

THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
CLINTON COUNTY,  
I O W A,

CONTAINING

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

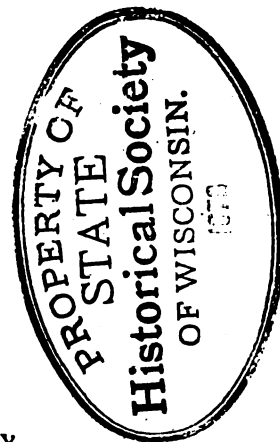
Biographical Sketches of Citizens, War Record of its Volunteers  
in the late Rebellion, General and Local Statistics, Portraits  
of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the  
Northwest, History of Iowa, Map of Clinton  
County, Constitution of the United States,  
Miscellaneous Matters, &c.,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

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ILLUSTRATED.

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CHICAGO:  
WESTERN HISTORICAL COMPANY.  
1879.



confusion worse confounded reigned on the shelves. Public-spirited citizens and members were aroused, and a new era of prosperity was inaugurated through their energetic efforts, and the Association placed on a sound basis. The Library was installed, in 1872, in commodious rooms in the Post Office Block, where it now remains, and augmented by donations and purchases, notably by a gift of 719 new volumes through the munificence of John Bertram, of Salem, Mass., one of the capitalists who early invested in Clinton interests. Though the number of members has been pruned down to less than one hundred, and profits from lectures, etc., are no longer relied upon, a steady and healthy growth is the destiny of the Library Association, as its value as an educating agency complementary to the public schools, as well as a means of refined enjoyment, is more and more appreciated. Another decade will probably see the books numbered by thousands, and stored in an appropriate special building, accessible every day and evening. The officers for 1869 are: President, Richard Flournoy; Secretary, Eaton L. Moses; Treasurer, A. H. Paddock; Directors, Charles P. Fegan and Fowler P. Stone.

#### THE POST OFFICE.

The post office was established at Clinton in the spring of 1856. For some time, the office was said to be in the Postmaster's hat, and the mail was distributed in the Central House, then the general rendezvous and exchange, where political business and social matters were arranged. Thence, after being kept for awhile in a building, a block south of the Central, the office was removed to the northeast corner of Fifth avenue and Second street, and thence to the little wooden building still standing east of Breitling's bakery, on the south side of Fifth avenue, between First and Second streets. Subsequently, in 1866, the removal of the office to the wooden building on Second street, then occupying the site of the present Gage Bank Building, showed the general movement of business up town, at that time. The citizens continued to get their mail at that place until the office received better quarters in the adjacent Toll Block, where it remained till, in 1873, it occupied its present commodious apartments in the marble front Post-Office Building on Fifth avenue, adjacent to Moses & Thompson's bookstore. It is one of the very few post-office buildings in the Mississippi Valley containing sufficient lobby and office room, and other facilities for the transaction of the business which has to be handled here.

The first Postmaster was Charles Maclay, succeeded by C. H. Simmons. F. N. Holloway, who held the office for eight years; J. H. Tierney, from 1868 to 1875; and Maj. C. H. Toll, the present incumbent. The first money order was issued in October, 1868. The present annual receipts of this office average \$10,000.

#### WATER-WORKS.

In January, 1874, the matter of providing Clinton with water-works was first agitated, and the more the topic was discussed, the more decided and unanimous became the verdict, that a city where so many valuable industries were surrounded by acres of inflammable pine, should not be exposed to the fate which has befallen several northwestern towns, notably Oshkosh, of being nearly ruined by a sweeping conflagration. Physicians also recognized the fact that it would be well to substitute river water for that supplied by wells sunk through alluvial soil or porous rock. At first, it was proposed that the city should build the works, but having been ascertained that statutes limiting the contraction of municipal debt debarred the city from undertaking the enterprise, it was then

taken up by a few leading business men with a view of forming a stock company, building the works with private capital, the city enjoying fire protection at a fixed annual rental.

On March 6, 1874, the first practical step was taken by a meeting, where subscription papers were drawn up and the nucleus of a company formed, it being desired to have \$80,000 pledged to render the scheme certain of fulfillment. I. B. Howe, S. G. Magill and D. Joyce were chosen a Committee on Incorporation. Excursions were made to view the water-works of Davenport and Rock Island, where the Holly and Donahue systems were inspected and tested. At that time, the plan was to unite the capital of Clinton and Lyons in establishing one system of works for joint use by both cities; but as Lyons people did not respond to the proposition, Clinton took the initiative by an ordinance passed March 26, 1874, granting twenty-year franchises to the Clinton Water-Works Company, and contracting for seventy hydrants at an annual rental of \$100 each, and granting to the company, in consideration of the erection of tasteful buildings, the free use of a public park on First street. On April 9, the Company elected as Directors, I. B. Howe, Chauncey Lamb, W. J. Young, W. F. Coan, Oliver Messer, J. T. Pierson and E. S. Bailey, and subsequently chose the following officers: President, I. B. Howe; Vice President, Oliver Messer; Secretary, E. H. Thayer; Treasurer, J. C. Weston; Executive Committee, I. B. Howe, Chauncey Lamb and W. J. Young; Superintendent, O. Messer; Chief Engineer, W. C. Weir. About June 1, the Company awarded its first contract, and Messrs. Howe and Weir made a ten-days inspecting tour through the Central and Eastern States, examining the water-works of various cities, with the result of a happy compromise of several systems, combining their leading principles and advantages, including pumping directly into the mains during a fire, which is the principal characteristic of the Holly system, employing the stand-pipe and reservoir for domestic supply, thus presenting a unique combination of the best devices for procuring, handling and distributing water for both protection and use, being the only works of the kind thus far in the world.

