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The development of Missouri Valley, Iowa to 1931

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Chapter I

BACKGROUND OF THE SETTLEMENT OF MISSOURI VALLEY

Before the late 1840's, no white men had settled the area of southwestern Iowa at the point where Harrison County is now located. Moreover, only a few white men had cast eye upon its valleys, inhabited only by Indians and wild animals. Probably the first explorers to set foot in the area were Lewis and Clark who, in 1804, ordered their men to pitch camp just below the mouth of the Soldier River in what is now Harrison County. Reports of rich fur resources soon brought a number of trappers and hunters who undoubtedly followed the streams of the area and took back to St. Louis and eastern cities news of the fertile valleys of the Boyer, Willow and Soldier Rivers which cross the land that became Harrison County. One such trapper and trader was Manuel Lisa who, after 1807, made annual trips up the Missouri River with supplies for Indians and trappers. There is no reason to doubt that he made regular stops in the Harrison County area and established trading posts at the mouths of the Boyer, Willow and Soldier Rivers. Explorations of the area were

2Ibid.
also made by Edwin James, a scientist with Stephen H. Long's expedition, and Captain Stephen W. Kearny, who was traveling in the company of Captain Matthew J. Magee in 1820. Both of these expeditions, while exploring the Boyer River valley which traverses modern Harrison County, found it to be teeming with elk, buffalo, and prairie wolves and covered by prairie grass that grew as high as the back of a horse.\(^3\)

Although remains of an Indian village were later found and Indian relics unearthed, the area which is now Harrison County served primarily as an Indian hunting region.\(^4\) Some doubts exist as to which tribe of Indians occupied these lands up to the time of the first settlements in 1847. Probably the Pottawattamies, Omahas and Sioux Indians all roamed the area at various times. However, the Sioux Indians inhabited more of the northwestern part of Iowa and the Omaha Indians inhabited an area to the west of the Missouri River and southward. Consequently, it may be assumed that the Pottawattamie Indians, located in southwestern Iowa until they were moved west of the Missouri River in 1846, were the most frequent occupants of later day Harrison County.\(^5\)

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The big influx of white settlers into and across Iowa began around 1834 when this area was incorporated into the Territory of Michigan. Two years later it became a part of the Wisconsin Territory and in 1837 gained separate status as the Territory of Iowa. At this time, the Territory of Iowa had sixteen counties and a population of 23,000 with most settlement along the Mississippi River. Between 1837 and 1846, when statehood was finally achieved, Iowa gained approximately 93,000 inhabitants. By this date, scattered settlement had proceeded into the central parts of the state. By 1848, southwestern Iowa was feeling the effects of its first permanent settlers.

The first settlers in southwestern Iowa were the Mormons who had been driven from Illinois and Missouri between 1844 and 1847. These people settled at various places along the Missouri River, usually only temporarily, then proceeded "onward to the Land of Promise." As a result of this Mormon migration to southwestern Iowa, Kanesville, later known as Council Bluffs, emerged in 1848. The Mormon movement into southwestern Iowa also had historical significance in relation to the early settlement and organization of Harrison County.

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Smith, p. 85.
There was a considerable number of Mormon settlers in Harrison County prior to the organization of the county in 1853. Although many of these settlers moved west within a few years, there were those who stayed behind to become the first permanent settlers of Harrison County. One such person was Daniel Brown and family. Having had trouble with Brigham Young at the Mormon's winter quarters in Florence, Nebraska, Daniel Brown left the church and came back to the east side of the Missouri River. He settled where the village of Calhoun later stood, about eight miles north of the present site of Missouri Valley. Daniel Brown was the first permanent settler of Harrison County and other settlers soon followed, most of whom were of the Mormon faith. Because southwestern Iowa was so thinly populated, it was necessary for some of these pioneers to travel as far as St. Joseph, Missouri, for certain provisions. ⁸

These early settlers were squatters in the true sense of the word. They settled on land that was unorganized and not surveyed. Therefore, purchase or legal title to their holdings was out of the question. The area was not surveyed into townships until 1851 and was not sectioned by government surveyors until the latter part of the year 1852. There were approximately fifty resident families in the county before

the opportunity came to register property.\(^9\)

In 1853 Harrison County was organized by an act of the Fourth General Assembly of the State of Iowa.\(^{10}\) The county was located in the fourth tier of counties north of the Missouri state border. To the north are Monona and Crawford Counties, to the south lies Pottawattamie County, to the east stretches Shelby County and to the west across the Missouri River is the state of Nebraska.\(^{11}\)

There were several factors which encouraged more extensive settlement of Harrison County. The absence of warlike Indians bolstered a feeling of security among the pioneers. Indian hunting parties occasionally harassed the settlers by stealing, begging and destroying property, but never were the lives of the newcomers jeopardized.\(^{12}\) Timber quantities were large, a factor of foremost importance to pioneers. The county contained more timber than any other

\(^9\)Smith, p. 80. There was very little claim jumping as most settlers mutually respected each other's property.

\(^{10}\)Logan Herald-Observer, October 28, 1954. There is no evidence of any significant pressures behind the organization of Harrison County.

\(^{11}\)Refer to Appendix I. Map of southwestern Iowa and Harrison County.

county on the Missouri slope. Another inducement to settlement was the good supply of water, which, on the Missouri River bottom, could be reached at a depth of fourteen feet. Moreover, settlers were encouraged by the good soil in the upland regions as well as on the Missouri River bottom. The soil in both locations is rich, deep, and excellent for farming. The rich Missouri River bottom lands comprise more than one-fifth of the area of the county.

The great land rush into Harrison County started about 1853, the same year the county was organized. In the three years from 1853 to 1856, the population rose from 200 to 1900. The availability of good land at $1.25 an acre and the assurance of a legal title to the land probably were the most influential factors in encouraging immigration to the county. Another significant reason for the influx of people during this period was that many of those who had formerly located in the county wrote to relatives and friends about the prospective prosperity of that section of southwestern Iowa.

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14Smith, p. 29.


16Smith, p. 98.
Although the newcomers came from many states in the Union, New York, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania supplied the greatest numbers. Predominating racial strains represented by the settlers were German, Irish, Scandinavian and English. Within a decade, the population of Harrison County grew by more than 3,000 persons. The inhabitants were scattered throughout the county mostly on small farms or in the seven villages which had been platted by 1867. Magnolia, the first county seat, was established in 1853, followed by Calhoun, Little Sioux, St. John's, Dunlap, Woodbine and Logan.

The first white men to settle in St. John's Township, in which Missouri Valley is presently located, came from Tennessee in 1848. In that year, John Reynolds and family, William Smith, Charles Smith, Adam Stevens, George Lawrence and the Mongrum families settled in what became known as "Tennessee Hollow." During the next decade, there followed a prominent movement into the township, mainly from the states of Indiana and Ohio. There were some men who felt

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18 Southwestern Iowa Guide Book, p. 139.

19 Ibid., p. 129.

20 History of Harrison County, 1891, p. 252.
that the states from which they came were becoming "too civilized." 21

As the township gained in population, it became evident that a community was needed for the convenience of the farmers. The need recognized, a townsite company platted the town of St. John's on December 25, 1857, about one mile south of the present site of Missouri Valley on sections 26 and 27. 22 During its existence, St. John's had a post office, candy shop, clothing store, hotel, several general stores, carpenter shop, two wagon shops, blacksmith shops and two physicians. 23

Upon hearing rumors of the coming of a railroad across Harrison County, the townsite company tried to persuade railroad officials to run the rails through St. John's. In spite of the efforts of the company, construction took place one mile to the north where the new town of Missouri Valley was soon to be laid out. St. John's, deprived of this important asset to its growth, faltered under the competition

21 Interview with J. M. McIntosh, Missouri Valley, Iowa, June 15, 1967, a local farmer whose grandfather was one of the first to settle in the Missouri Valley area.

22 Hunt, p. 361. Among the members of the company were George H. Cotton, P. J. McMahon, J. C. Purple, C. Voorhes, Dr. Robert McGavern, John Deal and E. W. Bennett.

23 History of Harrison County, 1891, p. 256.
wielded by a town supported by direct communications with other parts of the United States. Accordingly, many of the citizens of St. John's soon relocated in Missouri Valley, thus adding impetus to the growth of that community.²⁴

²⁴Southwestern Iowa Guide Book. . . . , p. 139.
Chapter II

SETTLEMENT AND EXPANSION OF MISSOURI VALLEY TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Missouri Valley sprang into existence with the coming of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad to southwestern Iowa and Harrison County in the latter 1860's. This railroad had been promoted and financed by John I. Blair, one of Iowa's foremost railroad magnates. Construction on the Northwestern Railroad out of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, had begun around 1859 and had proceeded westward across the state along the forty-second parallel. Having reached the western counties of Iowa, the railroad turned south to Council Bluffs, following the Boyer River Valley through Harrison County. At the same time, the railroad avoided the high bluffs that span southwestern Iowa in a north-south direction.¹

The construction of railroads westward opened many opportunities for the establishment and development of new communities. John I. Blair recognized these opportunities and during the next twenty years platted approximately eighty towns in Iowa and Nebraska. Blair organized a Lot and Land

Company, an auxiliary of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, which bought land along the railroad for the purpose of establishing towns. Once the towns were platted, the company hoped that the land would sell at a large profit.²

One such town platted by Blair was Missouri Valley located on sections fifteen and sixteen, township seventy-eight, range forty-four in Harrison County. Situated at the base of the bluffs where the Boyer River meets the Missouri River bottom, Missouri Valley overlooks approximately ten miles of rich Missouri River bottom to the west and two miles of Boyer River bottom to the south.³ To the north and east, Missouri Valley is flanked by high bluffs which fade into rolling hills.

The first man to settle on the site was H. B. Hendricks, who came from Putnam County, Indiana, in 1854. Two years later, M. B. and George R. McIntosh, neighbors to Hendricks in Indiana, came and started farming adjacent to him. The name given to the settlement was McIntosh Point.⁴

⁴Missouri Valley Times, May 7, 1880.
⁵William H. Jones, "Survey of Missouri Valley, Iowa," Missouri Valley, Iowa. Paper written for personal use (in his possession). Missouri Valley was also referred to as New St. John's.
In 1856, George McIntosh bought eighty acres of land from the state government at $1.25 an acre and sold it in 1865 to the John I. Blair Lot and Land Company for $50 an acre. The company platted the town and filed the name as Missouri Valley on January 28, 1867.6

Almost immediately, the Blair Lot and Land Company put its lots on the market. The first lot was sold to George Weare, an employee of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. A short time later, Weare sold to Henry C. Warner who opened the first general store in 1867. Mr. Warner stocked his store with merchandise freighted in wagons from Council Bluffs. That same year, John C. Henry constructed a building which was used as a beer saloon. Among other businesses established in 1867 were Phillip A. Stern's clothing store, Robert Hay's blacksmith shop, W. J. Harris' hardware store, Scott Justis, Shields and Meech's grocery store and William Bath's furniture store.8

6Missouri Valley Times, December 8, 1896. The original barn on the George McIntosh farm was moved in 1867 to his new acreage three miles west of town where it still stands as of 1968.


8Charles W. Hunt, History of Harrison County, Iowa (Indianapolis, Indiana: B. F. Bower and Company, Inc., 1915), pp. 262-263. The Blair Lot and Land Company stipulated that purchasers were to place a row of shade trees in front of their lots.
Missouri Valley was a frontier town. By 1867, the westward movement had not penetrated much beyond the Missouri River. Furthermore, the only cities of significance in south-western Iowa and eastern Nebraska were Council Bluffs and Omaha and these were only in an embryonic stage of development. The appearance of early Missouri Valley and the surrounding area was also frontier in nature. Streets were unpaved and muddy and, during the rainy seasons, it was very common to see teams of horses mired in the mud. The sidewalks and crossings were made of wooden planks, while livestock roamed the streets necessitating the fencing of most houses. Moreover, the river bottoms south of the settlement were covered with water and Indians could occasionally be seen camping along the Boyer River.

Missouri Valley was a bustling and energetic center in 1868. Businessmen were tearing down old structures and replacing them with larger and better buildings. Most businesses were located on south Sixth Street between Erie and Ontario Streets. There were also a few business establishments on Erie Street which eventually became the main business

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10 Ibid., January 24, 1895.

11 *The Harrisonian*, (Missouri Valley, Iowa), November 27, 1968.
New families were constantly moving in from the smaller communities around Missouri Valley such as St. John's and Calhoun. The year 1868 also witnessed the erection of the first railroad shops which quickly employed fifteen men. In later years the expansion of these shops was to be a boon to the growth of Missouri Valley.

In 1869 it was estimated by various citizens that in the following year there would be five hundred new buildings erected in Missouri Valley. At one time, twenty new buildings were counted in the process of construction. The following year in a three-month period, newcomers invested $75,000 in property.

The frontier spirit of compromise was not always prevalent in early Missouri Valley. The town was divided by an imaginary line running north and south. To the east of this line was "Whiskey Row" and to the west was "Dog Town."

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13 The Harrisonian, November 6, 1868.

14 "Observations of Lodge 232." See Chapter III.

15 The Harrisonian, January 8, 1869.

16 Ibid.

17 D. M. Harris, "A Retrospective View of Missouri Valley, Iowa," Missouri Valley Times, February 21, 1900.
The division was "... as certain as the line between neighboring counties. ..." Ill feeling was so intense between the two sections that at times it was not safe for the citizens of one part to visit the other part. One incident which almost erupted into violence involved the location of the post office. A citizen of "Whiskey Row" succeeded in getting the post office moved to his part of town. "Dog Town" citizens sent many petitions to the district Congressman asking that the post office be moved back to "Dog Town". After much ill feeling the post office was moved back to its old position.

