in the C. I. and D. depot.

Both railroads put on excursions to various points every year. In July 1890, the Illinois Central put on an excursion from Cedar Falls, to Fort Dodge for P. T. Barnum's Circus. Of the 1,000 people on the train, one hundred got on at Alden. The same summer Excursions were offered to Clear Lake for \$2.80 a round trip.

Trains on the Illinois Central Railroad south of Alden in the early 1900's:

7:15 A.M.-Local passenger and the mail from the east

10:15 A.M.-Local from the east

11:00 A.M.-Flyer from the east. A liveryman went out to the train to hang the mail sack on a scaffold.

It did not stop, but the mail clerk in the mail car door grabbed the sack from the scaffold as the train went by.

12:00 P.M.-Flyer from the west did not stop; but a mail clerk grabbed the mail, the same way as above.

4:15-Local passenger from the west

6:15-Local passenger from the west

The Northwest^{ern} always had excursions to the Hardin County Fair at Eldora. I can remember, as a boy getting on the "Slip" (as they called it) early in the morning and

coming back late at night. They would put on extra passenger cars and all the seats would be filled.

Speaking of railroads, a favorite story of my father's was when the Indians tried to catch the train. I don't remember whether it was the new railroad south of Alden or some other first railroad through the state. Anyhow a bunch of Indians got the biggest rope they could find, laid a branch across the track and the rope across the top so as to catch the cow catcher of the engine. About a dozen Indians were on each side of the track and they hung onto the rope.

The engineer had been put wise to what was going on and about where the Indians would be. He put the engine on full power and as fast as it would go. When the engine front hit the rope the Indians went end over end in all directions. That was the last time they tried to catch the train.

George Bigelow, son of Orra and Lauana (Alden) Bigelow, Lauana the oldest daughter of Henry Alden, came to Alden in 1855 with their two children Janette and George, (Fay Bigelow's father), was a good friend of my father and had come in the morning to my fathers place to help him burn up a few hogs that had died of cholera. This was in 1869. My father had been taking out trees and brush west of our house and piling them in piles and George was going to help him get the dead hogs on these piles.

About this time a sizable group of Indians came along. They stopped and wanted to know what they were going to do with those hogs. They explained to them they were going to burn them up. "Oh no! Don't do that give them to us, we will cook and eat them."

My father said, "all right you can have them," that night they were up on the hill west of our place, with a big fire and all were dancing around the fire, eating pork and having a good time in general.

In the evening my father and George decided to go up there and see how they were getting along. Not aone was sick, not yet anyhow, nor the next morning either. The chief invited them into his tent. His squaw was sitting there and her hair hung down around her shoulders in an unkempt and disarrayed condition. George did not like the looks of it and went behind her and proceeded to braid her hair into braids.

Mr. Kemp didn't think the chief would appreciate this, and was ready to exit the tent door in double quick time, if the chief and the other Indians acted hostile. The Chief just stood there and laughed. He liked the whole affair. Later George married Mary Button, a neice of Mr. Kemp's wife.

George was an unusual man in the community. He loved the out-of-doors and hunting and fishing. In the 1880's from time to time he had dog training schools, where he

would train dogs to hunt, etc. He also took people, not only of his own area, but other parts of the state, and even out of the state, and as far away as Chicago, on hunting and fishing trips around Alden and other parts of the state, and even into Nebraska and Minnesota.

He was quite a story teller; some of them were on the shady side. One story I remember; he was in a group talking about the best way to poison rats. One fellow said, "the best way he knew of poisoning rats was to put poison down their holes." George piped up and said; "What I would like to know is, who is going to hold the rats?"

One time I met him on the street on a day when a cold, raw south wind was blowing. I said to him, "this wind is ~~sure~~ raw," and he said, "the north end of a south wind is always cold."

It has been passed down since the early days of Popejoy even to the present Popejoy school children that Jesse James and his gang on their way to perpetrate the Northfield Bank robbery, they camped under a big tree near Popejoy. This is highly probable as a while before the robbery attempt September 7, 1876 two men came on horseback to my fathers (1856) house west of Alden, neither of the two houses now there were there at that time. They inquired of Mr. Kemp where they could get their horses shod. He directed them to Fenton's Blacksmith Shop, now a part of Harry Silke's garage. Later when news accounts

and pictures of the Jesse James gang came out in the papers Mr. Kemp said "there was no doubt in his mind that the man who inquired of him about shoeing their horses was Cole Younger." As you probably know Jesse and Frank James along with Cole and Bob Younger were the ringleaders of the James Gang.

OTHER BUSINESSES & CHRONOLOGY

The most widely known business was the L. Rummel Wagon Works. Mr. Rummel came from Wisconsin. A frame shop built in 1865, burned down and was replaced by one built of rock from the Alden Quarry in 1869. This building was built by Franklin Driper, who came to Alden in 1856. He was a stone and brick mason. Mr. Driper was a relative of John Neubauer's wife Mary. The main building still stands east of the library. ^{now torn down 1987} It was a three story building, 30 by 50 feet then near by a frame addition 35 by 50 feet was added. They had a ramp from the street, then right angles to the second floor with a store room, which was 22 by 70 feet. The frame addition was used as a paint shop. Rummel's wood wheel wagons and buggies sold for miles around. John Lenhart was in charge of the wood department. The working force was Charles and Bernard Rummel, Lou Rummel a nephew, Frank Lenhart, H. A. and Henry Schultz. He employed as high as twelve men in later years. In 1884, he was also making sleighs and bobsleds. In the later part of 1884, foreign buggies and wagons were coming into

Alden at a cheaper price than Rummel's. The Times editor deplored this and urged people to patronize their own industry; that the Rummel products were better. L. Rummel retired in January 1887, his sons Albert and Louis took over, they were still making wagons in the early 1900's.

Henry Alden the founder of the town died September 6, 1877. He is buried with most of the members of his family in the old part of the Alden Cemetery. The gravestones in the old part of the cemetery are typical of early Iowa Cemeteries. He was a public spirited citizen and gave a lot of money and property to others that they might be benefited there by. Henry Alden Jr., a son of the towns founder, built the first brick block on the main street of Alden. It ran from what is now Neva's Shamrock Cafe and Lounge down thru the ^{former} Howell building. He came here with his family in 1870. He also had a meat market in Alden.

In the late 1870's and early 1880's the businesses and professionals were;

Alden Meat Market
 William Keatings Billiard Parlor and Saloon
 Taylor Bros. dealers in livestock, grain and coal
 Richard and Robertson dealers in livestock, grain and coal
 M. V. Thompson Drug Store
 H. E. Schultz Drug Store
 S. W. Wilson-dealer in farm machinery
 C. L. Furry-variety store
 A. R. Furry-Paris variety store and Millinery Shop
 John Crabtree-ditching
 Metcalf and Gorgel dealers in livestock, grain and coal.

- J. Velton-brick, stone and plaster man
 J. F. Fiddler-restaurant
 M. A. Grout-harness shop
 Benjamin Birdsall & Son-Bank of Alden
 Massey's hardware store
 J. A. Button-manufacturer of boots and shoes
 A. C. Whitney furniture store-opposite the mill
 Central House (hotel)-M. M. Davis-proprietor,
 busses to all the trains. It was built in
 and torn down in 1943. (Herb Harms car
 wash now where it used to be.)
 Joe F. Byers-harness shop
 Mel Bigelow-complete livery service
 Pritchard Bros.-general store
 L. H. Utley-general store-Mr. Brown in with Utley
 in 1881.
 Blakeslee & Kenyon-general store, Kenyon quit 1881
 Dr. F. P. Frisbee M.D.
 Dr. R. E. Strickler M.D.
 1880-William Keating in the hardware business, two doors
 west of the Central House
 H. M. Reynolds-photographer
 Frank Lenhart-drugstore
 Geo. Simpson & Walter Cousin-livestock dealers
 1881-E. W. Crockett-insurance
 Davis & Hoskins start general store-1882 Davis quit
 1882-Peck drug store
 Ben Lighthall-lumber, lime and brick
 Alden Catlin-carpenter
 Steve Catlin-carpenter
 F. L. Ghoslin-carpenter
 J. A. Cantwell-new furniture store
 Jesse Rogers-butter and egg trade
 C. Roller took over Fentons blacksmith shop
 John Rick-Barber-men shave and haircuts 10 cents
 Ladies and children half price
 1883-Frank Lenhart sold his drug store to G. L. Morriell
 & Son

Early in 1883 the Alden Coal Co. was formed under the
 efforts of Mel Bigelow, well known Alden livery service
 man. People paid \$5.00 a piece or more to get the drilling
 started. That year the drillers were down 130 feet, and only
 a few scrapings of coal were found. In the latter part of
 1884, they were drilling new holes, still no coal.

Later in 1885, after more drilling, Bigelow and other Alden residents had given up on the idea of there being a coal "bonanza" under the Alden area.