June 4, ground was broken for the filter-bed; on June 29, for the mains. August 26, the city established the fire-limits, extending 800 feet beyond the outer range of hydrants, and including the major part of the corporation territory. About November 1, the connections between the river and shore conduits were made by submarine divers, and on December 2, the pumps were first started and the reservoir tested, and, on the 8th and 9th, informal tests of the works were made in the presence of the Council and spectators, and a 160-foot stream realized with only gravitation and the pressure of 13,600 gallons of water in the reservoir. December 12, it was announced that water would be delivered to private customers, and, a few days later, the city accepted the hydrants, which were first utilized at a fire on Seventh avenue December 28.

In its journey from river to kitchen, the water is taken from the channel 167 feet from shore low-water mark, passed through filter-basins and into the reservoir at the top of the tower, through a two-inch stand-pipe. The tower is 120 feet high and rests upon a solid stone and rock foundation. It is seventeen feet in diameter, tapering to twelve feet near the top, and buttressed to prevent oscillation. By 132 steps, one ascends to the observatory, just under the reservoir, that seems remarkably like a chamber in the turret of a medieval castle, which the tower resembles in external appearance, whence is obtained a magnificent prospect of the broad valley, oak-crowned bluffs, three cities, villages and farm-houses, and the majestic current of the Mississippi for many

miles. The pumping engines are marvels of compactness and power, and, aided by powerful boilers, can redouble their work in an incredibly short time. The distributing system is fed by a sixteen-inch supply main, in which the flow is regulated by an air-chamber, so as to prevent bursting the mains when the pumps are crowded. The pipe was laid under great difficulties, a portion being cut through the solid rock at a depth of from five to six feet. The cost of the works aggregates \$110,000. With the manifest decrease of danger from conflagrations, the promised reductions in insurance rates to property-owners, and the distribution of pure, healthful water for domestic uses, thus dispelling the anxiety of business men, preserving property from loss, and affording the sanitary precaution of proper drinking water, these works constitute a blessing to Clinton that will be more fully enjoyed and appreciated as their future use demonstrates their utility, not only in daily life, but in such a great crisis as that of May, 1879. On that occasion, the water-works furnished scores of streams. The present officers are: President, C. Lamb; Secretary and Treasurer, J. C. Weston; Superintendent, O. Messer; Directors, I. Munroe, C. Lamb, W. J. Young, W. F. Coan, E. S. Bailey, J. E. Carpenter and J. T. Pierson.

#### GAS WORKS.

It has been neatly said that the self-styled cities become such in reality when they are lighted with gas. Assuming the truth of that definition of what really constitutes a nineteenth-century city, Clinton actually arrived at urban dignity in the spring of 1869, when the Gas Light and Coke Company was organized, with a capital of \$60,000, and works built and mains laid through the principal streets.

Previously, except where a private lamp shed its friendly rays, citizens groped about in utter darkness, or carried lanterns, as in the middle ages. The change to lighted streets was inexpressibly cheering.

The mains now aggregate over seven miles. The present officers comprising the gentlemen most prominently identified with the work are W. J. Young, President; J. C. Weston, Secretary and Treasurer; O. Messer, Superintendent; W. J. Young, I. B. Howe, C. H. Toll, C. Lamb, E. S. Bailey, F. P. Wilcox, J. Vandeventer, Directors.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The first religious services were held in a little shanty, in November or December, 1855, temporarily used as the office of the Iowa Land Company. Prayer and social meetings, and occasional formal services, were held in the old log schoolhouse by various denominations. About the close of the year, meetings were held in the present dining-room of the Iowa Central House. At the first gathering there, Jephaniah K. Allen led the meeting and returned thanks that they were "gathered together where prayers were wont to be made," while on the outside were heard the noises of a profane quarrel, and the sound of the ax with which Patrick Noonan was cutting wood to keep the meeting-room warm. There were probably thirty or forty people present. In 1856, Reznor's warehouse was used as a place of worship.

From these humble beginnings, and others related hereafter, the churches of Clinton have grown to their present status. Probably there is not a town in the West where the churches, in proportion to their population, are so well sustained and ably administered as in Clinton. Their influence has been no insignificant factor in the prosperity and order of the city.