Another such incident occurred during local preparations for one of the early Fourth of July celebrations. When the liberty pole, having been purchased by the entire community, arrived in Missouri Valley, it was unloaded on Sixth Street in "Whiskey Row." The people of "Dog Town" were so dissatisfied that a riot almost started. Further violence nearly erupted when "Whiskey Row" got possession of the town banner. However, "Dog Town" proceeded to make their own from available cloth. When the makeshift flag was erected, people of "Whiskey Row" hailed it as a rebel flag. Only lengthy explanations helped to avoid violence.

18Ibid. The basis for this division and resulting antagonism cannot be ascertained.

19Ibid., March 14, 1900.

20Ibid., February 21, 1900.
By 1871 Missouri Valley had reached a point of considerable commercial importance. Trade in the local business concerns had increased measurably and the railroad freight and passenger business had become a large item.21 With this growth in mind, a movement to incorporate the village began. The first attempt at incorporation was on January 27, 1871 with an election that was also to determine if the name Missouri Valley should be changed to Elwood.22 The measures were defeated by twenty-one votes.23 Supporters of the incorporation issue continued their argument that incorporation would prompt a tax system that would promote town improvements.24 On December 1, 1871, another incorporation vote was taken at which time the issue passed by eighty-seven votes. The same election saw the selection of a mayor, recorder and five trustees.25

21D. M. Harris, "A Retrospective View of Missouri Valley, Iowa". Ibid., February 26, 1900. The Chicago and Northwestern reached Missouri Valley in 1866 and the Sioux City and Pacific had reached Sioux City in 1869. See Chapter III.

22The Harrisonian, December 23, 1870. No explanation can be obtained for the proposed change of the town's name to Elwood.


24The Harrisonian, January 13, 1891.

25City Council Record Books, December 13, 1871. Prior to incorporation, there was no local governmental organization and no electoral districts.
The City Council met on December 1, 1871, under the leadership of W. J. Harris, the first mayor of Missouri Valley. During the remaining part of December, the Council adopted a wide variety of ordinances necessary for town organization. Among the ordinances passed were measures setting forth the duties of mayor, recorder, trustees and marshal. There were also ordinances pertaining to the licensing of liquor establishments, other businesses and city amusements.

On November 14, 1872, the city of Missouri Valley experienced a large fire. Because a bucket brigade was the only fire fighting system in existence, an entire business block burned with a total loss of approximately $36,000. The big losses were suffered by Harris and McGavern who lost $17,500 in property in their hardware store, while E. Ellis suffered a $13,000 loss in his dry goods business, and D. N. Harris and Son lost $1,600 of their grocery business. Although the fire did not have lasting effects on Missouri Valley, it was a major setback at the time and the disaster did prompt the City Council to organize a fire department.

26 Ibid.
27 The Harrisonian, December 22, 1871.
28 Ibid., November 15, 1872.
29 Missouri Valley Times, November 2, 1907.
A problem which undoubtedly confronted most counties in Iowa was the location of the county seat. Harrison County was no exception. Magnolia, situated approximately ten miles north of Missouri Valley, was designated to be the county seat in 1853 by a locating committee composed of non-residents of the county. At this time, Harrison County had not yet experienced the rapid settlement which would come in the wake of future railroad construction and there were few towns to challenge the location. The community of Calhoun, however, did vie for the position with no success.30

By 1869, Missouri Valley was ready to compete for the county seat, for the local populace felt that the court house would enhance the growth of the town. The citizens also argued that the growth of Missouri Valley since 1867 showed that it would be a permanent center of business. Other arguments were that Magnolia was not a progressive town as evidenced by the lack of growth since the early 1860's. Furthermore, accommodations were poor and the town was isolated from the rest of the county by means of inadequate roads and nonexistent railroad facilities. The citizens of Missouri Valley and farmers in the surrounding area were confident that moving the county seat would add to the general prosperity of the county.31 It was also contended that the population

30Hunt, p. 97.
31The Harrisonian, October 7, 1870.
density was greater in the Missouri Valley area.\(^{32}\)

For a time, Magnolia received the support of residents of Logan, some eight miles northeast of Missouri Valley, in her fight to retain the county seat. The citizens of Logan and Magnolia argued that Magnolia was closer to the center of the county than was Missouri Valley. Moreover, they did not agree that the Missouri Valley area was the most heavily populated.\(^{33}\)

For an entire year, petitions were circulated which asked to have the question of removal to Missouri Valley submitted to the voters of the county at the general election. This petition drive was successful, for 991 signatures were accumulated, yet at the October, 1870 election, the proposal to remove the county seat to Missouri Valley failed by a margin of fifty-six votes.\(^{34}\)

Missouri Valley did not concede. In 1873, the citizens again petitioned the Board of Supervisors for a vote on the question. The people of Magnolia, however, were able to collect enough remonstrances to offset the number of signa-

\(^{32}\)Ibid., September 30, 1870. United States census reports reveal that by 1870, St. John's Township, in which Missouri Valley was located, was the most heavily populated segment of Harrison County. U. S. Bureau of the Census, Ninth Census of the United States: 1870 Population, I. p. 354.

\(^{33}\)Logan Herald-Observer, October 28, 1954.

\(^{34}\)History of Harrison County, 1891, pp. 32-33.
tures on the Missouri Valley petitions by 314. Still another attempt was made in 1873, but it also failed.35

By 1875, Logan was ready to compete for the location of the county seat. Prior to that year, Logan had played an important role in keeping the county seat at Magnolia, knowing that removal to Missouri Valley would make future relocation at Logan more difficult. Logan now made her move and raised the question just at the right time to win the dispute. Neither Missouri Valley or Magnolia made an attempt to remonstrate against Logan and the question of relocation of the county seat to Logan went before the people in the 1875 general election. Logan won location of the county seat by only two votes.36

For the first time, Magnolia and Missouri Valley became allies in the county seat question. This alliance was reaffirmed in 1886 when petitions were again filed for the relocation of the county seat from Logan to Missouri Valley. Once more, remonstrances offset the petitions. Nevertheless, the following year the county again voted on the question with the election resulting in a 959 vote majority against removal from Logan.37

35Hunt, p. 98.
37Hunt, p. 99.
The final struggle over relocation to Missouri Valley came in 1891 when both supporters and opponents made an effort to get signatures on their petitions. In order to induce the movement, Missouri Valley offered $7,500 toward the cost of the court house building. Moreover, a site would be donated or, if the Board of Supervisors preferred, $2,000 for the same. When the petitions and remonstrances came in, there followed a hassle over their validity with each side accusing the other of forging signatures. The question of validity finally reached the Supreme Court of Iowa by means of a writ of certiorari. The Court handed down a decision that for the time ended Missouri Valley's hopes of becoming the county seat.

Another controversial question in Missouri Valley involved temperance. As one old settler quipped, the town had only a population of three hundred in the early 1870's at which time "... there were twenty-one places where intoxicating liquors could be bought." Although this statement was exaggerated, it nevertheless was representative of the sentiments of a large segment of Missouri Valley's population. Churches and such organizations as the Good Templars and the

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38 Missouri Valley Times, March 26, 1891.
39 Ibid., April 6, 1893.
40 Ibid., May 7, 1880.
Women's Christian Temperance Union carried on a relentless campaign to close these "dens of iniquity." Their efforts were periodically fruitful.

Following the passage of a state local option prohibition law in 1871, all saloons in Harrison County were closed only to be reopened a short time later due to the declared unconstitutionality of the statute.\textsuperscript{41} The only noticeable effect of this closing on Missouri Valley was that "... some of our boys are getting so dry that they can't whistle up their dogs and the result is that the dogs are lying around loose . . . ."\textsuperscript{42}

Again in 1882, the city's saloons closed after the people of Iowa had ratified a prohibition amendment. The city soon reopened them pending action by the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the amendment. Logan, Modale and other surrounding towns had not closed their saloons and trade was being drawn away from Missouri Valley.\textsuperscript{43}

The constitutional amendment failed the Supreme Court test and the Iowa legislature passed a statutory pro-

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{42}The Harrisonian, January 20, 1871.
\item \textsuperscript{43}Missouri Valley Times, July 2, 1882.
\end{itemize}
Reinforcing this law, the town immediately passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale of liquor.\textsuperscript{45}

In 1894, the state legislature passed the Mulct Law which gave voters in Iowa's local constituencies the right to vote for or against the sale of liquor. The law required that every five years eighty-five percent of the voters in cities between 2,500 and 5,000 population had to give their consent for the local sale of liquor.\textsuperscript{46} To be within the law, establishments selling liquor could not install tables or chairs for their customers. Furthermore, food could not be sold and screens and curtains were prohibited.\textsuperscript{47} A vote by the people of Missouri Valley decreed that the saloons would again be opened. Most citizens favored legalized sale of liquor because they thought the income from the liquor tax lowered their taxes. However, in 1900, the vote failed and the closing of the saloons denied Missouri Valley one of its main sources of revenue. At that time, the city was collecting approximately $6,000 in license fees. Because no taxes were levied to off-

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item[I.\textsuperscript{44}]{Cherrington, p. 1349.}
\item[I.\textsuperscript{45}]{City Council Record Books, July 14, 1885.}
\item[I.\textsuperscript{46}]{Cherrington, p. 1350.}
\item[I.\textsuperscript{47}]{Ibid.}
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
set this loss, the City Council passed a resolution that cut
salaries of town officials by twenty-five per cent and asked
for expense-cutting in all departments, including the fire
department.\textsuperscript{48} The problem eased after the City Council re­
vised a city ordinance which temporarily reopened the liquor
establishments.\textsuperscript{49}

Temperance advocates continued their battle, charging
that the saloons were operating illegally and without proper
regulation. At the same time, consent petitions were circu­
lated for the purpose of securing the necessary signatures of
eighty-five per cent of the voters to get the saloons approved
under the Mulct Law.\textsuperscript{50} Although the necessary signatures were
received, the minority took the case to the district court
which found the petitions could not be used because of a tech­
nical point. The decision aroused many taxpayers who also
claimed the bootlegging trade would become a community nui­
sance.\textsuperscript{51} In 1903, another consent petition was adopted which
brought the city saloons into operation under the state law.\textsuperscript{52}

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{48} City Council Record Books, April 2, 1900.
\textsuperscript{49} Ibid., June 8, 1900. From all indications, this
was not a legitimate act on the part of the Council.
\textsuperscript{50} Missouri Valley Times, November 30, 1901.
\textsuperscript{51} Ibid., April 3, 1902.
\textsuperscript{52} Ibid., May 20, 1903.
\end{flushright}
Many incidents showed the hardened feelings of temperance advocates. One such incident involved the Lemp Brewing Company's building which was leased by George Gumb for saloon purposes. The building was partly torn down to meet the requirements of the Mulct Law. According to the law, before a saloon could operate every property holder within fifty feet had to agree. Streitzel, an adjacent property owner, refused to consent. The saloon was located only a few inches within the fifty feet requirement so the wall was torn down and moved in just enough to meet the requirement. Local temperance agitation continued until the eighteenth amendment became a part of the Federal Constitution. During the 1920's, there were some instances of bootlegging in the community but there were no unusual problems or circumstances relating to prohibition.

Despite various other small problems, Missouri Valley continued to grow, reaching a population of 1,154 persons in 1880. Business was also prosperous and the number of businesses was increasing. The local economy survived a small slump brought on by the Panic of 1873 and by 1880 was in the upswing with some merchants having retail sales that amounted

\[53\text{Ibid. The foreign element in Missouri Valley was small.}\]

to $30,000 and $40,000 a year.\(^{55}\)

Missouri Valley showed improvements as equally advanced as many other towns in the state.\(^{56}\) In 1883, it was estimated that at one time there was $75,000 worth of building going on in the city.\(^{57}\) C. H. Deur's lumber yard was doing a booming business. That year, Deur had received 128 car loads of lumber in his $51,000 annual business.\(^{58}\) Many buildings, however, were made of brick produced at J. J. Sullivan's yard which manufactured 25,000 bricks a day.\(^{59}\) Sullivan operated the yard until about 1890 at which time he sold to Charles Smith, who continued the operation until the early 1900's when the demand for soft brick declined.\(^{60}\) During its existence, the brick factory proved to be a valuable asset to the growth of Missouri Valley.

From 1885 to 1900, Missouri Valley experienced a considerable rise in population. The population jumped from 2,304 in 1885 to over 4,000 in 1900 with much of this increase

\(^{55}\)Missouri Valley Times, May 7, 1880.
^{56}Ibid., April 8, 1881.
^{57}Ibid., August 24, 1883.
^{58}Ibid., December 28, 1883.
^{59}Ibid., July 20, 1883.
^{60}Interview with Charles Smith, Missouri Valley, Iowa, June 1, 1967. Hard brick could not be made from the clay found in the hills around Missouri Valley.
resulting from the extension of the city limits. In 1885, the citizens voted to extend the city boundaries to include portions of sections fifteen and sixteen, located just south of the railroad yards on the south side of town. The addition of this area increased the population by several hundred. Because the city had reached a population of at least 2,000 in 1885 by virtue of this annexation, Missouri Valley was classified as a second class city according to the Code of Iowa. The town's population was again increased in 1892 when sixty lots near the fairgrounds were annexed. By 1895, the city boundaries consisted of all or the greater part of four sections of land.