ALDEN TIMES

The first Alden Newspaper was printed by a Mr. Robertson in 1873, and was called the Alden News (none on file). It was then published as the Alden Times by A. McClara, 1879 to September 1880. Birdsall and Jones then took over, followed by Mark Furry from February 1883 to January 1885 at which time he took in his brother. Mark and F. E. Furry continued the publication until 1909, when Mark died. Frank continued with J. F. Lyman who died in 1913. Frank then quit.

SCHOOL

The first school house was built in 1856; it is now a part of the house where the Howard Calkin's now lives. Martin Pritchard was the first teacher. Ten years later the building being too small, a new one was built on the hill by Franklin Draper and the Taylor Bros. The brick used in this new building were from the kiln, located in what is now our west pasture, as were the brick used in the addition of 1877. In the addition of 1896, they probably used brick from a brick yard north across the Railroad track from a spot now known as Idlewild. The first high school class graduated in 1892. Alden was accredited for a high school about that time.

CHURCHES

The Congregational Church was organized in 1866. The first regular minister was H. A. Thompson; the first house of worship was built in 1867, and the building was enlarged in 1900.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Ellis Township in 1857 and came to Alden in 1858. Services were held in homes, schoolhouses and in the Congregational Church. Rev. B. Holcomb was the first pastor. A house of worship was erected in 1872, and it was replaced by a brick building on the same site, in 1903. The Immanuel-Evangelical and Reformed Church was organized, as the German Lutheran, in 1880, and by the year 1910 it was necessary for them to enlarge their building. The German Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1870, by the Rev. John Spicker. A small edifice was erected from an old store in 1871 and 1872. It was sold in 1880 to become the Mill house. Another building was erected in the same area and improved over the years. This building finally became the property of the Lutheran Church. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, was established in 1908. Soon after a church was organized with five charter members. The first service were in a country school on U. S. Highway 20, west of town where Russell Stielow now lives.

EARLY BUILDINGS STILL IN TOWN

Many of the earlier houses are gone, also many of the business places having, either, been destroyed by fire or torn down.

The building where Schultz's Upholstery was is probably the oldest business building in town and was built in 1858. The frame building, across the alley to the northwest, was built in the 1860's and was where Henry Alden Jr. had a meat market in the 1870's.

The Shamrock Cafe building was built in 1870 and the adjoining building to the west of it was also built in 1870. Above this used to be the Alden Hall, the leading entertainment place of the town.

Moving on west the next building was also built in 1870, now the Thrift Shop (1982). All of Henry Alden Jr.'s first brick block of buildings are mentioned on a previous page. The buildings formerly occupied by Herbs Radio & T.V. and Dodds Barbershop were built in the late 1860's. The Bennett building housing Sonny's Upholstery Shop and Sonny's Railroad Salvage (now empty in 1981), were built in 1890-1891. In 1898 the last addition next to the Laundromat was built in 1900.

The building now Joe's Clover Farm Store (1982) ^{now AL Mensings} was probably built in the early 1870's. The three frame buildings northwest of the present post office, two were built in the 1870's and one in the 1890's. The old town hall *is gone*

Mail services until 1859 when the road to Webster City was opened and the Webster Stage Co. commenced running a tri-weekly stage, later daily until 1869, when the railroad came through, however the stage did run through most of 1870.

LIBRARY

The first regular library was built in 1891. The building is still standing. Betty Jass now lives there (1982). Mr. H. E. Button, Alden postmaster for several years, wrote the Carnegie Corporation of New York several times to get money for a Carnegie Library. On November 7, 1913 they wrote Mr. Button, if the town council would agree by a resolution to maintain a free public library at a cost of \$900.00 a year and provide a good site for the building, they would cover the complete cost of the building of the library all ready for occupancy. The building was dedicated August 26, 1914. Alden is the smallest town in the United States to have an endowed Carnegie Library. The cost of the building was \$9,000.00. It was a gift from Andrew Carnegie on November 7, 1913.

ALDEN ENTERTAINMENT AND RECREATION

Riverside Park ground was purchased from Wm. Pagel for \$400.00 in 1883. A fancy arched gate entrance and white board fence built along the road side of the park stood for several years. From this time on the park has been a favorite place for celebrations, picnics, and re-

Unions. It might be interesting to know that one of the first buildings in Alden was a log cabin located in the east end of the present park. This is where Henry Alden's oldest child, her husband Orra Bigelow and their two children, Jeanette and George lived when they came from Massachusetts in 1855. The old boathouse and landing still stand, but the old bandstand is gone. The bottom part from the floor down is still in the park and is used as a storage building.

ROLLER RINK

20¢ for the Gents; 10¢ for the Ladies

According to the Alden Times files this place was a favorite in the early days not only for skating but for other entertainment from the 1870's on. I have failed to find out where it was located. In November 1887, the rink was torn down by sections and the sections used to build houses etc. It had the largest floor space of any Alden building.

ALDEN HALL

This was the main entertainment center from Alden from early days to the 1920's. The famous Alden Union Lyceum and Literary Society was organized in 1868, and had programs here every year without a break from 1868 to the 1890's. They were held every week on Saturday night from November to March. Besides local and area talent, talent came from the other parts of the state, nation and even

foreign countries. The Lyceum drew 200 to 400 people regularly. In those days Alden was called "the Athens of the West."

The hall also served as a place for dances, operas, concerts, class plays, medicine shows, etc.

BAND

From almost the time of the founding of the town Alden had a baseball team, either a town team or a local team with some professionals on it. Later on there were high school teams. The old ball park was on our land, my folks leased it to the town, where the County Highway building is now and adjacent to it.

The old ball park had a ticket office at one end and a high board fence stretching from there along the road to an entrance for vehicles further up. In front of this fence was a fairly large grandstand with wood plank seats.

CAMPGROUND

For several years there was a campground, just northeast of the present Bessman and Kemp County Conservation Park on the other side of the river, before the dam went out in 1914, across the river in our pasture. It had a well, telephone, baseball diamond, and tow cable ways, with a cable car to go across the river with supplies and then back again by being lifted and set onto the other cable. The cables sloped some each way and were fastened to trees

on each side of the bank.

CEMETARY

The first cemetery was in Section 12 just south of the buildings on Ray Olesons farm. Later the township established what is now the back or old township part of the present cemetery. The bodies near Oleson's were later moved to the latter. Mary Ann Meyer was the first buriel in 1853 in the old township cemetery. She was a daughter of Wm. Meyers. Wm. Meyers grave is nearby, he died in 1863. Other old graves are Elizabeth Purcell 1799-1859, Ira S. Jones 1854-1859, Sussane Beech (oldest birth date) 1783-1860, and Lawrence Sperry 1828-1857. A cemetery Association was set up in 1874 to take care of the cemetery. They purchased five acres of land at \$60.00 per acre, and called the old town part of the cemetary, and planted the grounds and landscaped them. The township and town levied taxes toward the maintainence of the cemetery, and still do. The women of the association have had a good and active association, every year to the present time. The cemetery has always been well kept up.

BRIDGE

The first bridge was a wooden one and was built at the east end of Water St. An ice gorge took it out on February 24, 1871.

By this time the upper town had more stores than the lower town, so it needed a bridge up there. This was a

steel bridge. It was used until 1894 and then moved away. Next was a bridge of steel with a plank roadbed and a walk on the side for pedestrians.

HOTELS

There were several at one time or another in different parts of the town. The first hotel, the American House was built in 1855. It is where the former Sweds Larson's shop and before that the old telephone office. It was purchased by J. J. Davis when he came to Alden in 1858. The beds were straw ticks with the bedding on them. There was no heat in the winter and no ventilation in the summer. The story is told that one hot night the transients wanted air in the room, so they all slid over put their feet against the wall and pushed it out.

The second hotel in Alden, where Mrs. Gertie Carstens, formerly lived was known as the Alden House Hotel.

Another early hotel was the Spencer House. It was purchased by J. J. Davis and run by him until he built the Central House in 1869. It was located north of the present schoolhouse.

Another early hotel was the Ulsher House north across the street from Edna Carey's home. *NOW Torn Down since 1983 only a Lawn there now* In 1869, M. J. (Squire) Davis built the Central House, a fine hotel for the times with 30 rooms, a sample room where travelling men could display their wares for the merchants to order from, and other necessary rooms. This building was torn down in

1943. It was on the location of the Herb Harms car wash complex.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS, ETC.

First was the Radiant Lodge No 366, A.F. And A.M. organized December 11, 1875. It got a charter in 1876 and celebrated its 100 years of existence in 1976. All other lodges in Alden have ceased to exist except this one.

Alden Lodge No. 356, IOOF organized September 28, 1876
 Alden Lodge No. 163, A.O.U.W. on April 23, 1878
 Alden Reform Lodge No. 48, I.O.G.T. on October 1, 1881
 Alden Dirigo K of P. No 231, on May 16, 1889
 Alden W.C.T.U., organized on November 20, 1885
 Iowa Valley Farmers Club, was organized March 5, 1886 to discuss crop and livestock improvement and promote farmers interests. It was very successful and held meetings in the community for years.
 Whitcomb-Fairbanks Post of the G.A.R., organized in 1888

STREETS

The early streets of Alden, after heavy rains were a quagmire of mud; but they had wooden sidewalks in front of the buildings.

