

## THE STORY OF LONE ROCK

Would you like to know a little about the prosperous community that is called Lone Rock, which is now largely of Danish decent and located in the Town of Orange?

The town of Orange was arganized by order of the Junaeau County Board to take effect Apr. 1, 1857. Somewhere around 1850 a grist or flour mill was started up in the place that is now known as Orange Mills. In all probabilty, the town got its name from the Orange Mills.

The country was a wilderness. Men and families had migrated west, some of them puttin up saw mills along the rivers. Such a mill was established near where the Buckley Bridge now is. One of these pioneers was C. B. Skinner, who originally came from New York state, and worked in the mill at Buckley. Lured by the abundance of white pine, game and fish, Mr. Skinner took up a homestead in 1861, his deed, or patent, as it was called then, was signed by the President of the U. S. There were no roads, of course then, only Indian trails, The pine was so thick and large, that trees were felled and rolled back before the erection of the cabin could take place.

Another of of the first settler in this community was Albert A. Wilcox, who lived on the little hill between Lone Rock and John M rtensen's farm. He bought his farm from the State Treasurer for \$140.00 in 1857. In 1858 Henry Rundle, a bachelor who engaged in lumbering and cranberrying, bought the place where the Lone Rock Store now stands. He later sold to Mr. Wilcox.

Other first settlers were J. P. Hubbill, who lived where Ben Scott now lives, W. H. Cleveland who lived where John Geddes now lives, Wm. Martin who lived where Wm. Brandt now lives, also a Allen Ball, John Georgeson Wm. Bennett, R. Rhodes, T. Young, and John Bullgreen. Mr. Bullgreen, owned the now Frank Nieman place.

The country was sparcelly settled at first. What few settlers there were did very little farming and made their living mostly by cuttin ties and wood in the winter, hauling it to Orange Mills to the railroad there which usad it for ties and their wood burming engines. The small farms or clearings were not fenced in as a rule, their cattler roaming at will among thr woods & marshes. Often, the farmers would have to go for miles to find their cattle and sort them out from other cattle they were grazing with. Some men helped run the logs in the spring down the Lemonweir ri river, and the Wis. river to some sawmill.

There was a large cranberry marsh of about 40 acres on the farm now owned by Harry Jensen by Lone Rock that extended south. There were also many smaller wild cranbery bogs.

Many of the old-timers will remember hearing how the Indians used the place in front of the farm now owned by Hanse Jensen for their over-night camping site in their migration.

The earliest record of any election held in the town, according to the books now in the possession of the present town clerk, was held on Apt. 1, 1873. Seventy three votes were cast at this election, Henry Aule, elected Chariman, the side Supervisors consisted of Robert Whereatt, J. O. Pierce and A. Anderson, Town clerk was U. H. Dunn, Treas. Wm. C. Johnson, Assessor J. F. Audley Justice of the Peace. I. E. Hutton. Constable *Robert Gardner*

At this meeting, \$150.00 was raised for ~~xxx~~ incidental expenses, \$50.00 for the support of the poor, and \$75.00 raised for the school fund. Balance of money on hand at that time was \$338.36.

There were three school districts in the town. On Sept. 1, 1873 there were 190 children in the town of Orange over 4 years of age, 128 of these attending one of the 3 schools in the town, which had a school term of 5 or more months. The cash value of these school houses and their equipment was valued at \$650.00, according to the record.

The town was divided into districts each district electing its own Pathmasters, the man who was overseer of a section of town ~~xxx~~ road. Each voter had a chance to work off his poll tax, which amounted to one days work or \$150 on the roads. The ~~Rxxx~~ Pathmasters were overseers of this work.

Around 1874, many Danish people settled in this locality. Wm. Mortensen now lives on the farm originally owned by his father, Christ Mortensen, which was 74 years ago. Fred Olle owned the property now owned by L. Rydberg, and C. C. Jensen lived on the farm now run by Robert Dvorak. Robert Peterson owned the place now owned by John King. This was formerly the old Lund place, also Jim Peterson owned the now Paul Pitner place, and Michael Parker owned the farms now owned by James Christensens and Ed Hancock, and lived on the place now occupied by Art Malmwuist. Adolph Anderson owned the land that is now farmed by Albert Katuin and Albert Kish. Simon Butterfield owned the land now owned by Maurice Warriner, Hans Chritensen owned the farm now run by Chet Chritensen, Peter Petersen lived on a farm back of S. T. Peterson, the building now torn down. Ole Johnson bought the farm where John Mortensen, now lives from Mr. Wilcox in 1872. Hans Jorgenson owned the farm now owned by Herbert Sampson. Nels Sorenson once owned the farm now ~~xxxxx~~ owned by S. T. Peterson. Han Larsen owned the now Clifford Hansen place. Ben Haakstade owned where Nels Rassmussen now lives. H. C. Hansen was the original owner of the place owned by L. C. Brown.