About the turn of the century, Missouri Valley was a picture of prosperity and activity. A survey revealed that in one year's time at least $80,425 had been put into new buildings and improvements. In spite of the good economic prospects in Missouri Valley in the 1880's and 1890's, speculation in land and real estate was rare. Moreover, speculative

62City Council Record Books, July 7, 1885.
63Ibid., December 12, 1885.
64Missouri Valley Times, April 12, 1892.
66Missouri Valley Times, February 13, 1886.
investments throughout the community's history were few. On occasion, the local newspaper reported rather fantastic real estate price jumps. But, appropriately, these reports were made about the same time Missouri Valley was competing for the county seat. The depression of 1893 for a time checked prosperity. Farmers protested the low prices they were receiving for their products and occasionally refused to sell to local businesses. Low farm income also undoubtedly affected retail sales of local businessmen. Nevertheless, the economic condition of Missouri Valley was surprisingly good during the years following 1893. Heavy mortgages accumulated prior to 1893 were not a problem because the mortgage value of property in Missouri Valley was rather low during the 1880's. Mortgages never exceeded more than one-half the value of a building.67 Despite the depression, Missouri Valley experienced business growth rather than decline during the 1890's.68 By 1899 it may be assumed that retail business conditions were very good as evidenced by the large number of teams of horses seen daily on the streets. On one average day a citizen counted 202 teams of horses on only six streets in the city.69

67 Interview with Fred. E. Egan, Missouri Valley, Iowa, December 27, 1967. Former city attorney.
68 See Chapter IV.
69 Missouri Valley Times, April 1, 1899.
Anyone moving into the city would have found it difficult to find housing. A report showed there to be no empty houses, "... a condition of things that has not existed before in several years..."\(^7^0\)

Missouri Valley, at the turn of the century, indicated every reason for optimism.

\(^7^0\)Ibid., September 19, 1899.
Chapter III

RAILROADS AND MISSOURI VALLEY

The growth of all towns is prompted by conditions and circumstances which surround them. Where commerce converges, where mining or industry exists and where agricultural advantages are prevalent, one will find a growing community. Although these factors must be taken into consideration in the growth of Missouri Valley, one must give the greatest credit to the railroads. Much credit should also be given to the railroad builder, John I. Blair, who helped promote the three railroads that converged in Missouri Valley: the Cedar Rapids and Missouri River Railroad, later known as the Chicago and Northwestern, of which Blair was president, the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad which Blair helped to organize, and the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad which Blair helped to complete after its financial instability in 1869.¹ The Blair Town and Lot Company also platted Missouri Valley in 1867.²


²The Harrisonian, July 3, 1868. See page 11 of Chapter II.
Shortly after noon on December 25, 1866, the first freight train passed through Missouri Valley over the Chicago and Northwestern rails on its way to Council Bluffs. By 1868, the Sioux City and Pacific and the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroads also had connections with Missouri Valley. The Sioux City and Pacific started at Missouri Valley and extended west to Fremont, Nebraska. Another branch line went north to Sioux City on the Iowa side of the Missouri River. The Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad extended business into Missouri Valley by means of the Sioux City and Pacific rails that ran from Fremont, Nebraska.

In just a few years these railroads had given Missouri Valley contacts with thousands and thousands of acres of farm land, grazing land and land rich with minerals. The Chicago and Northwestern gave Missouri Valley direct communication with the burgeoning city of Chicago while the Sioux City and Pacific reached to the northeast with connections to Minneapolis and St. Paul. At the same time, the Elkhorn road was extending westward into Nebraska soon to tap the gold and

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3 Missouri Valley Times, December 3, 1895.

4 Robert J. Casey and W. A. S. Douglas, Pioneer Railroad: The Story of the Chicago and Northwestern System, (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1948), p. 126. For a time, the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad operated the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad. Before the bridge was built in 1883, cars and engines were ferried across the Missouri River in the spring and summer and in the winter temporary rails were laid on the ice.
silver regions and some of the best stock country in the United States.\(^5\)

In 1867, there was not enough business in Missouri Valley to justify a merchant stocking a good supply of wares.\(^6\) However, by 1870, merchants were traveling east to purchase goods for shipment back to their business establishments. The people of Missouri Valley were not wanting for the finer things in life; they had access to them.\(^7\) So good were the passenger train facilities that by 1888 a person could go from Missouri Valley to Council Bluffs twelve times a day.\(^8\) Also, the Sioux City and Pacific road had made new arrangements whereby a person could travel all the way to St. Paul, Minnesota, without changing cars. Likewise, the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad ran connecting passenger service to Missouri Valley.\(^3\) By 1896, twenty-five passenger trains went in and out of Missouri Valley daily.\(^10\)

\(^5\)Missouri Valley Times, June 20, 1901. These three lines were the only ones to ever come into Missouri Valley. All of these lines became property of the Chicago and Northwestern system in the 1880's.

\(^6\)The Harrisonian, June 10, 1870.

\(^7\)Ibid., April 1, 1870.

\(^8\)Missouri Valley Times, September 6, 1888.

\(^9\)Ibid., September 10, 1880.

\(^10\)Harrison County News, (Missouri Valley, Iowa), January 3, 1896.
The railroads proved a considerable advantage to local farmers. With direct access to Chicago, Omaha, Council Bluffs, and Sioux City, farmers could take best advantage of market prices.\textsuperscript{11} Shipping of cattle was facilitated by the stock yards, which were owned by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. The first stock yards erected in 1867 were located on lower Sixth Street adjacent to the railroad. They were later moved to the east end of the city. Besides serving local farmers, the yards were a feeding point for Western cattle and sheep on their way to Chicago.\textsuperscript{12} During one six-week period in 1891, 2,800 car loads of Western cattle passed through the Missouri Valley stock yards.\textsuperscript{13}

The railroad further proved to be an asset to the local farmers when in 1877 the Chicago and Northwestern started to run a weekly refrigerator car from Missouri Valley to Chicago. Butter and eggs could then reach Chicago markets without damage to their quality.\textsuperscript{14} Moreover, due to the


\textsuperscript{12}Interview with H. E. Alexander, Missouri Valley, Iowa, June 17, 1967, local businessman whose father was employed in the stockyards.

\textsuperscript{13}Missouri Valley Times, October 1, 1891.

\textsuperscript{14}Ibid., June 1, 1877.
flooding of the Willow and Boyer Rivers in 1902, when many area farmers lost their crops, the Chicago and Northwestern hired a large number of farmers to work on the section. 15

The railroad undoubtedly brought people to Missouri Valley who knew that there would be an outlet for farm products and who felt assured of transportation for manufactured goods and other products. Of most significance to Missouri Valley, however, were the railroad men who lived in, worked in, and became citizens of the city. 16 Missouri Valley was headquarters for the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad and also was the site of the road's machine and repair shops. 17 The shops began work in 1869 employing about fifteen men. 18 Coaches were built and painted, boilers were made and repaired and engines were completely overhauled. 19

With the extension of the railroads, the businesses

15 Ibid., August 4, 1902.

16 The motives of people in settling in a specific area cannot be set forth with complete assurance but one must surely assume that the railroads had a large part in determining where people would settle. Refer to Chapter IV, p. 49.

17 Missouri Valley Times, April 11, 1879.


19 Missouri Valley Times, April 30, 1891.
of the city prospered. As more men were hired in the shops, the population of the city grew. Moreover, railroad employees spent a great portion of their payroll in Missouri Valley.\textsuperscript{20}

By 1880, the Sioux City and Pacific shops were giving employment to over one hundred men.\textsuperscript{21}

Upon hearing that a railroad bridge was going to be built across the Missouri River, the people of Missouri Valley became somewhat fearful that construction would take place at a position that would cause the removal of the railroad shops from the city. Therefore, in 1882 construction of houses and business establishments in Missouri Valley came to a standstill.\textsuperscript{22} However, the citizenry felt that if the Sioux City and Pacific bridge would cross the river at Blair, Nebraska, the trains on the Chicago and Northwestern would cross the bridge and run into Omaha over their new purchase on the Nebraska side. They thought that this would make Missouri Valley the first division out of Omaha for the Chicago and Northwestern and make the shops of that road a virtual necessity at Missouri Valley. Some citizens expected that building the bridge at Blair would add fifty more families to the city's

\textsuperscript{20}D. M. Harris, "A Retrospective View of Missouri Valley, Iowa," \textit{Ibid.}, February 24, 1900.
\textsuperscript{21}\textit{Ibid.}, May 7, 1880.
\textsuperscript{22}\textit{Ibid.}, April 7, 1882.
population. 23 With the organization of the Missouri Valley and Blair Railway and Bridge Company in 1883 by John I. Blair, the question of the location of the bridge across the Missouri River at Blair was settled. 24 Almost immediately, business in Missouri Valley began to flourish and people began to inquire about the price of lots. In two weeks the value of town property rose about ten per cent. In a little over two months, property was worth about twenty-five per cent more. In approximately thirty days, there were thirty-six lots purchased in the city. 25

During the latter 1880's the addition of new railroad shops of the Sioux City and Pacific line brought many new families to the city. By 1891 the round house, machine shops, repair, blacksmith, paint and other shops were employing approximately three hundred and fifty men with a payroll of $35,000 a month. Since at least one half of these men had families, Missouri Valley's population was boosted considerably. 26

The payroll of these railroad workers should not be

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23 Ibid, February 9, 1893.

24 Ruth A. Gallaher and William J. Peterson (eds.), "Namer of Towns," The Palimpsest (Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1948), Vol. XXIX, No. VI, p. 166. The Missouri Valley and Blair Railway and Bridge Company were organized by John Blair. The bridge was built to facilitate the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad. See also U.S. Statutes at Large, XXII, pp. 113-114.

25 Missouri Valley Times, April 7, 1882.

26 Ibid., May 14, 1891.
overlooked as an asset to the city. By 1923, with the rail-
road shops still expanding, over five hundred men were col-
lecting a total of about $60,000 a month.27 As the local pa-
per once put it, "... Missouri Valley may look for an ex-
ceedingly lively business... for when the railroad company
does a big business all are benefited by it..."28

The railroad had a moderate influence on community
government. This influence was not direct, but rather flowed
from the civic belief that the railroad was an economic neces-
sity. The city government, as well as the general population,
did not underestimate the economic asset of having the rail-
road shops located in their town. This general support for
the railroads contributed to the success that the rail compa-
nies had in getting the city to vacate various streets. In
total, the city vacated twenty-seven blocks for railroad
use.29 The only favors extended back to the city were in the
form of employment in the railroad shops. Seemingly, this
was a most bountiful reward.

Railroad contributions to Missouri Valley were

27Ibid., October 25, 1923.
28Ibid., August 4, 1898.
29Interview with William H. Jones, Missouri Valley,
Iowa, 1968. When streets were vacated, the city merely dis-
continued these through streets at a point at which the rail-
road wanted the land. There is no evidence the railroads in-
fluenced real estate assessments.
formally recognized in 1900 when the City Council adopted a preamble and resolution pertaining to the Chicago and Northwestern and the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroads. These railroads were "... regarded by the citizens of Missouri Valley as its chief industry and main sustainance [sic] ..." The resolutions extended to the railroads the best wishes of the city, stating that Missouri Valley would give special reductions in rents and taxes on any new improvements and that the Council would consider any request of the railroads in a liberal manner.31

Cooperation between the city and the railroads was often important. When it became evident that the railroads needed fire protection, the city agreed to extend its water mains across the yards. Expenses were shared. The railroads agreed to dig the trenches and ship the piping free of charge.32 On another occasion, the Chicago and Northwestern immediately installed electric lights on a number of crossings after the Council had requested this safety measure.33

Being a railroad town, Missouri Valley had a large transit patronage. More than one weary traveler was refused

30Missouri Valley Times, April 10, 1900.
31Ibid.
32Ibid., November 22, 1898.
33Ibid., December 23, 1897.
accommodations because of the sometimes inadequate hotel and lodging facilities. The guests were sometimes informed they would have to continue on to Council Bluffs or Omaha. The city also played host to dignitaries, usually only during the time it took to change trains, however. Theodore Roosevelt and Howard Taft were greeted at the depot as their trains passed.

Not all travelers through the city were of such good reputations. Missouri Valley had numerous problems with tramps and, on occasion, a fight developed in the railroad yards among these vagrants. Coupling pins and other hand instruments were used as weapons when attacking railroad workers or town citizens. It was not uncommon for the city jail to house from two to six tramps each night.