LIGHTING

The early settlers used candles. In the early 1860's the first coal oil (kerosene) lamps came and in 1869 superior new street lamps using plain glass, the old kind used a lantern globe. New ones were used even after 1905 when electricity came to Alden.

Otto Vinski (at the Soldiers Home-Marshalltown-deceased March 1977) told me about Al Harp the town marshall going around every night before dark and lighting these lamps. One night some of the youngsters in town followed behind

Harp and blew the light^sall out. Needless to say that did not happen again.

BANK

Benjamin Birdsall Sr. founded the Bank of Alden with C. M. Nagle. Since 1876 his son Tom Birdsall ran it and it was still operated in 1914 by his son John.

The Birdsalls were very active in community affairs, I remember as a small boy, Tom Birdsall picking up two of the old fashioned kitchen chairs by one of the rounds on the side with each hand and holding them straight out at arms length; neither one of them turning for him. If you think this is easy, try it sometime. He, really, had a grip in his fingers.

John Birdsall also had the best tennis courts anywhere around, they were built where the library is now. A real good tennis player himself he promoted tournaments to which champion players from other states came.

Many businesses were of short duration, but some particularly in families, stayed a long time.

Here are several long time business men to the year of 1914;

Peter Taylor, who had been in business with his brother in 1856 and then by himself until the 1890's. He was a dealer in livestock, grain and coal.

William Keating in business in Alden since the 1870's and still had it around 1910 and later.

C. D. and Martin Pritchard and John Hoskins were in business in the early days of Alden, and off and on since then. Martin was still in business in 1905, and in 1896 Ed Pritchard started a general store and in 1900 John Hoskins joined Ed. Ed was still in business in 1914 and for several years after, until Oletis Bessman and Dale Carey took over and finally became the Bessman Brothers.

In 1900, L. C. Wood was known as an inventor of dirt loading machinery, and later, manure spreaders, in 1905, shipping several to Montana. He organized with stockholders in 1905 as the Wood Manufacturing Co., he improved his machinery for doing general excavating and road work. His brothers Howard and Keith worked with him. (Howard deceased)

LONG TIME DOCTORS

Dr. F. P. Frisbee, who came to Alden in 1880 and died there in 1905, he had a large practice in the Alden area and adjacent areas of Hamilton, Wright, and Franklin counties. In the winter he used an enclosed one horse cutter (sleigh) containing his medicines and doctor's tools. He used this to make calls in the country during the winter. He made a call one night about 9 P.M. to a home in the town of Oakland Valley to help a woman in child birth. After a successful delivery he stayed until the mother and baby were in good condition. He left after 11:00 P.M. for Alden on the Oakland Valley Road. The

temperature was about 20 degrees below zero, no wind and a brightly shining moon.

A big wolf was standing in the middle of the road. His horse started balking and backing up. Dr. Frisbee hollered at the wolf and tried to get the horse to go ahead. The wolf stood his ground and the doctor gave up, turned around, and went back and crossed the Iowa River at the Oakland Valley fjord and travelled the long way around. He went north to Popejoy then east and south easterly to Alden. From then on when he was making such calls he carried a gun with him.

Dr. J. V. David, a doctor in the Civil War, came to Alden in 1884 and was still practicing in 1914 for many years after that.

In August of 1889 Fred Spencer, a son of J. Allen Spencer, an early Alden settler, and Steele took over the Old Utley Store known later as the Utley and Brown Store since the early days of Alden. It had been the best general store in Alden. Spencer and Steele established a big department store that in the ensuing years brought business from miles around. Then about 1900 it became Fred L. Spencer & Co. and was as good a store, as good as many such stores in cities of 5,000 population or more. It even had an upstairs balcony type floor by 1914. It has since been Nelson's Super Market, Sonny Lange's Upholstery, and Joe's Clover Farm.

Without a doubt, C. L. Furry had the longest continued stretch of the same business. He had a variety store since the 1870's and since 1890 he called it Furry's Bargain Bazaar, in 1914 it was still the leading variety store in this area of Iowa. This is where the Shamrock Cafe now is.

Adolph Idso was buying ducks, geese and turkeys around 1905. He started a dress poultry and meat market which his son Alfred Idso (James Idso's father) started operating around 1913. He had a slaughter house out on a farm he owned (which his father had before him) north of Alden. This farm is now owned by Melvin Bangs. He slaughtered meat for the market and later on for others also.

A. F. Bushman had a furniture store between 1900 and 1905 and still in 1914 and for years after. His son Art was a well known ball player.

Around 1910, Max Ries was in the drug and jewelry store with Jaeger, and by 1914 in with his brother for several years, and then by himself for many more.

Thomas Lawton, Uncle of Fred and Harry Lawton and father of Evadne Pettinger (deceased 1978), started a restaurant in Alden between 1905 and 1910 still in business in 1914 and many years thereafter. For quite a while it was the only place you could buy bread in Alden. It came in on the Illinois Central from the Alstadt Langlas Baking CO. of Waterloo, and was brought into town by the George

Groner Livery Service, first in canvas bags, then in a special made box.

Speaking of Geo. Groner's Livery Service it carried mail for the flyers and met all other trains on the Illinois Central for passengers, packages, freight and transported many passengers to the hotel. He took great pride in his horses and carriages, he kept the latter clean and in A-1 shape, and the horses were groomed daily. He tied up their tails, and kept the harness oiled and the metal parts polished.

W. B. Miller who was selling stoves, etc. in 1891 had started a lumberyard and coal business by 1905, and was still in business in 1914, and for years afterward.

Simpson and Cousin, in business as a firm since 1880 as dealers in Grain, Seed, Coal and Livestock, and were still in business in the early 1900's. In 1914 Simpson still was in business with O. S. Benshoff in grain and livestock.

Milton Utley in the drug store business until 1878 when he opened a hardware store and it was still operating this store in 1905.

The Whitney family were all long time business people. Andrew Whitney, who came to Alden in 1856, had a furniture store opposite the mill in the 1870's. It burned down in the late 1890's. His daughter Edith opened a millinery

store in 1886, which she operated for several years.

Monte Whitney had a general store in the Keating block for years, was in business with Glen Cox in 1914. Cox and Klem general merchandise store burned down in March 1915 along with the Schultz's Hardware, Spittlers Variety store, Martin's Barber Shop and the east side of the Spencer store. The fire started about 3 A.M. A large area was roped off on each side because of oil barrels exploding and exploding shells.

J. F. Byers who had a harness shop in ~~the 1870's~~^{1860's} was still in business in 1900.

O. F. Wagner was in his drug store since 1894, and was still in business in 1914.

Frank L. Ghoslin who had been a carpenter in Alden for many years back, and who went down to Grinnell to help build up Grinnell after the famous Grinnell tornado. He started with a crew of men to put up ice in the winter, from the river above the dam. This was in the late 1880's. He gave good wages and employment to as high as 15 men and two teams of horses every winter as long as the ice was fit. In 1889 he had an order for 300 railroad cars of ice for a St. Louis, Missouri firm. They also packed the ice in sawdust in storage houses north of the river. He was still harvesting ice in 1910, and had the contract of filling the the big new Chicago and Northwest^{teen} Ice house near the stock yards. All of this is long since gone.

It wouldn't be advisable to complete this report without saying something about the famous celebration of Alden.

On July 3, 1886, Alden had the greatest celebration of ever held in the community to that time. They shot off a cannon at sunrise, then had a big parade, then all proceeded to the roller rink where Rev. Mooney of the Congregational Church gave the invocation. The Declaration of Independence was read by a Mrs. Gibney. Benjamin J. Birdsell gave an oration that was pronounced a masterpiece. (It can be read in full in the Alden Times files issue of July 1886 at the Alden Library.)

They had a band and glee club for entertainment, they had a ball game, shooting match, horse races, foot races, sack races and egg races.

They had two dramas one at 2:30 P.M. - "Ten Nights in a Bar Room" and in the evening - "Falchon the Cricket."

To wind up the celebration they had the greatest fireworks display ever seen in the area, on the river, by the park. There were 200 separate pieces, one, the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius cost \$12.50. Several balloons were also sent up during the day.

On June 7, 1911 the 2nd Annual Egg Day, occurred, the best one of the two. The business men put it on and advertised that it was not to make money. It was a huge success. Stores closed for the day at 2 O'clock. They had the biggest crowd ever to attend an Alden Celebration.

The grand auto parade started at 11 O'clock with the following prizes:

BEST DECORATED CAR

\$10.00-First Prize
\$6.00-Second prize
\$4.00-Third prize

JUDGES:

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Moon
Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Carr
Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Gohring

PARADE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

John Hoskins

A picnic dinner was held at Riverside Park with the coffee, cream and sugar furnished free to all comers.

EGG SPORTS AT 1 O'CLOCK ON MAIN STREET-Egg races on foot and horseback, over barrels and hay racks etc.

Dr. Hurst was Chairman of the egg races committee.

EGG RACE (12 YEARS AND UNDER) 29 eggs placed 3 feet apart in row. a row for each runner. The winner must place all the unbroken eggs in a basket at the end of the row by bringing them one at a time in a spoon, and at no time touching the eggs with his hands or any other part of his person.