All these latter farms were settled approximately seventy years ago. John Mortensen & Hans Luns, who recently moved into New Lisbon, have probably lived in this community as long as anyone, which is about 70 years

Seventy-five years ago, or on July 15, 1873 St. Stephens Lutheran church was organized, and the church dedicated on Oct. 18, 1874. The charter members of St Stephens church were Mr. & Mrs. Hans Jorgenson and 9 children, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Jorgenson and 3 children, Mr. & Mrs. Hans Larson and 3 children, Mr. & Mrs. Jens Olsen and 3 children, Mr. & Mrs. Soren ~~Johanson~~ Johanson and 1 child, Mr. & Mrs. Neil Olsen and 1 child, Mr. & Mrs. Christine Nielson and 2 children, Mr. & Mrs. Hans Peter Nielsen. The land on which the church is built was obtained from P. L. Hansen.

Minnie Martha Hansen was the first one baptized in the congregation, which took place Jan. 28, 1874. The first three to be baptized in the church Aug. 2, 1874 were Karl Martin Nielsen, Maren Madsen, and Andreas Madsen. Kristian Mortensen and Maria Wagenson were the first couple to be married in the church Nov. 5, 1875, but another couple shares the same honor, namely Kristian Peterian and one Katrine Nielsen. Kristian Mortensen and Maria Wagenosn were the parents of John and Wm. Mortensen, still resident of Lone Rock.

The church and cemetery was dedicated by Pastor Adam Dan. Pastor Brede Johanson seems to be the first regular pastor. The church services were conducted entirely in the Danish language until about the time of the first World War.

In March, 1871, plans for forming a school district were started in the home of C. B. Skinner. The Lone Rock school was organized in March 1871. The supervisors of the town of Orange at that time were C. B. Skinner, and R. Whereatt. The first school meeting was organized and held at the home of Wm. Cleveland. The first school board elected as follows; W. H. Cleveland, clerk, Allen Ball, Treas. C. B. Skinner, director. The voters proceeded to select a school site, which is where the present school stands, and was to contain one acre clear from the highways. They voted to build a block school house to be hewed inside and outside, to be 10 feet high and 16X20 feet in the clear, to have 4 windows, 2 on each side, 9x12 glass, 12 lights in each window, to have single roof and one 'Pannell' door. \$5.00 was paid the owner of the land when it was taken for the schoolhouse site.

It was voted to have 5 month school for the first term. \$30.00 was raised for school books, \$15.00 for school-house seats, these were long seats, holding 5 or more children. The first teacher was Georgia Hubble, who contracted to teach 5 months for the sum of \$3.50 per week, commencing on the 3rd day of Apr. 1871.

The first textbooks adopted by the district were Sanders Spellers and Readers, Spenciarin Penmanship, Rays Arithmetic, Mitchells Georgraphys and S. G. Goodriches Histories. There were 24 children enrolled this first term.

At the Sept. 25th meeting of that same year, it was voted to have a 6 month school, 3 months in winter, and 3 in summer, winter term to begin Nov. 15, and summer, middle of Apr. It was voted at this meeting to finish the schoolhouse and raised \$50.00 for that expense. Steven Burk took the job at \$3.00 to board the ceiling and to lay a matched floor and a threshold for the door for \$2.25, and casing the windows on the inside for \$1.50. That part to be finished by Nov. 7, 1871.

At the Sept. 1872 meeting, it was voted to have 4 month school winter term and 2 months summer. Voted to hire a male teacher for winter and female for summer. On Jan. 12, 1874 \$7.00 was paid to Mr. Young for painting the school house.

At the Sept. 28, 1874 school meeting, it was voted to have 6 months school 4 winter and 2 summer, all taught by a female. A H. Wilcox was paid \$6.11 for putting edging in the cracks and to point the outside and nail the edging in and to furnish all materials. L. Morehouse to receive \$1.89 for putting good logs around the house and banking in good shape.

On Sept. 27, 1875, it was voted to have 7 months school, 5 winter and 2 summer. The cash value of school house at this time was \$200.00 and the value of the site was \$25.00.