Since 1869, when the railroad shops located in Missouri Valley, the local citizens had feared their removal on the presumption that the loss would be a disaster to the city. The community's fear was not altogether baseless. Whenever railroad strikes occurred or when Missouri Valley shop men were temporarily laid off, the financial loss to the city

34 Ibid., November 22, 1901.
36 Ibid., April 25, 1900.
37 Ibid., February 20, 1904.
seemed to be measurable. During the Pullman Strike of 1893 the estimated loss to Missouri Valley was about $800.\textsuperscript{38} Discounting, however, the effects of the strike on the community, a non-political Industrial League was formed which drew up resolutions labeling George M. Pullman as despotic and un-American. Many of Missouri Valley's railroad shopmen were members of this League.\textsuperscript{39} The Missouri Valley Times' comment on a brief layoff of shopworkers in 1908 was that "... business in town certainly showed the effects."\textsuperscript{40}

The period following the First World War was a period of industrial unrest and strikes in many major industries were frequent. This unrest was caused by the return of millions of veterans from military service, cheap labor from abroad, cheap products from abroad and the cancellation of war-time contracts. Railroad wages, by the same token, lagged behind those of other large labor groups.\textsuperscript{41} In 1922, a national railroad strike occurred lasting two and a half months which had significant effects on Missouri Valley. During the strike, one hundred and twelve farmers were employed as scabs

\textsuperscript{38}\textit{Ibid.}, July 12, 1894.  
\textsuperscript{39}\textit{Ibid.}  
\textsuperscript{40}\textit{Ibid.}, June 10, 1908.  
which resulted in much ill feeling between Railroad Union workers and the strikebreakers. Tensions became so great that several United States marshals had to be called into the town.\footnote{42} Moreover, this strike ushered in a period in which there was a gradual reduction in the number of shopworkers employed in Missouri Valley. The railroad shops which had at one time employed over five hundred men employed only about fifty in 1931.\footnote{43} The unemployed moved to other localities such as Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Fremont, Nebraska.\footnote{44}

Greater steam power, longer freight hauls and the Depression were the causes for the removal of the railroad shops from Missouri Valley.\footnote{45} Their removal, however, did not have the feared results on the city.\footnote{46} Although the population was affected and the loss of over $40,000 of payroll to local business was not easily accepted, Missouri

\footnote{42}{"History of Missouri Valley, Iowa," (Paper prepared by sophomore English class, Missouri Valley High School, Missouri Valley, Iowa, April 30, 1958)(in the Missouri Valley Library). Although most railroad workers in Missouri Valley belonged to unions, local union strength was very weak.}

\footnote{43}{Nonpareil (Council Bluffs, Iowa), December 24, 1933.}

\footnote{44}{Missouri Valley Times, July 11, 1931.}

\footnote{45}{William H. Jones, "Facts About Missouri Valley," Paper written for personal use, Missouri Valley, Iowa, (in his possession).}

\footnote{46}{Interview with Frank Carpenter, Missouri Valley, Iowa, May 28, 1967, water commissioner in the late 1920's.}
Valley, located in the heart of some of the best farm land in the United States, was to be sustained.
Chapter IV

COMMERCIAL AND CIVIC GROWTH OF MISSOURI VALLEY

Of considerable importance to the growth of Missouri Valley was the rich farm land surrounding the town. Early settlers found the soil to be conducive to a wide variety of crops such as corn, soybeans, wheat and various hay and pasture grasses. Also, feeder and stock cattle were raised extensively.¹

Farming on the Boyer and Missouri River bottoms was particularly attractive. During the early years, however, much of this land was frequently wet and marshy. In order to avoid land that would be too wet to farm during rainy seasons, farmers settled on lighter soil distinguished by a grass known as blue stem. Consequently, the river bottom lands were settled in an irregular manner.²


²Interview with J. M. McIntosh, Missouri Valley, Iowa, June 15, 1967, a farmer near Missouri Valley. J. M. McIntosh's grandfather was one of the first to settle on the present site of Missouri Valley.
Nothing of importance was accomplished in draining the river bottoms until about 1910. At this time, some improvement was made with the digging of the Elm Creek, Boyer and Willow drainage ditches. However, the ditches did not solve the whole problem. Because water from the hills carried silt into the ditches and filled them, a system of terracing was developed by individual farmers. The drainage problem was further alleviated when dams were built on the upper Missouri River lowering the water level in the valley.3

Despite the sometimes oversaturated soil of the bottom lands, the farmers of the area prospered. The amount of grain shipped from Missouri Valley in 1880 amounted to approximately half a million bushels. Moreover, farmers fed over half a million bushels to livestock every season. During the winter of 1879, about 5,000 head of cattle were fattened within a radius of seven miles of Missouri Valley.4 The state census of 1885 revealed that Harrison County ranked third in corn production among all counties in Iowa with an average of thirty-six bushels per acre.5 Some fields in the bottom lands

3Ibid.

4Missouri Valley Times, May 7, 1880.

produced as high as one hundred bushels per acre. The prosperous condition of the farmers was also indicated by growing sales of farm machinery.

The merchants of the city never underestimated the relationship of the farmers to profitable business. Commenting on the scarcity of farmers on the streets of Missouri Valley, the local newspaper stated, "Our merchants grumble at the dull times these days, but the fewer farmers there are in the city now the more there will be next fall, and the more money there will be."  

The agricultural importance of the area was directly associated with the establishment of a large number of businesses in Missouri Valley. Among the earliest and most significant was the Valley Mill established by S. L. Berkley in 1877 in the northwestern part of the city. The mill, with a storing capacity of 5,000 bushels, was located on a well-traveled road so that it would be convenient for local farmers. Two years later the business burned, but by 1880 it

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6Missouri Valley Times, March 17, 1892.

7Ibid., March 10, 1898.

8Ibid., July 20, 1893. Although this situation occurred during the Panic of 1893, it also represented a normal seasonal situation.

9Ibid., October 19, 1877.
was again in full production at an even larger capacity.10
The mill bought grain locally as well as from regional areas
for the production of corn meal and several brands of flour.11
There were times when the farmers refused to sell their grain
at the low price offered which led to occasional shut-downs
at the mill.12 The mill burned again in 1898 at a loss of
$25,000, this being the most costly fire in Missouri Valley
in twenty-five years. A. Edgecomb and C. L. Deur, two local
businessmen, were the proprietors of a new mill established
a short time later.13
Throughout its history, the Valley Mill had mainly
a local market. Records show, however, that the mill at one
time was turning out about 250 bushels of corn meal a day on
a contract from a firm in St. Paul, Minnesota.14 Moreover,
a contract for 80,000 pounds of flour was made with the Royal
Bakers Association of Hull, England.15
By 1916, the Valley Mill was one of the principal
manufacturing plants of the city. The mill bought at least
100,000 bushels of wheat annually as well as large amounts

10Ibid., August 13, 1880.
11Interview with H. E. Alexander, Missouri Valley,
Iowa, June 17, 1967, one of the first employees of the Updike
Grain Elevator, established in Missouri Valley at the turn
of the century.
12Missouri Valley Times, February 2, 1893.
13Ibid., December 27, 1898. 14Ibid., February 8, 1878.
15Ibid., March 1, 1894.
of corn, oats, rye, and barley. Its output per year was more than 25,000 barrels of flour and, in addition to what was used in nearby areas, the mill shipped as high as 250 carloads of flour to other regions.  

Another result of agriculture in the Missouri Valley area was the grain elevator business. In 1898, J. Kellogg and C. L. Deur began operating an elevator with a storage capacity of 16,000 bushels of grain. To make shipping easier, railroad spurs were constructed through the building. In 1901, an elevator with a 100,000 bushel capacity was constructed by the Updike Grain Company of Omaha, Nebraska. Hoping to encourage this business, the City Council passed a resolution exempting the Updike Company from taxation for ten years. During the first five years of its operation, the capital stock of this elevator increased from $300,000 to one million dollars. By providing accessible markets, these establishments were a boon to the rural economy and to the community.

During the first two decades of the 1900's, other agriculturally-oriented businesses were established in

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16Ibid., December 27, 1916. The number of people employed cannot be specifically determined.

17Ibid., December 16, 1897.

18City Council Record Books, March 19, 1901.

19Missouri Valley Times, December 4, 1905.
Missouri Valley. Due to an epidemic of hog cholera in south-western Iowa and eastern Nebraska, the "BT" Hog Cholera Cure Company, formerly of Findlay, Ohio, located its western office in Missouri Valley. The good railroad facilities of the town were also a principal motive for this location. 20

Due to the prospects of a good sugar beet crop on the river bottom, articles of incorporation were filed in 1901 for the Missouri Valley Sugar Beet Company. Expectations were that the worth of this corporation would exceed one million dollars; however, this processing company soon failed because of lack of sufficient funds. 21 In 1903, H. A. Darting opened a similar processing business. His canning factory used the "Process-Kettle" method in preparing apples and tomatoes for market. Although the factory had a daily capacity of 2,500 cans, actual production was never very large and the company soon failed. 22

Of commercial importance to farmers and the community were the creameries. The Missouri Valley Butter and Cheese Company was started in 1897 with a capital stock of $4,800. The business had a capacity of 1,400 pounds of milk and a daily average of 600 pounds of butter. 23 About three

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20 Ibid., April 18, 1900.
21 Ibid., June 4, 1901.
22 Ibid., August 29, 1904.
23 Ibid.; September 16, 1897.
decades later, the Gillette Sanitary Dairy and Creamery was organized and met with immediate success. During the second year of operation, the company sold approximately 25,000 pounds of butter. A $100,000 Cold Storage Company was established in 1912. This company manufactured, stored, and sold ice. The company also had capacity for storing produce and other food products. During some months, the company stored as high as 4,500 cases of eggs. Farmers also benefited when in 1928 C. Edwin Holmes, manager of the Iowa Master Breeders Hatcheries, started a hatchery in Missouri Valley. The capacity of the incubators was 52,000 eggs per setting.

Indicating the growing importance of the farmers in the Missouri Valley area was the establishment of the first rural free delivery in 1900. The route was twenty-two miles long and took in thirty-eight square miles. It served 117 homes and a population of 585. By 1915, four rural free delivery routes had been established.

Missouri Valley's railroad facilities encouraged the

24Ibid., April 22, 1927.
25Ibid., December 19, 1912.
26Ibid., June 15, 1914.
27Ibid., September 27, 1928.
28Ibid., December 6, 1900.
location of some business establishments and industries. During the 1890's the A. B. Sherwood Carriage Manufacturing Company and the Atlas Manufacturing Company were established. The Carriage Company, employing a dozen men, made and repaired buggies while the Atlas Company, with a capital stock of $5,000, manufactured Atlas bed springs. Both of these companies were very small and survived only a short time.\(^3\)

During the first decade of the twentieth century, several other businesses located in Missouri Valley. In 1900, the Northwestern Tobacco Company was organized with a capital of $10,000. This company processed various brands of tobacco which were in turn sold regionally through jobbers. The grade of tobacco produced was similar to the "Mail Pouch" or "Polar Bear" brands.\(^3\) At about the same time, the first wholesale establishment came to Missouri Valley from Lincoln, Nebraska. J. Jensen and Son, wholesale dealers in confectionary, cigars and tobacco, catered to the trade of Iowa, Nebraska, and the Dakotas. This business, however, was short-lived as the establishment failed in 1901.\(^3\)

The first decade of the 1900's also witnessed the organization of the Missouri Valley Antiseptic Paper Casket Company. The business was the work of men from Des Moines, Missouri Valley Times, June 5, 1890, and August 25, 1899.

\(^3\)Ibid., December 4, 1900.

\(^3\)Ibid., March 15, 1900.
Iowa, who felt that Missouri Valley offered excellent shipping facilities. Caskets were made from paper which was pressed under great force to form a substance that was supposed to outlast wood. The Missouri Valley company was the first attempt to manufacture the product on a large scale. This company was so successful that within one year orders were coming in at a rapid pace. In one three-day period, twenty-one caskets were shipped. The company's prosperity prompted Council Bluffs to offer free land and other generous propositions if it would relocate there. Atlantic and Sioux City, Iowa, also vied for the location of the company. These generous offers plus a lack of sufficient capital in Missouri Valley soon prompted relocation.

Although Missouri Valley was never to be a manufacturing town, other small manufacturing interests did locate in the community during the twenties and thirties. However, their fate was also inevitable due to inadequate financial backing which encouraged location in more heavily populated communities.

33 Ibid., November 15, 1902.
34 Ibid., November 19, 1904.
35 Ibid., January 1, 1903.
36 Ibid., January 16, 1903.
37 Ibid., November 19, 1904.
Of considerable importance to the development of every community are the local banking facilities. The first bank in Missouri Valley and Harrison County was a private bank established in 1859 under the name of Pelan and Mickel. The partnership was soon dissolved and on January 1, 1873, another private bank was established called William Pelan and Company. M. Holbrook purchased the bank in 1879 and continued it as a private business until 1889 when Holbrook, in partnership with N. W. Coalbaugh and W. J. Burke, organized the bank under the name of the Valley Bank. In 1912, the bank was again re-organized as the Valley Savings Bank. The second bank established in the community was the First National Bank, organized on May 20, 1884 by O. B. Dutton, with a capital of $50,000. The last bank to be organized in Missouri Valley was the State Savings Bank which started doing business in 1898. These banks helped to provide the financial leadership that was essential to the steady growth of the town.