\$2.00-First prize
\$1.50-Second prize

EGG RACE (ALL COMERS) SAME RACE

\$3.00-First prize
\$1.50-Second prize

NOVELTY EGG RACE-ALL COMERS) carry an egg in each hand hurdling over barrels and other obstacles.

45

\$2.00-First prize
\$1.00-Second prize

AUTOMOBILE EGG RACE (ALL COMERS)- The eggs were placed at intervals in the street between the Hotel Alden and the Bank of Alden. The contestant breaking the least number of eggs in driving his auto over the course will be declared the winner--the distance to be covered in 2 minutes.

\$2.00-First prize
\$1.00-Second Prize

EGG RACE ON HORSEBACK--from Hotel Alden to the Alden Bank winner deposits largest number of unbroken eggs in a basket at one end of the course, carrying one at a time in a tin pidge.

\$4.00-First prize
\$2.00-Second prize

BASEBALL GAME--at 3:30 O'clock. The two fastest amateur teams in this part of the state. Sherman (a ghost town now) and Galt--winner to get a large cash purse. J. N. Birdsall was Chairman of the baseball committee.

EGG AND POULTRY EXHIBITS- 6 hens to a coop egg laying contest

\$10.00-First prize
\$5.00-Second prize
\$2.50- Third prize

\$1.00 each for the first and 50¢ for the second heaviest dozen eggs.

50¢ each for the first and 25¢ each for the second heaviest single egg--chicken--goose--duck and turkey.

RACINE MILITARY BAND-Furnished music all day and a concert in the evening. E. B. Pritchard was Chairman of the Band Committee. There is no town there now--it is all gone. (It was southeast of Alden on the Rock Island Railroad.)

GEORGEBOUS/FIREWORKS DISPLAY--In the evening on and across the water bordering the park. They had a special made to order set piece showing in flaming color of fire, a rooster, 10 feet high. M. A. Whitney was the fireworks chairman.

PART TWO

Under consideration, it would list some of the events, facts, information, remnicenses etc., not in Part one over the same period of years.

THE HISTORY OF ALDEN

1854 Part Two 1914

Franklin Draper and Catherine Weber were married November 24, 1846 in Herkimer, New York. They were parents of eight children. George, Mary, and James were born in Herkimer, New York. Charles and Will, twins in Batavia, Illinois and Lillian, Isabelle, and Fred were born in Alden, Iowa.

The following was copied from memories written by Lillian Draper Robbins about their life on a farm in Hardin County near Alden, Iowa.

I was born in Alden, Iowa, March 5, 1858, but when a small child we moved to a farm about one and one-half miles west of Alden. Father built the original house on the farm and when it was built it was the only house between Alden and Webster City. Being built on top of a hill we could see for many miles to the west. (Now John Sweers farm.) Most of the land to the west was full of muskrat houses.

Father was a brick mason and helped to build most of the pioneer houses and the first school house. Franklin Draper, Laura Robbins grandfather was a stone mason and built the old stone wagon shop and most of the old schoolhouse, the foundation of the old Congregational Church, the old stone blacksmith shop and jail between where the post office is and the former Mamie Madsen place. (Where Dean Ites now lives in 1982).

When I was seven years old we had an Indian scare. There had been trouble with the Indians in the western part of the state, and a number of whites had been killed. We

were sitting around the around the table, some were reading, Mother was sewing. All at once we heard a sound as of a number of persons rushing toward the house. Mother blew out the candle, brother Will crawled under the bed. Brother Fred was asleep in his cradle. I was afraid the Indians would come in and kill him. I pushed the cradle under the bed and crawled under it myself. Mother lay across the bed and looked out the window. After a short time she got up and went out the back door, saw what she thought were two big Indians and two small Indians with feathers on their heads. We children kept whispering, "Ma, what did you see?" After what seemed a long time there came another rush and our two horses with their colts went by the house. Something had frightened them. Mother said, "Come on, children, we had a bad fright for nothing." We came from under the bed quite relieved.

Wolves were another terror of my childhood. The wolves used to chase our sheep up almost to the house. In winter if there was a dead animal around father would put it almost a quarter of a mile from the house and bait it with strychnine. We have stood at the window and watched the wolves come and eat from the carcass. There was a bounty paid for each wolf killed. The ears were taken to the county treasurer to get the bounty. The hide was stretched and nailed to the side of a building to dry, and then sold for a good price. There were a few fox in the prairie.

I have seen father in the spring raise the kitchen window and shoot prairie chickens. They were so tame and plentiful. Ducks, geese, and cranes were also very plentiful. They built their nests near the slough, marshes and lakes. Sometimes in a wet season it looked like a lake west of the Draper farm.

I think I must have been about eight when I started to school. I went in the summer time as it was too far to go in the winter. Later the brick school house was built out in the country south of our home.

One delight of my childhood was the lambs. We kept about thirty sheep. In the spring they were driven to the Iowa River and their wooly coat was washed. When it was dry a man with a large pair of shears would come and shear the sheep. The wool was taken to the woolen mill at Iowa Falls. In exchange for the wool, my mother would get woolen cloth to make clothes for my father and brothers and rolls to spin into yarn. The rolls were about a yard long and about as large around as my finger. Mother would take a spinning wheel and spin the rolls into a fine thread. She took it off the spindle onto a reel. It was called a skein. Mother would take two or three strands of the yarn, depending on how fine or course she wanted, and would twist it on the spinning wheel. From this yarn we knit our stockings from cotton yarn bought at the store. Mother colored it by using bark from the trees.

Mother cut and made coats, vests and pants from the cloth she got in exchange for the wool. As sewing machines were not to be had she sewed them by hand. The only light after sunset was a tallow candle. Sometimes she burned two candles. Our candle mold would make twelve candles at one molding.

Nature furnished us with wild fruit. Strawberries grew in abundance, very sweet and delicious. In the timber were crabapples, plums and grapes. They were much larger than those that grow in the timber now. I remember one fall they brought thirty bushels home. They dug a pit in the cellar and put part of them in the pit. They were just as fresh in the spring. Mother used the wild crab apples to make mince for pies. It was very good. There were no tame apples raised here then.

Having cows, chickens and pigs we had plenty of butter, eggs and meat. We quite often butchered a sheep.

There were lots of snakes. The striped snake, a little green snake, rattlers and bull snakes.

We had no toys. The only doll I had, I made by rolling up an old cloth and dressing it for a doll or baby.

The prairie was a blooming flower garden sweet William, lillies, buttercups, roses, asters, coneflowers, wild beans, wild peas and brown eyed susans.

I have seen Mother burn a few cobs and take the white ashes to use as a substitue for soda when she had no soda.

For laundry soap she made a leach. She took a barrel, made a small hole at the bottom, filled it with wood ashes, set it on a board that was slanted, poured water on the ashes and let it leach through the ashes and catch the lye in a dish as it dripped from the hole in the bottom of the barrel. The soap was made by boiling grease in the lye. She had a big iron kettle and made the soap out of doors.

These were the days when large hoop skirts were worn. The calico dresses had four full widths of calico in the skirt, gathered in at the waist and quite long. The waist was plain with long sleeves. When the skirt began showing wear it was ripped from the waist and turned around. What had been in the front was put in the back and the back in front.

Father owned five acres of timber two miles north of our home on the Iowa River. We had oxen at that time. In the winter father hired two men to cut wood in the timber for father, for their board. As our house was too small to sleep them, they had rooms down town. They walked to our home in the morning, ate breakfast, took the ox team, went to the woods, cut a load of wood, loaded it on the sled and then went and put it on the wagon. After a few trips when the load was ready they would bring the oxen out of the woods and start them on the road home. The oxen would come home, father would unload the wood and turn the oxen around and start them back. They would go back and forth all day.

The men came for their dinner, would go back and cut wood until night, come eat their supper, then walk down town to sleep at night. Wood was all the fuel they had here in those days. (The end of the memories by Lillian Draper Robbins.)

Charles Schoenhals opened, in the east end of town near the old fjord, the first store in Alden in October 1856. The building was owned by a James Barnes. In the spring of 1857, a two story store building was built by Taylor Brothers. It was near their sawmill and occupied by Charles Schoenhals. This building was struck by lightning August 13, 1857, and one end was torn out. ^{Two men were killed.} The two men were a Hoeing and a Peters. They had just completed their suppers in the building. So great was the heat from the bolt of lightning the silverware, such as knives, forks and spoons were melted into one lump.

As far as I can ascertain these were the only lightning caused deaths in the town of Alden to the present time; although some deaths from lightning have occurred in the rural area.

Political parties in Alden for a few years were the Democrats and the Whigs, and from then on Democrat and Republican. Over the period covered by this report the citizens have been predominately Republican and in the results of elections over the years the vote has been overwhelmingly Republican.

The following will be a review of my fathers part in the Civil War along with reminiscences as told by him or by my half sisters and my half brother-in-law. All are now deceased.