The school term was lowered to 6 months in 1876. At this time \$10.00 was raised to start a school library.

Seventy-two years ago or on March 7, 1876 the Lone Rock Baptist Church was organized; the charter members being Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Christensen,

Lars Peterson, Lars Sorenson, Mrs. Stine Christensen, and Anna Marie Peterson. Three years later they had their steady minister, this being H. C. Christensen in 1879, the father of our well known auctioneer in this locality, C. E. Christensen. This church also conducted its services entirely in the Danish language until the fall of 1923.

By Sept, 1877, the cash value of the schoolhouse had dropped to \$100, and the charts were valued at fifty dollars.

A new floor was laid in the schoolhouse in 1879. The job was let to Hans Larsen for \$4.50, it was to be done in a good and workmanlike manner. By March 29, 1883, the board met and agreed to buy a chair for the teacher and a bell to cost no more than 75 cents. Also a handle and catch for schoolhouse door.

By 1887, there were 47 children enrolled in the Lone Rock school. These children being Ina Wilcox; A. Wilcox; Ernst Martin; George Lena; Edna, Fred, Goldie, Willie Skinner; Alfred and Lena Scott; Christina Hansen; James, Hans, Christian, Johannes Jensen; Hans Lund; John Peterson; Wm., Johnny, Dina Jepperson; William, John, Ida Christenson; Mary Jepperson; Maggie, Dora, Dina Johnson; Mathilda, Caroline Peterson; Christina, Bert, Godfred Sorenson; Christian Jensen; Peter, Hans and Johnny Mortensen; Martin, Charlie, Hans and Minnie Hanson; Dora Wilcox; Anna, Caroline, James, Mary and Henry Christensen.

By 1890, there were 171 children of school age in the whole town of Orange.

This same year, in 1890, a cooperative cheese factory was started at Lone Rock directly across from the schoolhouse, with sixteen stockholders. A Mr. Post was the first cheesemaker. This factory continued to function as a cheese factory for sixteen years, when in 1906 it was changed to a creamery. The first buttermaker was Charley Von Haden, followed by John Mortensen, Will Hansen, and Walter Miller. After serving fourteen years as a creamery, in 1920, the creamery was discontinued, the building sold and torn down.

The tax roll in 1892 was \$1,612.19, compared to over \$19,000 this past year.

Twenty years after the first school was built, the log building was torn down and the present school building started, the building to be 20 x 34. On September 18, 1891, the old schoolhouse and seats and stove were auctioned off, the house and seats going to P. T. Peterson for \$6.85, and the stove to Ed Robinson for fifty cents.

In 1893, the village of Camp Douglas was incorporated, thus removing part of the district and voters that were originally in the town of Orange.

In the year of 1899, 26 years after St. Stephen's Church was built, the spacious parsonage was erected across the road from the church; This parsonage was torn down and sold about three years ago. The steeple of the church and also the altar was added in the year of 1899.

By 1905, they were still having 5 months winter school term and 2 months spring term. The well was dug in 1906,

On July 1, 1907, it was voted to have an 8 month school term. In that same year, a heating and ventilating system was installed, and another room added to the building.

39 years ago, in the year 1909, the school was changed to a State Graded school of two rooms. The school board at that time consisted of clerk, John Davies; treasurer, A. S. Hanson; director, Chas. Robinson. The first teachers in the State Graded school were Inez Skeede, who received \$40 a month salary; and Miss Jennings, who received \$30 a month.

By September, 1914, the board voted to begin the teaching of Agriculture, Manual Training, Cooking and Sewing. Five years later, in 1919, the schoolhouse was raised and a full basement put in, also the furnace.

A new wing was added to the Baptist church in the year of 1919.

In 1940, Raymond Davies bought the eleven acres of land across from the schoolhouse and started up a filling station. Late in the year of 1942, he sold to his brother, Charley of Racine the property, who started a small general store on the site where the cheese factory and creamery once stood, across from the schoolhouse, which has grown to its present size.

By 1946, the members of the Lone Rock Baptise Church decided to erect a new church. The members spent one year getting out logs to be cured and sawed into lumber for the new church, and the construction of said church began in the fall of 1947. The building is still under construction.

The residents of Lone Rock should be proud of their progressive farming community, where over 99% of the farm owners have both electricity and telephones, where there is a good State Graded School, two active and growing churches, a general store, an active Homemakers Club, 4-H Club for boys and girls; a ball team, pretty scenery and good recreation facilities.