Several other major business enterprises were directly associated with Missouri Valley's development. In 1880,

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38 Hunt, pp. 165-166.
39 Nonpareil (Council Bluffs, Iowa) June 22, 1959. Local stockholders and directors were L. M. Kellogg, Dr. Robert McGavern, M. Blenkiron, E. W. Hibbard.
40 Hunt, p. 166. Principal organizers were W. A. Smith, Fred Schwertley, H. B. Cox, W. R. Cox and W. J. Burke.
the Workingmen's Building and Loan Association was incorporated. The object of the association was to assist its members in procuring real property by loaning them funds. Each stockholder could receive loans of not more than $100 per share.\footnote{Missouri Valley Times, October 1, 1880.}

During the late 1880's, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company, which then owned a great deal of land on the west side of the city, was asked to sell the land in lots for building purposes. The railroad refused the request unless the whole area was purchased. For this reason, the Missouri Valley Real Estate and Improvement Company was formed. The organization had a capital of $20,000 and was made up of twenty-two local businessmen. In 1889, 165 lots were purchased, surveyed, improved and sold. No more than three lots were sold to any one person.\footnote{Ibid., June 13, 1889.}

Probably more than anyone, businessmen have a keen interest in improving their city. It can be assumed that better facilities usually encourage more patronage and, therefore, community prosperity. This assumption may be considered as the principal reason for the organization of the Missouri Valley Commercial Club in 1901.\footnote{Ibid., February 1, 1910.} During its existence, the club encouraged manufacturing firms to locate in the city, enthusiastically supported the construction of drainage ditches and raised large sums of money to repair various roads.
adjacent to the city. This organization also stimulated the movement for a city sewage system, donated money for the extension of the Lincoln Highway through the city, agitated for the elimination of hazardous street corners, and was instrumental in getting the City Council to approve permanent pavement in Missouri Valley. Businessmen of Missouri Valley also joined in 1902 with businessmen of Carroll, Denison, Harlan, Ida Grove, Mapleton and Woodbine, Iowa, in forming the Iowa Brokerage Company. B. H. Gavitt was president and general manager of this organization formed to purchase retail merchandise by the carload. The purpose was to obtain goods as cheaply as possible and thereby encourage local patronage. The first order placed was for $12,000 worth of sugar, flour, coffee, salt, and other grocery items. Two years later, the Retail Grocers Association was organized. The aims of this organization were to form a united effort in purchasing goods, to oppose state legislation detrimental to their interests, to disseminate trade information, and to improve

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44 Ibid., February 5, 1913.
45 Ibid., May 14, 1902. The only advantage this retail company had over other retail stores was that it could buy in quantity and, therefore, sell more cheaply.
46 Ibid., June 13, 1902.
business methods. Another improvement of local business conditions was a cooperative delivery system. Under this plan, the town was divided into four districts and delivery to the customers was made in each district four times a day.

The women of Missouri Valley showed interest in their city with the organization of the Ladies Improvement League. The League concerned itself with city beautification. Trees and flowers were planted and cleanup days organized. One significant and unique achievement of the Improvement League was the organization of an annual Dandelion Day. Although the bounty of one cent per pound of dandelions was not very lucrative, the citizens met the challenge and cleaned the city of the weed.

The growth of Missouri Valley's public utilities and facilities was not only an indication of the city's development but was a further impetus to its progress. In 1888, the City Council voted to provide the city with electric lighting.

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47 Ibid., May 24, 1904.
48 Ibid., October 4, 1915.
49 Ibid., May 1, 1906.
50 Ibid., May 3, 1907.
51 City Council Record Books, February 7, 1888.
This vote was significant because electricity for lighting purposes had come into widespread use only within the past eight years.\textsuperscript{52} In a short time, a joint stock company, made up of local citizens, was formed with a capital of $10,000. The Missouri Valley Electric Light Company was given the franchise by the City Council in 1888 and almost immediately lighting facilities were provided for the community. The company initiated service with 300 lights using electricity produced by a thirty-five horse power engine. By the end of the first year of operation, lights had been installed in most business establishments.\textsuperscript{53} With the demand for more and better lighting increasing rapidly, the company was compelled to install a system of dynamos in 1894. At this time, 600 incandescent and thirty arc lights were being used.\textsuperscript{54} Although the Missouri Valley Electric Light Company was sold to the Cedar Rapids Light Company in 1906, the original name was retained and the company continued to be privately controlled.\textsuperscript{55} By 1910, Missouri Valley, still having only

\textsuperscript{52}Hunt, p. 365.

\textsuperscript{53}Missouri Valley Times, June 13, 1889. The City Council did not set up specific requirements that had to be met by the company.

\textsuperscript{54}Ibid., January 25, 1894.

\textsuperscript{55}Ibid., April 13, 1906.
minimal lighting facilities, distributed 150 tungsten street lights of forty candle power each throughout the business and residential areas of the city. According to the local newspaper, the new lights created much excitement and business increased considerably.56 By 1916, the Missouri Valley Electric Light Company was probably the city's largest public utility also serving the neighboring towns of Logan, Woodbine, and Dunlap.57

Missouri Valley's water system was established in 1889 when the electorate voted $15,000 in bonds for its construction. However, estimates of the cost of the planned system exceeded this sum.58 Nevertheless, the City Council decided to proceed with construction using available funds even though the contemplated plans could not be entirely fulfilled. Extension of the water system would come at a later time.59 By 1890, one and one-half miles of main had been laid, thirteen hydrants had been installed and a 200,000 gallon reservoir had been constructed.60 The original plant was improved in 1891 and enlarged in 1913 and 1914.61

56Ibid., April 11, 1910. 57Ibid., December 27, 1916. 58Ibid., August 8, 1889. 59Ibid., August 8, 1889. 60Ibid., January 23, 1890. 61Hunt, p. 364.
Missouri Valley had a problem with the source of their water. Water samples sent into the State Health Department occasionally came back marked "Unsanitary." New wells were tapped with the same results. In 1926, over twenty-five per cent of the voters petitioned the City Council for the improvement of the city water system and the installation of a water filtering plant.\textsuperscript{62} This plant, started in 1929 and completed in 1931, corrected the problem of impure water.\textsuperscript{63}

Citizens of the town were benefited when C. H. Deur and A. Edgecomb pioneered a heating system in 1898 for business and home use. This system was used in only three other cities in the United States.\textsuperscript{64} The heating plant operated with the exhaust steam from two 150 horse-power engines which were used to create the energy for the light and power plant. During the coldest months, boilers were used as a supplement, with the hot water being carried throughout the city in street mains. By 1902, the plant was supplying heat to over eighty homes.\textsuperscript{65}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{62}City Council Record Books, September 21, 1926. No recognizable health problems arose because of the water.
\item \textsuperscript{63}Interview with Frank Carpenter, Missouri Valley, Iowa, May 28, 1967, water commissioner in the late 1920's.
\item \textsuperscript{64}Missouri Valley Times, August 19, 1898.
\item \textsuperscript{65}Ibid., November 18, 1902.
\end{itemize}
In 1880, the first telephone was installed in Missouri Valley in the office of the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad Company. A short time later, several telephones were installed by E. F. Upthaggrave, a local businessman. This means of communication advanced rapidly. By 1885, telephone lines connected Missouri Valley with towns thirty miles to the east. Moreover, by 1895, telephone communication was established as far west as Hastings, Nebraska, and eastward to Marshalltown, Iowa. By the turn of the century, farmers in the Missouri Valley area were starting to benefit from the telephone. Between 1901 and 1903, twenty-one rural lines were placed in operation. Telephone service was greatly improved in 1911 with the supplanting of the one-wire grounded system with the new metallic two-wire system.

Early in the twentieth century, Missouri Valley showed interest in installing a gas system. Although a gas ordinance was passed in 1908, it was not until 1928 that a gas franchise was given to the Blair Gas Company. The contract called for a complete installation of gas facilities.

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66Ibid., May 13, 1880.
67Ibid., June 4, 1880.
68Ibid., August 8, 1895.
69Ibid., April 1, 1903.
70Ibid., January 21, 1911. Service was rendered by the Iowa Telephone Company.
within one year; however, the Blair Company failed to do this.71 Nothing further was done until 1930 when the Central States Electric Company was granted a twenty-five year gas franchise.72

The fire department was a facility which affected measurably the safety and welfare of the community. The first fire fighting equipment was a bucket brigade, but this system proved to be very ineffective when a large portion of the business area burned in 1872. Acknowledging the deficiency in fire fighting equipment and organization, in 1874 the citizens organized Fire Rescue Company Number One.73 The City Council was immediately petitioned for new equipment. The Council complied and purchased a hand engine, hoses and ladders. Wells were dug at various street corners.74 Much confusion occurred among the firemen the first time the equipment was used. Upon hearing the alarm, many of the firemen ran to the burning building before going to the station house for equipment.75 Because of the inability of one fire

71Ibid., August 15, 1928. 72Ibid., March 5, 1930.
73Hunt, p. 365.
74Missouri Valley Times, November 2, 1907.
75Ibid., August 17, 1877.
company to handle the needs of the growing town, Fire Rescue Company Number Two was organized in 1890. The two companies were active until 1899, at which time a fire team and wagon were purchased.76

This same year, Missouri Valley hosted the Iowa State Volunteer Firemen Association's annual tournament. Among the towns represented were Council Bluffs, Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown, LeMars, Sheldon, Marion, Jefferson, and Audubon. The city went all out in its preparations—lights were added to Erie Street, decorations were erected and a large parade was planned. This tournament was attended by 1,021 firemen who competed in various ladder and hose cart races. Missouri Valley's team made an excellent showing.77 Also, in 1899, a new fire alarm system was installed. Alarm boxes, connecting the electrical circuits with the station, were distributed throughout the city. This system made it easier for firemen to locate the fire.78 By 1918, the fire team and wagon were outdated and the city purchased an American LaFrance fire engine which served until 1936.79


77Missouri Valley Times, May 8, 1899.

78Ibid., May 8, 1899.

A significant factor in the city's growth was the improvement of the streets and roads in and around Missouri Valley. Due to the frequent heavy rains and flooding in the lowlands, roads leading into the city were often in bad condition and farmers were frequently unable to get into town. Missouri Valley's businessmen also felt the effects of this condition; therefore farmers and businessmen spent considerable time filling holes in the roads and building dikes. In order to alleviate the cost of road construction, businessmen would donate money and the City Council would appropriate funds to add to the money the farmers could raise. This system sufficed until modern grading procedures were instituted.

In 1916, some of the effects of modern road building were experienced with the completion of the Lincoln Highway east of Missouri Valley. By 1927, the highway had been paved through the city and extended all the way to Council

80 *Missouri Valley Times*, August 14, 1903.
82 *Ibid.*, April 7, 1903.
Highway improvements such as this were made possible after 1916 with the enactment of Federal legislation providing an expenditure of $75,000,000 for primary road construction throughout the United States. In succeeding years more money was appropriated by the Federal Government. In order to qualify for Federal aid, the state had to match, on a fifty-fifty basis, money received from Washington. In 1929, Highway 75 was completed between Missouri Valley and Sioux City, Iowa. In 1929, with the rerouting of the Lincoln Highway west over the newly-constructed Lincoln Memorial Bridge which spanned the Missouri River, Missouri Valley's location at the crossroads of two important highway networks, Highway 75 and Highway 30, was secure.

Missouri Valley's transportation problems not only involved roads leading into the city, but also streets within its boundaries. Streets were often so muddy that teams of horses and automobiles were unable to use them. The story has been told of a young man who in 1910 was wagered that he would

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84 Ibid., December 12, 1927. On December 12, 1927, this portion of highway was officially opened.


86 Missouri Valley Times, October 27, 1929.

87 Ibid., July 24, 1930. The Lincoln Memorial Bridge is presently known as the Blair Bridge at Blair, Nebraska. The bridge was built by the Nebraska-Iowa Bridge Corporation in 1928 and 1929.
be unable to run up the middle of the main street. This condition was attacked in 1914 when the first brick was laid on the corner of Ninth and Erie Streets. During the year, fourteen blocks of brick pavement were laid. The year 1916 was a significant year for street improvement, with more being done than in any other year in the city's history. Over $100,000 was spent paving the business section of town. During the following six years, street improvement continued at a rapid pace. For the most part, these road improvements were financed by local assessments. However, the Lincoln Highway which followed Erie Street, the main business street in town, was partly financed from the State Primary Road fund. By 1923, the city had constructed approximately twelve miles of pavement and Missouri Valley was losing its frontier appearance.

88 Ibid., March 5, 1910.
89 Interview with H. E. Alexander, Missouri Valley, Iowa, June 17, 1967, a long-time resident of Missouri Valley.
90 Hunt, p. 365.
91 Missouri Valley Times, December 27, 1916.
92 City Council Record Books, September 19, 1922.
93 Ibid., October 25, 1923.
Chapter V
MISSOURI VALLEY AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD

No community is so completely involved with its own development that it cannot recognize its relationship with other parts of the nation and the world. Over the years, the people of Missouri Valley were to show considerable interest in the domestic and international affairs of the United States. Election returns reveal that from the 1870's to 1930 Missouri Valley tended to fit into the mainstream of Midwestern Republicanism. However, there are indications that during the 1870's and 1880's, both Democrats and Republicans showed enough support to win state elections. In the 1875 gubernatorial election, St. John's Township pulled over a 100 vote majority for the Democratic candidate while the county went Republican by about the same number.\(^1\) Moreover, in the 1884 election, St. John's Township gave a majority to the Democrats for all state offices while the county went Republican in every office except governor.\(^2\) A possible explana-

\(^1\) State of Iowa, Census of Iowa: 1875, p. 29. Missouri Valley makes up about two-thirds of the population of St. John's Township. Until 1886, it is rather difficult to analyze the party structure in Missouri Valley because county poll books and official canvasses have been destroyed.

\(^2\) Ibid., 1885, p. 373.
tion for the Democratic party's dominant position in state elections during this period was Missouri Valley's tendency to be anti-prohibition and the state Republican party's tendency to be "dry". This same pattern was followed in the 1892 gubernatorial election when the Republican platform took a strong prohibition stand and the Democratic platform avoided the issue.

In national elections, Missouri Valley usually reflected national feelings on party preference with the exception of the 1892 and 1908 presidential elections, when Benjamin Harrison and William Jennings Bryan won by very narrow margins. Although the community gave Republican presidential candidates significant victories from 1888 to 1904, the Democrats scored victories in 1908, 1912, and 1916. However, the vote in the 1912 election evidently reflected the Republican party split with 126 votes cast for William Howard Taft, 116 for Theodore Roosevelt and 339 for Woodrow Wilson. The 1924 election offers a significant case study in politics in

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3 See pages 20-23 on the prohibition controversy in Missouri Valley.