Probably the biggest happening in the early years of Alden was the Civil War. Very soon after the disaster to the Union arms at Bull Run, in Virginia, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for additional volunteers, under which several regiment were recruited in Iowa and among them the Twelfth Infantry Company A, which included enlistees from Hardin County under Captain, S. R. Edinton of Eldora. My father Sumner Kemp was one of these. Leaving his farm operations, a wife and two small children he said, "I have got to go down south and help lick those damn Rebs." He enlisted September 27, 1861. Joseph R. E. Hunter was a Corporal from Eldora who was later made a captain. Kemp, along with others of the Twelfth Infantry were drilled under Hunter and mustered out of Dubuque and sent to Benton Barracks in St. Louis for part of the winter of 1861-1862. While there, they were afflicted with pneumonia and the measels. Several men died and my father was quite ill for sometime. They were then moved by rail to Cairo, Illinois, and thence to Smithland, Kentucky, where they remaind a short time. Later they went by boat to Paducah, Kentucky, to Fort Henry, Kentucky; but the battle there was not a land battle; but a naval victory

for the union. The Twelfth Infantry then joined the army under General Grant, which was about to move upon the enemies works in Tennessee at Fort Donnelson.

Grant received reinforcements daily and encircled the southerners there by much fierce fighting on the 13th and 14th of February 1862. The confederates on February 15th made a desperate attempt to clear a route to Nashville, Tennessee and safety. Just as it seemed the way was clear the Southern troops were ordered back to the trenches, a result of confusion and indecision among the Confederate Commanders. Grant immediately launched a vigorous counter attack. Playing a leading roll in this was Brigadier Gen Charles Smith Division, where some Iowa regiments were with Grant. Colonel Tuttle's 2nd Iowa, Parrott's 7th Iowa, Shaws 14th Iowa, and Edington's 12th Iowa Divisions which came into the battle later on, to relieve the extreme pressure on Colonel Tuttle's 2nd Iowa. It was the first battle the 12th had been in and men were dropping on both sides. After trying to retreat back thru an opening on a steep hill heavily wooded on both sides they ran into seasoned Federal Troops. They had their bayonets pointed at them and seasoned veterans were in front of them, so they, despite the fact many of their comrades had fallen on all sides under the terrific confederate fire, turned about and ran back up the hill to confederate entrenchments on a ridge. The outer defenses of the Fort where the

2nd Iowa and others were trying to hold earthen embankments and rifle pits of the confederate.

The above made fearless soldiers of Company A 12th Iowa, borne out later by their famous stand in the "Hornets Nest" in the battle of Shiloh.

The way to escape for the confederates was closed. However, Confederates Generals Floyd and Pillow turning their command over to General Buckner saying they would escape before staying to surrender to the Union forces, so they slipped away by boats across the Cumberland River and thence on to Nashville, with about 2,000 men. Several hundred others followed Col. Nathan Forrest's Calvary across swollen Lick Creek fed by melting snow. General Buckner surrounded by insurmountable odds and facing starvation into submission put up a white flag of surrender then asked Grant the morning of February 15th what terms of surrender he would give. Grant answered with the now famous "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted." General Buckner surrendered to General Grant inside the old Dover Hotel. About 13,000 confederate soldiers were turned over to the Federals and taken to points north via the Cumberland River etc. to Federal prisons.

Floyd and Pilon later lost status and General Simon Bolivar Buckner became the hero. Had Buckner decided to fight it out against overwhelming odds the loss of Confederate men

would have been terrific.

Colonel Tuttle's 2nd Iowa regiment is credited more than any other regiment in the battle, with the capture of Fort Donnelson. When the Union troops marched into the Fort the 2nd Iowa led the way and were cheered by the other regiments and saluted by the general and his staff. To the tune of Yankee Doodle the regiment planted its colors on the parade ground of the Fort. Because of all this Colonel Tuttle was made a General.

After a rest at Fort Donnelson the 12th took steamers on the Tennessee River to Pittsburg Landing and went into camp about a mile from there.

In the battle of Shiloh, the 6th and 7th of April 1862, the 8th, 12th and 14th Companies of Iowa comprised nearly four-fifths of the men, in the area known as the "Hornets Nest" a wooded and brushy area with a sunken road. They were ringed in by Confederates who poured in a ceaseless fire of rifles, muskets and cannon fire with the exploding shells all over the area. They fought ten times their number of rebels, fighting after the last hope of saving themselves had gone and by sacrificing themselves until the night had come. Then heavy Federal forces under General Buell, came in from the north, they had saved the Union army at Shiloh from almost certain defeat. These gallant men, unable to hold out any longer, threw down their guns and surrendered as prisoners

of war. According to accounts they received unbelievably harsh treatment at the hands of their captives on the way north to prisons and while in the prisons after arriving in the north.

Sumner Kemp was an orderly for General Tuttle in the battle and escaped being in the worst of the "Hornet's Nest" at that time, he was delivering a message to General Grant's headquarters. He had previously delivered a message from headquarters to the 12th Iowa and others to get ready at once to receive an attack and charge from the rebels. When he delivered the message the attack was already in progress and the troops were being encircled by the Confederates, so Tuttle sent him back to ask General Grant for reinforcements as soon as possible. On his way with the message he was passing through a wooded area when he heard a shot, then the whine of a bullet past his head, so close he could feel the breeze from it. He turned around, quickly, and saw a wisp of smoke up in the foliage of a tree behind him. He shot into the wisp of smoke and no more shots came, so he assumed the sniper had either been killed or wounded, but as he never went back to see he would never know.

A while later he came to an opening in the timber and there stood two rebel soldiers. He wondered what he would do if they saw him first. As he had a muzzle loading musket, with a bayonet on the end, the musket holding only one mus-

ket ball at a time, he would shoot one soldier and quickly bayonet the other. They did not notice him and he ordered them to drop their guns, put up their hands and surrender which they did. He marched them on into Grant's headquarters where they became prisoners.

When Kemp was ushered in to see General Grant he said, "General Grant and others had been playing cards and flasks of liquor were on the table. Grant was so inebriated he could not take the message, so it was given to one of the members of Grant's staff."

The message from General Tuttle was that his regiment and especially Capt. Robert Hunter's 12th Iowa and all other regiments in Captain Hunter's area were in danger of being completely surrounded and would need assistance soon by other regiments attacking the Confederates in the rear or all would be killed or forced to surrender.

General Grant knew Gen. Buell was coming in from the north with large reinforcements, but as state above, he came too late to save the valient men of the "Hornet's Nest."

A few survivors escaped the "Hornets Nest" and Kemp talked with some of them. They told him the Confederates leveled the "Hornet's Nest" and area as though a forest fire had gone through it. So intense was the fire before the men finally surrendered that they were piling the bodies of their dead comrades around them to protect themselves from the ex-

ploding shell, rifle and musket fire.

Kemp, also helped with the burying of the dead after the battle. He said in going down a steep ravine with a creek at the bottom of it, many dead were laying on the slopes on each side and so many bodies were in the creek the stream was still tinged red with blood.

He also told about coming upon a young Confederate soldier, probably, seventeen or eighteen years old who said to him "Would you do me a favor Sir, I am mortally wounded and will not last much longer. Here is a small locket with a picture of my mother on the inside and her address, would you be kind enough to send it to her and tell her what happened here." Mr. Kemp said he would. He said, "as hardened as he was getting in this war, tears came to his eyes" and whenever this incident came to his mind even years later he couldn't help but think about General Sherman's statement, "War is Hell" and how true, how true it was.

The following is printed from a newspaper clipping sent to me by Mildred (Schaub) Ellis of Hendricks, Minnesota who was a resident of Alden many years ago. The article speaks for itself.

Dr. J.W. David contributes the following in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the enlisting of Alden boys for the great conflict of the Civil War. No one can read it without patriotic inspiration; --- Editors, Alden Times

The present generation, basking in the glory and benefits of this nation, can hardly comprehend that fifty years ago this nation with all its hopes and sacred memories was trembling to its fall.

Fifty years ago the 26th of this month, Sumner Kemp, bidding farewell to his wife and helpless little ones, enlisted. One of them he was destined never to see alive. What must have been his feeling as he left the threshold of that home- perhaps forever. On the same date Whitcomb Fairbanks left his widowed mother. Henry Todd, Charley Treat and --- Kellogg, mere boys, were Alden's first gift to the greatest conflict in modern times. All of this squad went to Eldora to become members of Co. "A" 12th Iowa Inft. except Henry Todd who enlisted in the 2nd. Reg. Iowa cavalry. Whitcomb Fairbanks sleeps at Shiloh, Charley Treat came home to die and is buried in our cemetery. The protecting arm of the Almighty, whether they recognized it or not, shielded Kemp, Todd and Kellogg so they returned after 3 and 4 years service.

The 12th Iowa was in the charge at Fort Donalson. April 6th '62 this regiment took their place in the sunken road at Shiloh and became a factor in the great slaughter on that field - causing the rebels to name it the "Hornets Nest". The Iowa brigade made this "Hornets Nest" historical and wrote the name Iowa, as mother of heroes, high on the scroll of fame.

The tale of this Alden squad, its terrific charges, reckless daring, hairbreath escapes, heroic endurance, if woven into a story would furnish one equal to any in history or romance, found in your library. One of this squad told the writer that he had often felt the wind of a passing ball in his face but felt no fear for he thought the ball was not made to kill him.

with this shield or be brought home dead on it." No doubt this Spartan mother decorated the shield with tokens of a mother's love and invoked the gods of Sparta to protect her boy, This story has been repeated in story and song and found a vibration in every patriot's heart down through the ages.

The Alden mother did more than the Spartan mother. She gave her all -- her support in the declining years of her life -- to her country. The Alden mother bid her boy go, "The God of your fathers be with you" -- She made her boy two gray flannel shirts to protect his body from the winter's storm. On each one she sewed a red flannel strip in the shape of a cross, designating their willingness to obey the will of God.

The late Joseph Button described Whitcomb Fairbanks as a tall, finelooking, noble Christian boy. Fairbanks was in charge at Fort Donelson in February following enlistment. He took his place in his company on that fatal morning, April 6, 1862, at Shiloh. Kemp tells me that he (Kemp), on detail at general head-quarters that day as an orderly, was sent to inform the 12th Iowa to get ready to receive the rebel charge. Kemp found the regiment stripped, taking their place on the line of battle. Conspicuous among the cheering men was the tall handsome form of Whitcomb Fairbanks, wearing the gray shirt his mother gave him. The red cross standing out in bold relief on his chest.

The Iowa brigade repulsed charge after charge, covering the ground in the front with rebel dead. surrounded at last, with not a foot of their ground lost, just as the sun was sinking in the west they were called on to surrender. Fairbanks and his tent-mates refused to surrender and fought like demons at bay against overwhelming numbers. Bleeding from a number of bayonet wounds, a ball crashed through the brain of Fairbanks and laid the widow's

son, Alden's noble youth and hero, silent in death.

Next day Kemp, in burying the dead found the body of Fairbanks and his tent mate lying some distance from their position in the line showing how desperately they had fought -- determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible as they had no thought of surrendering to the enemies of their country. Kemp dug a grave and wrapped his coat around him using the woolen shirt as a shroud, the flannel cross resting on his chest as a crucifix. Kemp covered him over with the soil he had helped make historic. The body was removed to the Government cemetery where it will rest until the last great reveille shall awake him to an eternal morn with all the noble of earth who died for betterment of mankind in all the ages.

Mr. Editor, could Alden do a more gracious act than build a monument to Whitcomb Fairbanks and his noble mother in some conspicuous place in our cemetery? You cannot help or benefit them. They are beyond human help, but in honoring them we honor our little city. -- What greater or sublimer lesson in the school of patriotism could be taught, than the telling of the simple story, by this shaft to the Alden boy who made the doctrine of the Nazarine as his guide and His law a lamp to his feet, who deliberately chose to die rather than surrender to the foes of his country? What more did the defenders of Thermopyle and Greece do than this modest Alden boy? J. W. David

The irony of this is that a monument was not erected and probably never will be.

Most of the 12th Iowa was taken prisoners at Shiloh; Kemp was put on detached service and served as clerk for a year or so in the Provost Marshall's office at Cairo, Illinois.

While there the Provost Marshall learned the quartermaster who had charge of paying the troops their wages was using the soldiers pay to gamble with; so the Provost Marshall accompanied by Mr. Kemp and four others went to the room where this was occurring. Knowing they might not get in the room they brought a hardened log about eight to ten inches in diameter and twelve feet long.

The Marshall told them to open the door; no sound, so he said again "open up or we will smash our way in," still no sound. One of the Marshall's party was a big tall burly Negro who could almost pick up the log by himself. He got on the front end of the log and Mr. Kemp and the other four men got a hold of the log and spaced themselves behind him. They swung the log back and forth two times and on the third swing took it into the door. So great was the impact the whole door caved in and the log and the men fell to the floor on top of the door. The Provost Marshall stood in the door with a pistol and there around a table the gamblers were sitting with their hands in the air, with the cards and money on the table in front of each one of them. They were immediately put under arrest.

Mr. Kemp went to Vicksburg in April 1863, and rejoined General Grant's and his own regiment Company A. the 12th Iowa. The seige of Vicksburg lasted from May 18 to July 4, 1863. Mr. Kemp was in the first assault on Vicksburg by General Grant's Troops, May 19, 1863 and was in the attack

on Fort Hill June 25 and June 28, 1863 and the surrender of Vicksburg July 4, 1863.

Mr. Kemp was in the Red River Expedition up the Red River with General Banks, March 7 to May 16, 1864. Banks was supported by Naval Forces under Admiral Porter. Kemp was in the 35th Regiment under General A. J. Smith. General Banks attempted to open a Federal Highway to Texas on the 8th of April. Kemp was in the rear of General Banks they went up Sabine Pass, Texas when Banks was attacked and they all retreated. Federal losses were heavy. They fought a hard battle with the Confederates at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, both sides lost many men. They had fought 18 days and nights. Porter's gunboats were held at Alexandria, Louisiana by low water. Federal troops hurriedly built a dam that flooded the area and the gunboats escaped.

The soldiers finally reached Vicksburg, then took a boat to Memphis and went to the mouth of the White River where they had a hard skirmish.

Kemp became ill with malaria fever and was confined in a Memphis hospital three months and when able worked about the city for a while.

Sometime when on one of his marches in either Texas, Louisiana or Mississippi, I think probably in one of the latter two states he picked up a large illustrated Bible (which I know have), belonging to a family by the name of

T. O. and B. J. Moore. Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1846, New York. He said families leaving their homes ahead of the soldiers had their homes ramsacked, and the soldiers picked up many souvenirs, so he decided to pick up one, also, and this Bible was it.

He was honorably discharged on November 23, 1864 at Davenport, Iowa by reason of expiration of term of service.

Never, what you could call wounded. He did have a stray musket ball come down and hit him on the shoulder. He always had a raised dark spot there the rest of his life.

Soon after returning from the war and later he planted many trees along the roads on the farm. The big cottonwoods, maples and ash on both sides of the road west of the cemetery are all gone. The three over 100 year old elms across from our house are all gone, victims of Dutch Elm disease, but many of the 100 ^{yr. old} cottonwoods southeast of our house are still there. We have traveled extensively over the state and have failed to see that many tall and big cottonwoods in one group anyplace in the state. That does not mean that none exist as Iowa is a big state. One of our cottonwoods is seventeen feet seven inches in circumference, measured four and one half feet from the ground. This is the biggest one I have seen anywhere around.

During the Civil War the summer of 1864, in Iowa was unusually cold with frost every month, corn on the lowlands

was killed the 16th day of July, much more frost was there again on the 27th of August and finally all the corn was killed on September 18.

In June 25, 1880 an Alden Times ad advertised 500,000 acres of land for sale. 12,000 in Alden Township. This ad was placed by E. S. Ellsworth, Iowa Falls, Iowa.

On September 18, 1883 the Alden Sportsman stage a hunt. There were two teams. One headed by George Bigelow, and the other by L. Popejoy. The losing side was to furnish a supper for the winners. The following scale for game shot was adopted:

Meadow Lark -1	Rail-4
Snipe -5	Woodrock-10
Plover -5	Prarie Chicken-10
Duck -10	Crane -30
Goose -20	Brandt -20
Hawk -5	Grey Squirrel -5
Partridge -20	Pigeon -10

Results: All total 131 chickens and ducks, 32 rails, 54 larks, 8 hawks, 3 snipes, 2 woodrocks. This made a total of 1,567 points. L. Popejoy's team received 728 points. G. Bigelow's team received 829 points. At 8 O'clock a splendid supper was served at the Central House.

In 1884, a lot of the Iowa farmers were moving to the Dakotas.

William H. Shaffer took over the meat market in 1884.

The market report for December 5, 1884 was as follows:

Butter 15¢ to 18¢ a pound, Oats 17¢ to 19¢ a bushel,

Eggs 20¢ a dozen, Corn 25¢ a bushel, Live hogs \$3.30 to \$3.55 per hundred weight. Hogs back in 1880 had been as high as \$7.50 per hundred weight.

Dr. Frisbee had bought and fitted his teams of horses (called grays) with a brand new harness with polished metal parts. This team was the toughest and finest pair of roadsters in the County. They traveled hundreds of miles a year into the rural areas of his medical practice.

J. Y. Fiddler in the restaurant business in Alden since 1871 sold his restaurant to James Laird brother of John Laird. Mr. Fiddler will go on the road as salesman for the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

Big news in Alden June 5, 1885--The Rainsbargers recognized as notorious southern Hardin County outlaws mobbed the Eldora jail. 125 men forced their way into the jail, after the jailer refused them entry. They shot Manse and Finn Rainsbarger down in cold blood.

June 1885--Will Alden will open a modern meat market. Alden creameryman O. S. Cleveland will go to F. Wisners creamery at Iowa Falls. He started the business in Alden with about 50 cows pledged and has increased the number to 600. His method of paying at the end of every week pleased his customers. He will still run the business here as usual.

The community was shocked July 17, 1885 by the murder and suicide on the old Stratton Farm, southwest of Alden.