4 Iowa Official Register, 1892, p. 200, published by order of the General Assembly. See also Iowa Official Register, 1893, p. 149.

5 Ibid., 1909-1910, p. 428.

6 Ibid., 1913-1914, p. 452.
Missouri Valley and also indicates that the local people were attuned to a national trend. With its appeal to the farm-labor elements which predominated in Missouri Valley, the Progressive Party pulled 484 votes while 635 went to Calvin Coolidge and 570 to John W. Davis.\textsuperscript{7} Out of the entire county, the Progressives received 1,674 out of a total vote of 9,914. In consideration of these figures, Missouri Valley voters, representing only 17 per cent of the electorate in Harrison County in the 1924 election, provided over 30 per cent of the Progressive vote.\textsuperscript{8} This factor probably was due to the support of the many railroad workers in the city because the national railroad brotherhoods were strongly in favor of this farm-labor party.\textsuperscript{9} Again the Republicans won the county in the 1928 presidential election giving Herbert Hoover a 136 vote margin over Al Smith.\textsuperscript{10}

Presidential campaigns and elections always created unusual activity and excitement in Missouri Valley. One such election was the Rutherford Hayes-Samuel Tilden contest in 1876. The excitement stirred up among the town voters was even carried into the local school. One early citizen recalled

\textsuperscript{7}Iowa Official Register, 1925-1926, p. 505.
\textsuperscript{8}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{10}Iowa Official Register, 1929-1930, p. 397.
that when school adjourned, the "... democratic boys would come out shouting for Tilden and woe be to the boy who would shout for Hayes. The contest was always exciting, and frequently we could see hand contests between the school boys over politics." ¹¹

During the election years from 1876 to 1880, Missouri Valley voters often formed political clubs to support their favorite candidates. These clubs sought to stimulate voter interest by sponsoring lectures, parades and numerous rallies. In 1880, the Hancock-English and Garfield-Arthur clubs had large memberships. ¹²

The campaign and election in 1896 stirred up an unusual amount of interest in the community. Although heated political discussions were daily occurrences at the town pump, nevertheless, gold and silver men mixed with perfect freedom. ¹³ During the year, the McKinley and Bryan Clubs held frequent rallies and a platform was built on one street corner from which numerous meetings were conducted. ¹⁴ To encourage more support for McKinley, forty-five young men organized a marching club which purchased special suits to use in the ral-

¹¹ D. M. Harris, "A Retrospective View of Missouri Valley, Iowa," Missouri Valley Times, February 27, 1900.
¹² Ibid., August 6, 1880.
¹³ Ibid., July 15, 1896.
¹⁴ Ibid., August 18, 1896.
lies.\textsuperscript{15} Bryan sympathizers also boldly asserted their feel-
ings. Just before boarding the train to take them to the
neighboring town of Logan for a large Bryan rally, approxi-
mately 350 people marched up and down the streets of Missouri
Valley. The march was led by the Missouri Valley Drum Corps
and Brass Band, followed by torch bearers and the Ladies
Marching Club.\textsuperscript{16} In spite of the great efforts by Bryan fol-
lowers, Missouri Valley citizens gave William McKinley a
seventy-five vote margin.\textsuperscript{17}

The 1900 Presidential campaign in Missouri Valley
also sparked considerable enthusiasm. The Republican campaign
was undoubtedly aided by President McKinley's short appearance
in the town late in 1898. About 2,500 people cheered him as
he spoke briefly from the train platform and a number of the
city's Republican leaders boarded the Presidential train and
greeted the President.\textsuperscript{18} Although the Democrats were working
against heavy odds, they carried on a vigorous campaign. On
one occasion, an estimated 500 to 600 torch bearers marched

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{15}Ibid., September 9, 1896.
  \item \textsuperscript{16}Ibid., October 23, 1896.
  \item \textsuperscript{17}Ibid., November 5, 1896.
  \item \textsuperscript{18}Ibid., October 12, 1898.
\end{itemize}
through the streets led by the local Bryan Marching Club and
brass bands from Dunlap, Woodbine, and Logan.\textsuperscript{19} Again the ef-
forts of the Democrats were thwarted as McKinley won by a
margin of 14 per cent of the total popular vote.\textsuperscript{20} This vote,
along with the 1896 victory Missouri Valley gave McKinley,
seemingly indicated that the community's railroad men and
merchants were not greatly enthused about reform politics in
the period prior to 1900. The Democratic party clearly of-
fered reform platforms in 1896 and 1900.\textsuperscript{21}

Minor parties played a part in Missouri Valley's
politics, although the citizens of the community never gave
much support to farmer-dominated third parties. Even though
the Greenback Party pulled 380 out of a total of 4,131 votes
in the county in 1880, it can be assumed that no significant
number came from Missouri Valley.\textsuperscript{22} In the 1884 election, out
of thirty-one votes cast for the Greenback candidate, only one

\textsuperscript{19}\textit{Ibid.}, October 11, 1900.

\textsuperscript{20}\textit{Iowa Official Register}, 1901, p. 308.

\textsuperscript{21}Kirk H. Porter and Donald Bruce Johnson (eds.)
\textit{National Party Platforms, 1840-1956} (Urbana: The University
Press, 1956), pp. 97-129. Precinct records and tax rolls in-
dicate that there was a considerable amount of political,
economic and social homogeneity in the town's population.

\textsuperscript{22}Statistics on the Greenback vote in Missouri Val-
ley are not available until 1884.
came from Missouri Valley. A noteworthy factor, however, is that Harrison County was one of the four counties in Iowa which gave a significant vote to the Greenback candidate for governor in 1886.

The Populist Party had about the same amount of support in the city as the Greenback Party. Although 536 votes were cast in the county for the Populist presidential candidate in 1892, General James B. Weaver of Iowa, Missouri Valley contributed only ten of these. It is apparent that Missouri Valley citizens, although dependent upon the financial condition of the farmers, were not willing to join in the struggle on behalf of the agrarian party. On the other hand, it must be considered that Populist strength lay to the west of Iowa chiefly in the "one crop" farming areas where agricultural distress was most acute. This point is evidenced by the fact that in 1892 General Weaver received only 5 per cent of the total vote cast in Iowa. At the same time, Harrison County gave the Populist candidate 10 per cent of its vote which is

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23 State of Iowa, Census of Iowa: 1885, p. 373.


25 Iowa Official Register, 1893, p. 149.

about the same percentage as the Populists pulled on the national level.27 This would indicate only average support for the party in Harrison County. The Panic of 1893, moreover, did not significantly bolster the party's strength in the county. The diversified farming programs of the area seem to have tempered the impact of this depression on prices. Also noteworthy is that while the Populists were claiming that a lack of available money was a primary factor in causing the Panic, only four banks had closed in Iowa by early 1894.28

The Socialist Party also had a following in Missouri Valley during the first decade of the 1900's. Several speeches were given by traveling lecturers with attendance running as high as 200. The content of the speeches included attacks on jobbers, wholesalers and other middlemen. Socialist orators also declared that the laws and the courts were unjust and manipulated by corporation bosses.29 In the 1904 and 1912 Presidential elections, the Socialist candidate

27 Iowa Official Register, 1893, p. 149.

28 Herman C. Nixon, "The Populist Movement in Iowa," Iowa Journal of History and Politics, Vol. XXIV, p. 103-104. See also Chapter II, p. 26. The Progressive Party had much more strength in the community. This trend was discussed above in connection with major parties.

29 Missouri Valley Times, April 15, 1908.
received about 10 per cent of the community's vote. In the municipal election of 1913, the Socialist candidates for mayor, assessor and councilmen received fifty votes. These votes probably came from discontented railroad workers.

Local politics in Missouri Valley were mainly controlled by Erie Street merchants. A look at the list of mayors reveals that most were prominent businessmen. In addition to directing the town development from municipal offices, these men set the pace for the social, economic, and intellectual development of the community. One of the most noteworthy leaders to the turn of the century was D. M. Harris, editor of the Missouri Valley Times and a staunch Democrat. Harris was elected mayor four times between 1872 and 1900, and his Democratic newspaper undoubtedly helped to make the Democrat party a strong competitor. Most of the City Council members from 1872 to 1930 were also businessmen, with about 20 per cent of the offices held by railroad men and retired farmers.

Politically and economically, the three political wards of the town were very similar. All three divisions contained both high and low tax evaluations and railroad

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31 *Missouri Valley Times*, April 1, 1913.

32 See Appendix IV. Although the records of party affiliations of the mayors are not available, it may be determined from scattered evidence that Democratic and Republican mayors were about equally divided.
workers were dispersed throughout all sections. At the same
time, all of the wards were primarily Republican with the
first ward tending to be more Democratic than the other two. Moreover, there were no ethnic groupings within these areas which was a factor that helped give unity to the town.

While local and national political interest is an inherent result of federalism, interest in the welfare of fellow human beings is a quality of the inner self developed through democratic and spiritual experiences. Missouri Valley citizens revealed their concern for the oppressed on both a national and world scope. The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 prompted local citizens to solicit food and clothing for shipment to the sufferers. Among the items sent were 630 sacks of corn meal, 206 sacks of flour, one box of clothing and one box of meat. A sign was printed on the railroad car signifying that it was from Missouri Valley and bound for San Francisco. Similar action was taken during World War I when a Permanent Relief Commission was organized to relieve oppressed people in Europe. The Farmer’s Club and each of the

33Harrison County, Iowa, Tax lists for 1877, pp. 197-221; 1892, pp. 116-195; 1920, pp. 124-215.

34Iowa Official Register, 1886-1930. See Appendix III for political divisions. Although the largest ethnic group in Missouri Valley was Irish, the only voting behavior that would indicate this group's political significance was the majority Democratic vote delivered in state elections during the latter 1880's.

35Missouri Valley Times, May 11, 1906.
other numerous clubs and societies appointed one member to the Commission. Goods were forwarded to the Committee of Mercy in New York. Moreover, after the war, the city set a quota of one carload of corn to be sent to help the starving children of Russia, Armenia and the Near East. The railroad agreed to ship the corn free of charge.

World War I also brought out the patriotic sentiments of Missouri Valley's citizens. Shortly after the United States declared war, the first public outburst of patriotism occurred in the city. On Wednesday, April 11, 1917, 2,000 people witnessed the raising of two flags in the railroad yards. The Missouri Valley Times described the event, saying that

as the flags were borne aloft by sturdy hands of brave men, the multitude cheered vociferously and the steam screeching from the scores of shop and engine whistles joined in the chorus. It was an occasion never to be forgotten even by the waifs of the street.

Almost immediately, men and boys rushed to join the Army. Thirteen young men signed the roster of the Dodge Light Guards of Council Bluffs and two more joined a Blair, Nebraska,

36 Ibid., July 31, 1916.
37 Ibid., February 11, 1922.
38 Ibid., April 12, 1917.
Within a few days, a local company, called the Missouri Valley Provisional Company of Volunteers was formed. The organizers requested that those who had signed with other companies align themselves with the town company. These leaders anticipated that whenever the President's call for men went out, the company would offer its services as a body. Thirty-two men joined at once. Soon, the company was holding drills in the old high school building every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. To indicate their support, the citizens held a large patriotic rally at the Christian Church. Within five minutes, about $400 was raised for a fund to be used at the discretion of a committee formed to provide for the needs of the local volunteers until the company went to the front. However, with the signing of the draft law, the local volunteer body was disbanded. Recruiting officers were soon in the city taking enlistments for the regular army.

On May 9, 1917, barely a month after the declaration of war, twenty-eight Missouri Valley men left for Fort Logan, Colorado. Of the twenty-eight, twelve were in the first contingent of United States soldiers to arrive in France.

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39Ibid., April 14, 1917. 40Ibid., April 16, 1917. 41Ibid., April 20, 1917. 42Ibid., May 9, 1917. 43Ibid. 44Ibid., June 27, 1917.
As of July 4, 1918, 194 men from Missouri Valley were in the service of their country. Missouri Valley was considered a "banner city" in Iowa by the Omaha, Nebraska, recruiting station--credited with having fifty-nine enlistments as of January 18, 1918. Only twenty-three other communities in the western half of Iowa had this distinction.

The women of the city also did their part by organizing a Red Cross Chapter as an auxiliary to the Council Bluffs Chapter. Even before the group was formally organized, 100 women had pledged their services. Pillow cases, draw sheets, bed jackets, tea towels, pajamas, abdominal bandages, and sponges were sent to Council Bluffs by the dozens. Out of a total quota of 10,000 gauze compresses produced by the Council Bluffs Chapter, Missouri Valley sent 2,060.

Local clubs and organizations also contributed to the Red Cross. For example, the Quick Stitch Club hemmed a large number of sheets and the Melrose Sewing Club knitted sweaters for the Navy. At the same time, the Junior Red Cross held dances, socials and plays to raise money for equipping hospital beds. In less than a month, $5,000 had been raised. The citizens put forth considerable effort and received much satisfaction.

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Missouri Valley's residents also helped the war effort by liberally subscribing to the various loans circulated by the federal government. Over $115,000 of the Second Liberty Loan, $199,200 of the Third Liberty Loan, and $208,800 of the Fourth Liberty Loan were subscribed in the town.\textsuperscript{51} The subscription in Missouri Valley for the third loan was twice the quota given the community.