Grace Rand was sleeping in an upstairs bed with her sister, Mrs. Geo. Johnson. In the middle of the night George Johnson came and kissed his wife, then cut Grace Rand's throat with a razor, then went outside and slashed his own throat. Earl Fitch, a 14 year old boy who worked for Johnson was sleeping downstairs. Mrs. Johnson, hysterical, came down stairs and told Fitch to get Dr. Strickler and Al Redner the marshall at once. Fitch got into Alden about 1 A.M. and told these men a murder had been committed. The murdered girl was a daughter of A. F. Rand of Buckeye. She was engaged to be married to a worthy young man to whom Johnson objected. Elliot Edwards I have been told.

In July, 1885, Assistant State Veterinarian J. C. Miles of Cedar Rapids, was in town and proceed to condemn three of Knudt Olson's horses as having the glanders. (Glanders- a contagious disease of horses, mules, etc. characterized by fever, swelling of gland, beneath the jaw.) Knudt sought legal advice and tried to get indemnity from the state for them, but failed to get a cent.

August 8, 1885--Mayor Keating, through proclamation ordered all stores and businesses close, it being the day of General Grants funeral.

October 23, 1885--Alden Market report--Markets down:
 Butter 12¢ to 15¢ a pound, Eggs 15¢ a dozen, Corn 25¢ a bushel, Oats 18¢ to 21¢ a bushel, Potatoes 45¢ per hundred weight,

PUBLIC FARM SALE

Tuesday November 10, 1885

L. Rummel Farm

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBE PROPERTY:

5--Head of horses
 2--3 year old heifers
 1--Rummel Wagon
 1 pair bobsleds
 1 champion reaper and mower
 1 Norwegian riding plow
 1 walking plow
 2--milch cows
 1--steer calf
 20--shoats (young pigs)
 1 hayrake
 1 drag
 1 set of harnesses

Sale will commence at 10:00 A. M.

Terms of the Sale: All sums under \$10.00 cash. Sums of \$10.00 and over ten (10) months time at 8% interest on bankable note. 5% off for cash.

Sophia Awe

O. J. Thomas, Auctioneer.

L. Rummel had sold 1071 lumber wagons by Saturday, November 14, 1885.

April 1886--A millinery and dressmaking shop was opened this spring by four different people. Operators were Mrs. C. A. Barnes, Mrs. E. L. Steere, I. E. Whitney, and Mrs. W. H. Shaffer.

May 1886--L. Rummel's carriage factory received an order for an elegant hearse.

The pretty practice of hanging May baskets on a door

knob and was quite generally observed through the town.

A new Masonic Hall was dedicated over Sherman and Frisbee's Drug Store. An evening train on the C. I. and D. brought a large delegation from Iowa Falls to assist in the work.

Charles Wagner has a rope factory turning out first class hemp ropes.

The Alden band boys were in debt for instruments, music and instructions in the amount of \$824.95. During this year they have received thru entertainments and contributions the amount of \$807.75. This left the band in debt \$17.00. They will put on entertainment May 21 and 22 to pay off the debt.

Brown and Snider kept busy boring wells and putting in pumps over a wide area. They did real good work.

August 9, 1886--Henry Alden Jr.'s wife Mrs. Maria Louisa Alden died.

The Algona District of the Methodist Church started its session in Alden during this week.

October 1886--O. S. Clevelands barn on his farm burned down. His luck was bad on November 1, the Alaska Alden Creamery burnt down. An incendiary device was blamed for this last fire.

November 9 issue of the Alden Times has a complete Alden school report. In this issue it only costs 50¢ a year to obtain all the reading material you wanted during that time.

Other towns the same size as Alden charged \$1.00 to \$1.50 per year. The Library has been free of charge since 1964.

December 1886--Alden has ten pair of bobsleds.

January 1887--Utley & Browns store takes in poultry. They shipped 10,700 pounds of dressed poultry, mostly to Boston.

The Alden Merchants many of whom buy produce from the farmers from as far as thirty miles around shipped 25 coops, 5 boxes and three barrels of poultry completely filling one large freight car.

April 1887--The District Convention of the I. O. O. F. met in Alden, with members attending from Alden, Union, Dows, Eldora, Eagle Grove, Hubbard, Ackley and Iowa Falls and Webster City. They had a big parade, bands and a business meeting in the Alden Hall. There were so many members present they could not all get in the Alden Hall. The 68th Anniversary of the American Oddfellowship was celebrated in Alden that day. This must be recorded as a great success.

May 1887--A joint stock creamery opened with capital stock of \$5,000.00 and \$50.00 shares on the market. They found a ready sale among the farmers and business men alike. It was incorporated as the Alden Alaska Creamery Co. The building was well along on construction. O. S. Cleveland operated the creamery at this time. A number of farmers from Iowa Falls, Oakland and Buckeye say they will patronize

it. The first churning of butter was on Friday July 7, 1887. The equipment included a 250 pound churn, vats with a 400 gallon capacity. A force pump was put in by Brown and Snider. You could get a pint of buttermilk for nothing and if you so desired a 50 gallon barrel it would cost you 35¢. They had wagons go out on routes to pick up the cream and they did this May thru October each year.

A large crowd attended a picnic to organize the G.A.R. in Kemps Grove. The Role of soldiers presents:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>INFANTRY NO</u>
J. W. DAVID	WISCONSIN	B	30
M. V. Tompson	Illinois	I	148
S. M. Massey	Wisconsin	B	1
H. Beal	Indiana	K	29
John Dullen	Michigan	K	7
D. L. Allen	Iowa	I	25
S. Kemp	Iowa	A	12
Myron Petrie	New York	F	94
John Lighfield	Wisconsin	H	22
F. F. Little	Ohio	B	172
A. Redner	New York	G	126
J. Haupt	Pennsylvania	A	26
Charles Colt	Connecticut	B	20
C. N. Walton	Pennsylvania	H	45
W. W. FARWELL	New Hampshire	C	15
O. J. Thomas	Wisconsin	I	32
H. C. Pettinger	Illinois	C	53
J. R. McElhaney	Iowa	I	3
John Hoskin	Wisconsin	E	11
D. B. Spears	Wisconsin	C	37
M. J. Ferrington	Wisconsin	G	29
Knudt Olson	Wisconsin	K	16
G. L. Morriell	Iowa	C	13
J. J. Hosier	New York	B	112
W. Robinson	New York	G	15
E. Sherman	Wisconsin	Assistant Surgeon	37

Peter Taylor acting 2nd Ass. Engineer
Prince Royal H. Crawford--U.S.N. Steamer

During the coming month a recruiting officer will come

to assist in organizing a post. Whitcomb Fairbanks was the first soldier from Alden Township killed in battle. The post therefore will fittingly bare his name.

July 15, 1887--It was 108 degrees in the shade.

September 1887--C. L. Furry, A. R. Furry, Utley and Brown store was broken into cash, watches and other articles were taken.

November 1887--The Fairbanks Post G.A.R. has been invited to participate in the services of dedication of the Soldier's Home at Marshalltown. This will take place on Monday November 30, 1887.

December 1887--Teachers wages in Alden for the winter term are \$32.00--\$30.00--\$28.00 for first, second and third grade certificates.

January 1888--The Alden Market report for January 12--corn 35¢ to 38¢ a bushel, oats 20¢ to 23¢ a bushel, hogs \$5.00 to \$5.10 per hundred weight, butter 16¢ to 20¢ per pound, eggs 20¢ per dozen.

February 1888--The Farmers Club held a Farmers Institute on February 23 and 24. It was a huge success. The largest audience ever assembled in the Alden Hall gathered there on February 28, to hear and see the old time play of Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Rusco and Swift Co.

April 1888--An Alden Times Ad by E. K. Hayes of Galva, Illinois, advertised a Hayes Check Row Planter and J. I. Case

advertised an agitator seperator.

June 1888--Geo. Bigelow's restaurant has added a machine called a "milk shake", which should be seen. It will hold two glasses of lemonade and ice. It would shake them before you could get your dime out.

The Central House Hotel was filled to overflowing both in the board and lodging departments, but they always seemed to find room for at least one more.

July 25, 1888--Benjamin Birdsall Sr. died at his home in Wall Lake, Wright Co., Iowa. He moved in to Alden, but had resided on his property at Wall Lake since 1874. With C. M. Nagle he founded the Bank of Alden. The Bank since 1876 has been under his son Tom Birdsall, and Tom's son John until 1914, and much longer.

The Democratic County Convention was held at Eldora. They selected S. M. Massey as delegate from Alden Township to go to the State Convention, B. Lighthall was elected delegate to go to the congressional convention.

August 1888--The Seventh Annual old Settlers Picnic was held in Alden at Kemps grove for the first time. It was rained out so it was held in the Alden Hall. It was still rated a huge success. The C. I. and D. railroad offered very low rates to those attending from surrounding areas.

September 1888--C. L. Furry has placed a machine for sharpening pencils in his store. All boys and girls are in-

vited to sharpen their pencils that they have bought from him, and see how it works.

October 1888--Jim Ghoslin left a potatoe that weighted four pounds at the Alden Times office.

December 1888-- An ice carnival was held here in Alden on December 7.

January 1889--Will Luts and Hugh Cline carried off two of Joe Byers best lap robes on New Years day because the dice said they could do so.

The January 1889 trade Carnival netted \$66.03 for the Library Association. Every trade in Alden was represented by someone in the community. It was considered fantastic and out of the ordinary. For detail see the January 11th and 18th 1889 issue of the Alden Times at the Alden Library. These are well worth reading.

A speech was given on Tuesday January 29, 1889 by Nat Spencer to the Iowa Valley Farmers Club of Alden Farmers Institute. For a full proceeding see the February 8, 1889 issue of the Alden Times. I found this very interesting and worth reading.

Mel Bigelow sold his livery service to George Cody of Cole, Iowa on February 22, 1889. He sold it for 120 acres of land four miles west of Alden.

March 1889--Ben Lighthall was removing the last section of the roller rink to the north side of the C. I. and D. railroad track midway between the depot and the stockyards where it will be erected for a warehouse for baled hay etc.

They will also keep finer grades of lumber here.

Only a few liquor permits have been issued so far by the county.

Charles Rummel's time in the blacksmith shop is almost wholly occupied by repairing and making plows. His implements are all ready being called for by farmers living several miles distant. He is hardly able to supply the demand.

April 1889--The Ketchum Wagon Company of Marshalltown, Iowa, is advertising its lines of wagons and carts.

New street lamps are in place now. These use plain glass and replace the old kind using lantern globes.

C. M. Burnham is a candidate for Superintendent of Public Schools of Hardin County. He has been a very satisfactory and efficient principal of the Alden Schools for the past five years. He was re-elected for a 6th term.

Hammers and saws are at work on seven new houses this week. Is it a housing boom?

May 1889--Prospective pastors of the Methodist and Congregational Churches have made arrangements to hold services in but one church Sunday evenings. Each pastor will occupy his own pulpit each alternate Sunday night.

Decoration Day services were handled by the Fairbanks Post of the G.A.R.

The Alden String Band which was organized during the winter will make its first appearance. It has already been

engaged to play for several dances. It is composed of a cornet, first and second violin and a base.

June 1889--For a long and good report on the Memorial Day services see the June 7, 1889 issue of the Alden Times. Also see this issue for information about the Grinnel tornado.

See the June 14, 1889 issue of the Alden Times for a complete list of soldiers buried in Alden together with those enlisted from Alden now buried as unknown in the south.

The June output of the Alaska Creamery is 21,051 pounds of butter as compared to 12,536 last year. This is a gain of 8,515 pounds in favor of 1889. This shows pretty well how it was regarded by the patrons.

August 1889--At the primary election C. M. Burnham was beaten by Mary Tanner for County School Superintendent.

L. F. Wisner a long time Eldora resident was accidentally shot while on a hunting party.

October 1889--The Alaska Creamery was closed the latter part of October, and will open again in May. The creamery made about 85,000 pounds of butter in the 1889 season.

November 1889--Friday November 8, 1889 election is covered in this issue of the Alden Times. It was an election for Alden Township.

This year they had a most profitable crop of flax 10 to 18 bushel per acre and it brought over \$1.00 per bushel.

Forty young people organized a Society of Christian en-

deavor met at the Congregational Church. See for more information see the Friday November 29, 1899, issue of the Alden Times.

Carrie Lane Chapman give an address on Womens Suffrage, and it was well attended.

Eldora's new \$10,000.00 hotel is built of Alden Limestone taken from the C. I. and D. quarry.

January 1890--The market Report for January 9, 1890 is as follows:Hogs \$3.10 per hundred, Oats 16¢ a bushel, ear corn 17¢ a bushel, butter 15¢ to 17¢ a pound, eggs 15 ¢ a dozen.

17¢ or 18¢ a bushel corn makes good fuel and not as expensive as other types.

February 1890--The Iowa Valley Farmers Club sponsored a Farmers Institute on February, 3, 1890 which was very well attended. A very interesting report on the Industrial Institute is carried in the February 13 and 27, 1890 issue of the Alden Times.

March 1890--In 1881 Brown entered in the store business with Utley. Mr. Brown died March 6, 1890 at his home in Alden, at the age of 55 years of dropsy. He was a member of the local school board for several years. He served two years as president of this board, and was identified with most all local organizations in one way or another.

A resolution of respect to the memory of George W. Brown can be read in full in the Friday, March 14, 1890 issue of

the Alden Times. There is also a report on the funeral services which were under the direction of the Hardin County Agricultural Society.

April 1890--Bennell and Clapp took over John Hoskins Store.

May 1890--The Alaska Creamery started its wagons on its first trip of the year on May 5, 1890.

There was a great increase in the past few years in the number of windmills for pumping water. The increase is next to marvelous. There isn't a spot out of doors in Buckeye or Alden Township, except right in town, where a man can stand without seeing one to a dozen of these new windmills.

N. J. Atwood and W. T. Reynolds of Iowa Falls form a partnership in the lumber business and have purchased the entire business of Ben Lighthall. They will control the two yards in adjoining towns, so one can furnish what the other does not have. Mr. Atwood will remain in the Alden yard. (This is similar to the Ackerman & Co. now in Alden.)

July 1890--The 6th Annual Reunion of the Hardin County Veterans Association was held in Alden July 3 and 4, 1890. A full report concerning this reunion is in the July 11, 1890 issue of the Alden Times.

In addition to the hundred's of new binders sold other years, the Alden agricultural dealers are sending out new binders as fast as they can load them on wagons. In spite

of this hundred of acres of grain has had to be put up loose for want of sufficient machines.

August 1890--By a special arrangement people of Alden get the same excursion rate special to Clear Lake as the people from Eldora. This is only \$1.50 for a round trip.

September 1890--Hogs sold in Alden for \$4.00 per hundred but gradually went back to \$3.80, but this is a much better price than was expected this fall for hogs.

Judge S. M. Weaver, peer of any Judge in the state, made a charge to the Marshall County grand jury last week in regard to the prohibition laws of the state. The article can be read in the September 12, 1890 issue of the Alden Times.

October 1890--The Congregational Church will have its Harvest Festival.

It has been announced that next year the Alaska Creamery will either put in several new seperators or one of the new butter extractors.

The Alden Cooper Shop and Tub Factory is open now with J. B. Hoosier as Proprietor. They have pork barrels, flour barrels and half barrels. They do repairing on any kind of cookery.

The school report for 1890 is as follows:

Aiding in the goverment of the school, and the close of the year have not to our knowledge, a pupil under our charge who does not treat us respectfully and kindly, both in and

and out of school, and our work this year has truly been made by their friendly relationship, the most pleasant of our school life.

We acknowledge again the patronage which the people of Alden has given us in connection with our school entertainments, and appreciate the hospitable manner in which we have been treated in their homes, and we leave Alden for a short vacation, acknowledging many friends and having knowledge of no enemies. Respectfully, F. A. Nimocks, Principal.

January 1891--The January 8, 1891 market report is as follows: eggs 20¢ per dozen, Butter 18¢ to 20¢ per pound, potatoes 75¢ per hundred pounds, Hogs \$3.25 per hundred, oats 33¢ to 35¢ a bushel, corn 35¢ to 37¢ a bushel. Later in the month the price of hogs had dropped to \$2.80 per hundred and then increased to \$3.09 per hundred.

Workmen are working on the G. I. and D. bridge between Iowa Falls and Alden in preparation to removing the current bridge and putting in a substantial iron bridge.

Alden Township, out of the in-corporated area pays a tax this year of 23 mills on the dollar, it was 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ mills last year so the taxes were down a little. In comparison the tax rate inside the corporated area was 41 mills last year and down to 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ mills this year. Buckeye taxes this year are 24 mills compared to 28 mills last year.

The Spencer, Steele and Co. ad in this issue was three

fur coat bargains for men for \$7.10- \$9.60 and \$13.10. No more will be had at these prices.

The spooks were abroad Friday evening. A few miles out of town at Will Masters home a dance was in progress and of course there were many wagons and buggies standing around the yard. None in the house knew, but in the wee small hours of the morning they found out there wasn't a wagon or buggy in sight. Some walked home, others stayed all night, and still others began a search for the buggies and wagons. The next morning they were all found, with the wheels all off and scattered around. Nothing was lost, not even the burrs as they were laid where they could be easily found. Most think some of the young boys did this.

Furry's Bargain Bazaar cuts prices: Overcoats \$1.75 to \$2.65 these were regularly \$3.00 to \$14.00, Suits \$3.25 to \$12.50 regularly \$5.00 to \$16.00, Winter caps 25¢ to \$1.15 regularly 50¢ to \$2.00, Underwear 25¢ to \$1.35 regularly 50¢ to \$2.00.

February 1891--Another Landmark Gone--The house occupied by J. I. Popejoy and his wife for over a quarter of a century was burned to the ground Monday evening February 16, 1891. The fire was caused by a defective chimney or stove pipe. In the house J. I. Popejoy and his excellent wife reared their family until they grew to manhood and womanhood. It was a place where all the old settlers stopped, where the