As in most other localities in the United States during World War I, patriotism in Missouri Valley degenerated into petty intolerance. The city's War Service Council formed a county-wide organization recognized by the state with members commissioned by the governor. The County Council held to account any person thought to be unpatriotic.\textsuperscript{52} Among other things, the War Service Council ordered "... the exclusive use of the English language in places of business, upon the streets and over the telephone lines within the limits of Harrison County."\textsuperscript{53} Acting under the direction of the Council, the Missouri Valley Board of Education requested that all German textbooks be turned over to the Council of Defense.\textsuperscript{54} However, as the Armistice ended the fighting in Europe, it diminished the suspicions of the people who had fought at home.

\textsuperscript{51}Ibid., December 1, 1917; May 4, 1918.
\textsuperscript{52}Ibid., December 5, 1917.
\textsuperscript{53}Ibid., April 24, 1918.
\textsuperscript{54}Ibid., June 15, 1918.
Chapter VI

THE CULTURAL LIFE OF MISSOURI VALLEY

Although the growth of Missouri Valley was hastened by railroads and agricultural, business and industrial interests, the churches provided the stimulus for the unity and cooperation necessary in the community's development. The organization of many religious denominations offered almost everyone an opportunity to receive their desired kind of spiritual association.

The early organization of the Catholic church may be attributed to a rather large number of Irish settlers in the community. In 1870, the foreign-born Irish made up the largest foreign element in Harrison County.¹ Prior to the formal organization of St. Patrick's Church in 1867, Catholic services were held in various homes in the community. Within a short time, a $2,500 building was constructed which was enlarged within ten years to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation. By 1892, St. Patrick's had a membership of about 100 families representing a total of some 500 parish-

At this time, a much larger building was erected at a cost of $15,000 which served the church for many years. The congregation continued to grow, increasing by more than fifty per cent during the next thirty years.\(^2\)

The Presbyterians were the second church group to organize in Missouri Valley. Preceding the formal organization of a church on February 14, 1869, Missouri Valley served as a preaching point for the Presbyterian Home Missionary Society.\(^3\)

With a membership of forty-one in 1869, the church decided to erect a structure which was completed the following year at a cost of $1,200.\(^4\) The growth of the membership to 225 in 1899 prompted the construction of a larger building at a cost of $30,000.\(^5\) This church served until it burned in 1929 at which time a $50,000 edifice was built.\(^6\)

The first Methodist services were held at about the same time as the first Presbyterian services. According to an unverified local story, when the ministers of these two churches first came to Missouri Valley, there was only one vacant house in which to hold services. The two denomina-

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\(^3\) Missouri Valley Times, October 29, 1929.

\(^4\) Hunt, p. 211.

\(^5\) Missouri Valley Times, January 8, 1929.

\(^6\) Ibid., August 17, 1929.
tions nearly fought over possession until arrangements were finally made to hold services on different dates. The Methodist Church was officially incorporated on April 27, 1870. The same year a church was built on Third Street where the present church stands on a lot purchased from the Blair Town and Lot Company for one dollar. The church's membership, having grown to 300 by 1898, necessitated the erection of a new and larger structure at a cost of $9,000. This building met its fate by fire in 1937.

By 1880, the Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian congregations had the only church buildings in Missouri Valley. The Baptists, however, had organized in 1877, but did not build until 1883. The Baptist Church, built with the help of the Home Mission Society, was constructed on Sixth and Huron Streets at a cost of $1,000 on a lot purchased from the Blair Town and Lot Company. In 1891, there were a mere thirty-three members. When the railroad shops closed in Missouri Valley in 1931, many of the members moved to other

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7Ibid., February 21, 1900.


9Hunt, p. 226.

10Missouri Valley Times, May 7, 1880.


localities. Nevertheless, the new edifice which had been erected in 1920 continued to serve the only Baptist congregation in Harrison County.\(^{13}\)

The Christian Church was started in the community in 1870. For about a year, services were held in the Methodist building and later in the Town Hall. The organization then moved to St. John's and returned to Missouri Valley to organize permanently in 1893.\(^{14}\) In 1887, with a congregation of approximately 140, a church was built. During the following three decades nearly 100 new members were added necessitating the building of a new $10,000 structure in 1913.\(^{15}\)

During the latter nineteenth century, several other churches were organized in Missouri Valley. The Brethren or Dunkards, starting with a membership of fifteen, erected a small building in 1891. Two years later, David Chambers organized a Latter Day Saints congregation.\(^{16}\) These religious groups remained small.

The Lutherans began to organize in Missouri Valley during the early years of the twentieth century. Although there were a significant number of German, Swedish, Danish and Norwegian Lutherans in the area prior to this time, their numbers were not large enough to establish a church. These

\(^{13}\) Mitchell, p. 374.
\(^{14}\) Missouri Valley Times, April 24, 1890.
\(^{15}\) Hunt, p. 214.
\(^{16}\) Ibid., p. 218.
people either went to other denominational churches in the community or attended the Lutheran churches in Magnolia and Persia. By 1912, although there had been no formal Lutheran organization, Missouri Valley was known as a "preaching point" with services being held every Sunday afternoon in the Methodist church. In consideration of the German speaking people in the surrounding area, services were held every other Sunday in German. In 1921, the non-German Lutherans organized St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Within one year there were over ninety members. Until building their own church in 1927, services were held in the Methodist edifice every Sunday afternoon. During the same year, the German Lutherans organized First Lutheran Church in Missouri Valley.

Although the specific contributions of Missouri Valley's churches to the community's development cannot be adequately measured, it must be assumed that the principles on which the churches were based had an impact on many aspects of local life. One issue on which the churches took a definite stand was temperance. As early as 1877, the Catholic Church was administering temperance pledges to local citizens.

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17 Interview with Elsa Hansen, Missouri Valley, Iowa, April 12, 1968, a long-time resident whose mother was one of the first members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

18 Ibid.

19 Missouri Valley Times, May 23, 1927.

20 Ibid., July 6, 1877.
The churches also showed their support for the movement by periodically agreeing not to hold regular services so members could attend temperance rallies.21

Of equal importance in the development of Missouri Valley was the growth of its formal education system. The first school of any sort was a subscription school started in 1867 by a lady from the East, but this system proved to be unsatisfactory due to the large number of children.22 Therefore, a movement was started by concerned local citizens for establishing a permanent school. In 1868, the Missouri Valley Independent School system was formed and Loren Roberts was the first teacher to be employed.23 The first year thirty-four resident and twenty-nine non-resident pupils were enrolled. The following year, S. L. McKelvy succeeded Roberts and in 1870, a second department was organized with Miss Mary E. Mann as teacher. At that time, 102 pupils were enrolled and the following year enrollment had mounted to 141.24

21Ibid., January 21, 1909.

22D. M. Harris, "A Retrospective View of Missouri Valley, Iowa," Missouri Valley Times, February 21, 1900. The name of the teacher is not available.


24Missouri Valley Times, March 8, 1894.
School was first held in the Presbyterian Church and later in the Methodist Church. However, it soon became evident that a permanent building was needed. In 1869, a $7,000 bond was voted for a school building. Underestimating the cost, the community had to vote an additional $5,000 bond two years later. The school, completed in 1871, served as the high school until 1916 at which time it became an apartment building.

During the decade between 1881 and 1890, the enrollment in the Missouri Valley schools doubled to approximately 276 students. Under the pressure resulting from this added enrollment, a new elementary school was soon erected in the third ward at a cost of $9,000. A few years later, an additional elementary school was built in the first ward.

The virtues of the Missouri Valley School system were demonstrated in 1907. At this time, the high school was placed on the accredited list of the North Central Association of Colleges. This status carried with it the right for

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25Ibid.
26_The Harrisonian_ (Missouri Valley, Iowa), August 6, 1869.
27Ibid., May 19, 1887.
28"History of Missouri Valley, Iowa," Missouri Valley, Iowa, April 30, 1958. (Paper prepared by sophomore English class, Missouri Valley High School.) Elementary classes were held here until the first and third ward schools were built.
29Missouri Valley Times, September 2, 1889.
30Ibid., March 8, 1894.
graduates to enter, without taking entrance examinations, such institutions as the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan and most other schools in the central United States.\(^{31}\)

As early years of the 1900's passed, it became evident that the high school facilities had become outdated. This factor, along with good prospects for a larger high school enrollment, prompted the erection of a new school in 1916 valued at $100,000.\(^{32}\) During the same year, St. Patrick's School, a Catholic parochial school offering instruction through the eighth grade, was dedicated.\(^{33}\) By 1923, all of the city schools had a combined enrollment of 1,020. During the two preceding years, the high school enrollment had increased thirty-three per cent.\(^{34}\)

The public library was another source of intellectual stimulus for the citizens of Missouri Valley. Mrs. George W. Coit, president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, was the essential figure in getting this facility started. While on a trip to New York, Mrs. Coit witnessed a library project undertaken by the W.C.T.U. Recognizing the need for a worthwhile pastime for children and adults in Missouri Valley, Mrs. Coit called a meeting of the Women's Christian Temperance Union which proposed establishing a reading room.

\(^{31}\)Ibid., April 5, 1907. \(^{32}\)Ibid., November 29, 1916.  
\(^{33}\)Ibid., August 15, 1916.  
\(^{34}\)Ibid., October 23, 1923.
The project was widely talked about and a great deal of enthusiasm was generated throughout the city. With favorable reports coming in from all quarters and citizens responding to the call for money and book donations, the W.C.T.U. decided to establish a Library Association. After a committee had drafted a constitution, by-laws and articles of incorporation, the Library Association was officially organized on May 11, 1881. To replace the small room which was rented the first year, the City Council in 1882 gave the Association the right to occupy the Council room. For a time, there was a shortage of reading material because most of the books were donated. However, interested citizens and organizations very diligently canvassed the community and rapidly built up a good supply of books, magazines, and newspapers.

In order to raise much needed funds, the Library Association sold two dollar membership tickets and sponsored various forms of entertainment such as festivals, dances and suppers. Still, the library was more the work of charity

35 History of Harrison County, 1891, p. 123. The first officers chosen were: President, Mrs. Anna Shultz; Vice President, Mrs. F. I. Mandeville; Secretary, M. S. Frick; Treasurer, Mrs. C. A. Foster. See page 96 on organization of W.C.T.U.

36 City Council Record Books, December 5, 1882.

37 Missouri Valley Times, September 21, 1883.
than any other source. Following a favorable vote of 313 to 112 in 1898, the library became the property of the city and a one mill tax was levied for library materials and maintenance. This tax proved to be inadequate for sufficiently expanding the amount of reading material and a problem involving adequate facilities developed. Responsible citizens frequently sent letters to the City Council requesting a higher tax.

In 1909, Mayor W. H. Witherow wrote a letter to Andrew Carnegie inquiring about a free city library. The city received a reply from Carnegie stating that $10,000 would be given to the city for a new building if the city would assure an income of at least $1,000 a year for maintaining the library once it was built.

The community proceeded to plan and act with enthusiasm. Anticipating a new library building to cost approximately $15,000, the City Council undertook the task of raising the additional $5,000 and purchasing a lot. A lot was

purchased for $4,000 and the additional $5,000 for the building was raised by donations from citizens and organizations. The Ladies Improvement League was tireless in its efforts to raise money. Library teas and local plays were held. The League also held a Tag Day on which every man caught on Erie Street would be tagged and thereafter expected to donate liberally for the new library. The people responded quickly with donations. Moreover, the City Council fulfilled their part of the Carnegie bargain by levying a tax of three mills for the purpose of supporting and maintaining the free public library. The new $15,000 Carnegie Library was dedicated on January 2, 1912. At that time, the library contained 3,650 volumes. By 1928, the number had risen to 6,739 and the library had a yearly circulation of almost 20,000 books.

While the library facilities were improving, the local newspapers were developing their important services to the community. Although several newspapers were started in Missouri Valley, only one survived the competition inherent to that business. The Harrisonian, edited by D. M. Harris,

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43 Ibid., November 30, 1909.
44 Ibid., April 30, 1910. See page 55 for other activities of the Ladies Improvement League.
45 City Council Record Books, April 3, 1911.
46 Missouri Valley Times, April 27, 1928.
was first issued on July 3, 1868. This newspaper, the first in Missouri Valley, was Democratic, a political orientation which it maintained for many years. Nevertheless, Harris attempted to report the opposing party's platforms and policies in such a manner as not to completely alienate subscribers. In 1872, the paper was sold to H. M. Goltry, who changed the name to Missouri Valley Times. After changing hands several times, it again came into the possession of D. M. Harris. By 1877, the Missouri Valley Times, in addition to selling local subscriptions, was sending issues to post offices in twenty-seven states. In 1891, the paper became a weekly and soon had subscriptions numbering over 1,000.

The second paper to be established in Missouri Valley was the Harrison County News, first edited by a Mr. Ballou. This radical Republican paper was moved from Logan in 1884 and purchased by A. H. Sniff who continued it as a daily and weekly. The Harrison County News office was also the headquarters for local papers in Persia, Mondamin, and Little Sioux, Iowa.

In 1888, an independent newspaper entitled The Eye was founded by M. B. Cox. Cox sold half interest to R. J.

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47 Hunt, p. 138. This paper eventually became the only newspaper in Missouri Valley.

48 Missouri Valley Times, November 30, 1877.

49 Ibid., September 2, 1905.

50 History of Harrison County, 1891, p. 132. Mr. Ballou's first name is not available.
Miller of Mason City, Iowa, who bought the remaining half in 1890. One year later, the paper became a daily.\textsuperscript{51} Within five years, \textit{The Eye} ran into financial problems and publication was suspended.\textsuperscript{52}

There were two other unsuccessful attempts to establish newspapers in Missouri Valley. Early in 1870, the \textit{Western Star}, after a short life in the community, returned to Magnolia, Iowa, where it had originated.\textsuperscript{53} Equally short-lived was \textit{The Mirror}, a Republican paper attempted by a Mr. Sweet. Sweet published only for a few months, then pulled up stakes and went west.\textsuperscript{54} Because of their short existence, the contributions of these papers to the community were few.

Another source of entertainment and cultural enlightenment for the community was the annual Chautauquas held during the early 1900's. The Missouri Valley Chautauqua Association, composed of city stockholders, was a member of the Iowa Chautauqua League which enabled the Association to solicit talent more cheaply than otherwise.\textsuperscript{55}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{51}Ibid.
\item \textsuperscript{52}\textit{Missouri Valley Times}, September 30, 1896.
\item \textsuperscript{53}\textit{The Harrisonian}, January 28, 1870.
\item \textsuperscript{54}D. M. Harris, "A Retrospective View of Missouri Valley, Iowa," \textit{Missouri Valley Times}, February 24, 1900. Mr. Sweet's first name is not available.
\item \textsuperscript{55}Ibid., September 7, 1910.
\end{itemize}
the privilege of hearing such speakers as Champ Clark and William Jennings Bryan. Horse races, band concerts and many other forms of entertainment were also provided. Although the Chautauquas were not financial successes, they were enthusiastically attended by people numbering in the thousands. During Chautauqua week in Missouri Valley, the city park would present a picture of activity unparalleled throughout the year.56

Traveling minstrel shows, operas and plays were also very popular forms of entertainment. With the completion of a large and beautiful opera house in 1895, the thrill of attending the various productions was enhanced. The Opera House, built by J. S. Dewell and W. A. Smith, covered a ground space of 51 by 140 feet and had a seating capacity of approximately 700. The chairs were upholstered in "red plush" and the entire house was lighted by electricity.57 The building hosted some of the best entertainment in the United States. Because Missouri Valley was on the route between Chicago and Omaha, many important entertainers passed through, including two of the well-known opera singers of the period, Alma Gluck and Madam Schumann-Heink.58 The city also had a good supply of

56Ibid., July 15, 1905.

57Ibid., September 26, 1895. J. S. Dewell and W. A. Smith were local businessmen.

58Interview with Hugh J. Tamisiea, Missouri Valley, Iowa, July 20, 1967, a lawyer and long-time resident in Missouri Valley.
local talent. An Opera House Orchestra was composed entirely of home musicians. Moreover, a Light Opera Club was formed to give the best lighter operas and in every way advance music in Missouri Valley.59

The city's purchase of forty acres of land in 1878 for park purposes resulted in another opportunity for community enjoyment and relaxation. Since 1872, the land had been leased by the city to provide the Harrison County Agricultural Society with grounds on which to hold their annual exhibit. This purchase settled the location of the exhibition which was later to become known as the Harrison County Fair.60 An amphitheater that was constructed on the grounds in 1881 and later destroyed by fire was replaced by a new $7,000 building erected in 1910. Furthermore, a dance hall was built in 1905 by the Art Club, but was replaced in later years by a large multipurpose structure.61 The park also contained facilities

59Missouri Valley Times, May 12, 1898.

60Ibid., July 12, 1878. Up to this time the Agricultural Society's exhibition was held in various other towns in the county. The city still donates the grounds to the Agricultural Society for one week each year.

Baseball games, swimming and band concerts were other pastimes of the community. In 1888, some of the leading businessmen and athletic enthusiasts organized the Missouri Valley Baseball Association with a capital of $5,000. The club developed a good reputation by playing and defeating clubs from such cities as Des Moines, Omaha, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

Swimming became a favorite activity for many when in 1922, Missouri Valley citizens, guided by the Chamber of Commerce, built a cement outdoor pool. The City Council appropriated the money and people gave freely of their time in completing the task. Five years later, the city voters gave their approval to a two mill levy for the support of a municipal band. Music and uniforms were purchased and a conductor was hired. Although Missouri Valley had been the home of many independently organized bands, this was the first to be publicly supported.

Missouri Valley had many lodges and organizations which not only provided social fellowship for the members but also aided the community's development. The first lodge organized in the city was Blue Lodge Number 232 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. The men who formed the lodge in 1868 had come from various states and various Masonic jurisdictions;

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62 History of Harrison County, 1891, p. 129.
63 Missouri Valley Times, October 25, 1923.
64 Ibid., March 25, 1927.
therefore, opinions differed on many subjects. Nevertheless, the pragmatic frontier spirit was present and differences were quickly ironed out. By 1917, this lodge with 168 members had a very impressive record of community donations. A donation of $200 was made to help build the City Hall. An equal amount of money was given to help finance the first library and help buy the new street electroliers. Likewise, in many cases, this Masonic group made gifts of wood, coal and clothing to needy widows and children of deceased members.65 Another Masonic organization, Triune Chapter Number Eighty-one of the Royal Arch Masons, was established in 1876 and within a few years, the chapter's membership was approximately fifty-six.66 The Order of the Eastern Star was organized in 1878 and was the twenty-sixth chapter to be formed in the United States.67

Missouri Valley had three organizations associated with the Odd Fellows. In 1869, Lodge Number 170 was established and by 1914 membership was over 200. Lillian Lodge of the Rebekah Degree was instituted in 1875, followed seven years later by Red Cloud Encampment Number Ninety-seven. Both


66 Hunt, p. 230.

67 Interview with Hugh J. Tamisiea, Missouri Valley, Iowa, July 20, 1967, a lawyer and long-time resident in Missouri Valley.
of these lodges also had sizable memberships.68

The unusual number of saloons in the city encouraged the formation of two temperance organizations. In 1869, Evergreen Lodge Number 175 of the Independent Organization of Good Templars was formed. This international organization, which advocated total abstinence and the election of men who would enforce liquor laws, was one of the early leaders of the prohibition movement in the United States. The Good Templars were instrumental in organizing the Prohibition Party and the Women's Christian Temperance Union in the United States.69

This lodge never had a large following in Missouri Valley and was dissolved and reorganized a number of times.70 Some of the leading women of Missouri Valley formed the Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1880. These two organizations were not only successful in periodically helping to get the saloons closed, but also promoted other ways for citizens to spend their time. As noted earlier, the Women's Christian Temperance Union started the movement for the public library.71

68Hunt, p. 235.


71Missouri Valley Times, February 18, 1881. See Chapter II, p. 22.
The Missouri Valley Kiwanis Club, chartered in 1922, developed a good reputation among other such clubs in Iowa and Nebraska. The club developed an agricultural program known as "The Missouri Valley Plan" which proved to be of great benefit to the community. Among other things, the Plan promoted Pig and Poultry Clubs, boosted the County Fair, held corn shows and sponsored a Farmers Fair and Poultry Show.72

The farmers in the Missouri Valley area also formed organizations. The oldest organization in the county and, therefore, in Missouri Valley's history, was the Harrison County Agricultural Association formed in 1858. This group always sponsored the Harrison County fairs.73 The Patrons of Husbandry, although not highly organized, had a small following which remained nonpolitical. More successful than the Patrons of Husbandry was the Union Farmers Club. The Club held meetings at various farm homes. Their meetings were socially oriented with no political intent. A meal would be served, followed by discussions on local farm problems.74 Typical discussion sessions were held on questions such as,

72Ibid., January 26, 1928.
73History of Harrison County, 1891, p. 43.
74Interview with Fillmore Frazier, Missouri Valley, Iowa, July 25, 1967. Frazier is an old family name in the Missouri Valley area.
"Does It Pay to Feed Parched Corn to Our Stock?"  

These lodges, clubs and organizations never ceased to have an active interest in Missouri Valley's development. In 1926, representatives from twelve organizations formed the Greater Missouri Valley Committee. The purpose of the Committee was the discussion of subjects of importance to the whole community and the fostering of unity among the various organizations on problems of concern to the entire populace. Such was the spirit with which Missouri Valley developed and prospered.

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75 **Harrison County News** (Missouri Valley, Iowa) December 4, 1903.

76 **Missouri Valley Times**, February 25, 1926.
Chapter VII

CONCLUSION

Rapid railroad expansion across the trans-Mississippi West following the Civil War prompted both agricultural and industrial opportunities unparalleled in modern history. The alluring prospects of a better life encouraged people, not only from old frontier regions of the United States, but also from Europe, to trek westward and settle the new frontier. Within this atmosphere of immigration and settlement, communities developed along the numerous railroad lines and in the hearts of rich farm areas.

The community of Missouri Valley was not unique in its development. In the first place, railroad promoters were instrumental in laying out the town. Second, the excellent farm land of the Missouri and Boyer River valleys provided an incentive for settling in the area. Railroad connections with other parts of the United States also afforded good opportunities for the location of small industries. However, Missouri Valley never boasted sufficient population or possessed adequate capital to support heavy industries.

This rapidly growing community which had a population of 1,150 in 1880 swelled to almost 5,000 inhabitants by 1930. Community life was very active with numerous civic
groups, lodges, churches and various other organizations working to stimulate economic, intellectual and spiritual awareness. Missouri Valley was a heterogeneous community politically, economically and socially. The three political subdivisions contained both high and low income families, often located within the same block. Also, even though the Republicans seemed to be the majority party, the Democrats were a strong minority in all three wards. The town was governed mostly by prominent businessmen with the occasional help of railroad workers and retired farmers.

The location of the machine and repair shops of the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad in the community resulted in excellent employment opportunities which greatly affected the financial foundations of local retail enterprises. At one time the shops employed over 500 men whose combined monthly income was over $60,000. These factors not only substantially affected the community's population but provided a large segment of the town's citizens with more purchasing power which helped to sustain local businesses. The removal of the railroad shops in 1931 together with the Depression of the 1930's marked a definite turning point in Missouri Valley's history. Throughout the 1920's the number of shop workers was gradually reduced because of longer freight hauls, greater steam power and declining profits of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad resulting from the Depression. From 1928 to 1931, the March gross earnings of the railroad dropped from
$12,082,737 to $8,725,342. At the same time, net operating income fell from $3,595,322 to $1,721,700.\(^1\) The year 1931 was a difficult year for the railroad as a net loss of $6,034,125 was shown. The Depression in general had hurt these earnings while grain prices were at their lowest level since 1902. Also, the Chicago and Northwestern territory "... experienced the worst drought in the history of the Weather Bureau."\(^2\)

In 1931, work at the Missouri Valley shops was almost completely stopped. The shops that had once employed over 500 men now employed only about fifty. The population of the community was never to increase beyond the 1930 figure and when the shopmen left, they took from the town potential wage earnings on which local businesses thrived. Moreover, many of these men left large unpaid bills in the community that had to be placed in the loss columns of many merchants.\(^3\) The value of property was affected by the removal of the shops. For one of the first times in Missouri Valley's history, there were vacant houses in most parts of town.\(^4\) Undoubtedly,

\(^1\)The New York Times, April 29, 1930, p. 40 and April 24, 1931, p. 36.
\(^2\)Ibid., February 29, 1932, p. 1.
\(^3\)Interview with John Kovar, Missouri Valley, Iowa, April 13, 1968, Vice-President of the People's State Bank, Missouri Valley, Iowa.
\(^4\)Interview with Hugh J. Tamisiea, Missouri Valley, Iowa, April 13, 1968, a lawyer and long-time resident of Missouri Valley.
the Depression also affected this condition to a considerable extent. However, from 1929 to 1931, there were few business failures in Missouri Valley and the local banks continued to meet the demands of the community. But

Although the city never did fully recover from the setbacks brought about by the economic changes of the 1930's it was the agricultural significance of the area which sustained the community. Having realized that the railroad was no longer an economic factor on which they could depend, Missouri Valley's citizens began to concentrate their attention to the possibilities of developing the agricultural advantages of the area to a fuller extent. By 1931, the town had reached the high water mark of its development. The succeeding years were to prove a challenge to Missouri Valley in attempting to regain a truly viable economy which would be the key to a progressive and flourishing community life.

5Ibid.

6While it is beyond the scope of this thesis to relate the history of the community since 1931, population figures from 1920-1960 show the setback to the community due to the loss of the railroad economy. These figures reveal that the 1920 population was 3,985; the 1930 population, 4,230; the 1940 population, 3,994; the 1950 population, 3,546; and the 1960 population, 3,567. This information was received from the United States Census reports.
Appendix I
Map of Southwestern Iowa
Appendix II
Map of Harrison County

Key
X St. John's
River bluffs
Missouri River bottom land
**APPENDIX IV**

List of Mayors In Missouri Valley, Iowa

<table>
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<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
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<td>D. M. Harris</td>
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<td>Feb. 27, 1875</td>
<td>F. M. Dance</td>
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<td>Mar. 11, 1884</td>
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Shows the original town plats of Harrison County and contains maps of the towns in 1884.


In addition to showing the original town plats of Harrison County, this work presents a general background of the history of the county.


A scholarly work that develops in detail the growth of railroads across the Great Plains.


A very factual but interesting book which relates the story of the Prohibition movement in all states of the Union.
   A good history of early Iowa including social reforms to about 1920.

   An excellent history of the relationship of Iowa government to the railroads to 1896.

   A general study of art, literature, industry, labor, religion, recreation and transportation with special attention given to large cities in Iowa.

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