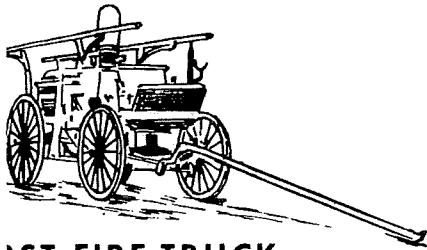




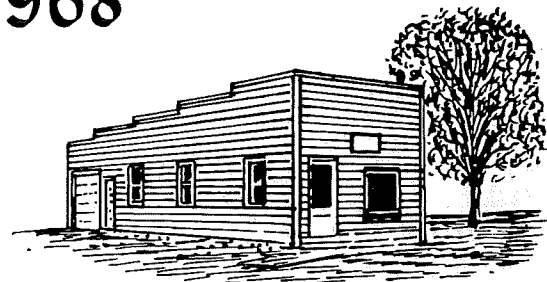
THE DE SOTO CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

DESOTO CENTENNIAL

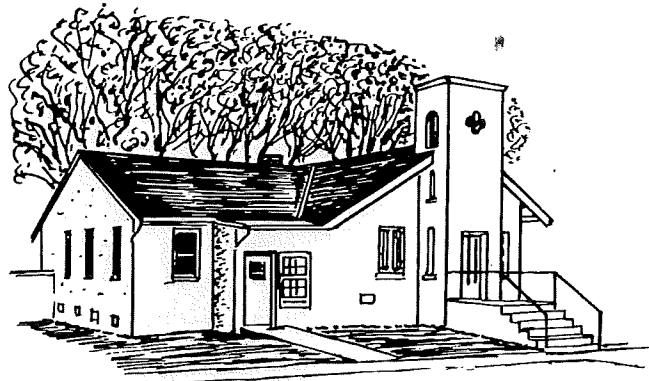
1868 - 1968



FIRST FIRE TRUCK
1890



DE SOTO TOWN HALL



DE SOTO METHODIST CHURCH

HISTORY OF DE SOTO

This book has been compiled and edited
for our

“DE SOTO CENTENNIAL YEAR”

1868 – 1968

The information has been gathered from many sources such as:
The Dallas County News, 1879 and 1907 County History Books,
Town Record Books, School Record Books, and from talking to
many people. It has been written for your pleasure and we do
hope you enjoy it.

DE SOTO COMMUNITY CLUB
Centennial History Committee

Mrs. Harold Cade
Mrs. Fletcher Cron
Mrs. James Bratton

HISTORY OF DE SOTO

The town of DeSoto was named in honor of a Rock Island railroad official. The land was donated to the railroad company, by Thos. Hemphill, J. J. and H. G. VanMeter, for the sole purpose of establishing a town on the site. It is located in VanMeter Township, Dallas County, on Sections 19 and 30. The grant was made and the town laid out early in the spring of 1868, being surveyed by Capt. A. J. Lyon, County Surveyor, and assisted by Ed. Conger. This survey was completed March 27, 1868, and the new town was at once christened DeSoto.

This place was selected as one of the division points of the railroad, and the 300 lots marked off in the original plat were rapidly disposed of at prices ranging from \$25.00 to \$500.00.

Early in the spring of 1868, A. J. Lyon and Wm. Hemphill built the first building in town. It was a small building about 10 x 12 feet which they used as a real estate office, but it was large enough to claim the title of being the first building built in the town, and also most of the real estate transactions were made here. For many years Lyon and Hemphill were the only real estate agents in town. The first family dwelling built within the town limits was a small shanty built by Geo. W. Smith in the east edge of town. The first comfortable house erected was a small frame house built by Mr. Wood, early in the spring of 1868 soon after the town was laid out. During that summer and fall 25 or 30 houses were built. Robert Hillyer built the first brick building during the summer of 1868, on Block 9, opposite the railroad depot, for a grocery store.

Among the first to open a dry goods and grocery store was Mr. A. Collins, and during the year of 1868 quite a number and variety of stores were opened and business firms established. Mr. Collins was also the first postmaster until the year of 1875. In the year of 1869, Isaac Hoch and Son established a store handling groceries, notions and farm machinery.

Early DeSoto had several stockshippers and became one

of the most extensive buying and shipping points in this area. The direct line to Chicago by the C. R. I. and P. R. R. made it a good market for the surrounding country. G. W. Miller sold the first carload of hogs in DeSoto to H. G. VanMeter in 1868 for 7 cents per pound and Mr. VanMeter shipped them to Chicago and received 8 cents per pound.

Soon after the town was laid out, the C. R. I. bought 160 acres of land adjoining the original town plat, and laid it out in plots of 3 and 5 acres each. These were some of the most desirable sites for residences.

A new addition was added to the town known as the "Hemphill Addition". It was filed for record on April 29, 1871.

The railroad company built a large well-furnished depot. The water tank servicing the trains was supplied from a spring nearby. The first railroad agent was Alex Smart followed by Ed. Conger who was here for about 21 years. During these years the town was a division point. It grew rapidly and business was humming. Saloons and gambling flourished and much disorder prevailed. The population rose to 600.

A group of citizens of the town planted about 2000 shade trees bordering the unimproved as well as the improved property. Possibly some of our huge trees in our town now are some of the original trees planted in the early years.

These are some of the particulars of the early Masonic Lodge. Fortitude Lodge, A. F. and A. M., DeSoto, Iowa, was chartered by the Grand Lodge, of Iowa, June 2, 1869, on petition of M. A. Knight, W. M.; J. J. VanMeter, S. W.; H. G. VanMeter, J. W.; Z. W. Kelly, Secretary; J. D. Perkins, Treasurer; C. C. Goodale, S. D.; Jesse Lee, J. D.; W. J. Brewster, Tyler.

The town of DeSoto was incorporated and was filed for record January 1, 1875. The petition for incorporation was heard before Judge Mitchell, and was granted May 24, 1875. The population at this time was about 400.

J. S. Motte, C. C. Case, George Hathaway, Richard French and J. C. Ault were appointed as the Commissioners on corporation and corporation elections.

The following businesses were in DeSoto at the time the town was incorporated: A. A. Nolan, attorney-at-law; J. J. Totten, attorney-at-law; C. Case, carpenter; M. E. Bates, confectionery; J. C. Ault, furniture dealer; William Hemphill, general merchant; R. French, Jeweler; F. R. Lewis and Co., lumber and grain; S. U. Roush, livery stable; A. J. Smith, Physician; J. M. Miller, saloon; W. W. Brown, proprietor of Kimball House; and Isaac Hoch & Son, groceries, notions

and farm machinery.

In 1878 telephone lines were put up and telephones were installed. The office was in the drug store.

During the year of 1878 an important temperance movement began under the leadership of John W. Harden of Des Moines. The DeSoto Temperance Reform Club was organized March 17, 1878 and had 500 on its membership roll. DeSoto, very firm on temperance, was one of the six towns in the county that had no saloons.

DeSoto I. O. O. F. Lodge, No. 400, was organized in 1879 and had 65 members. It was one of the strong lodges of the county.

The town held its first election of officers in 1878. They were as follows: Mayor, J. S. DeMotte; Recorder, E. H. Haycraft; Councilmen: I. L. Carter, Ezra Mann, E. M. Giles, Jacob Payton, J. W. Blackman, Marshall, G. G. Fish; Justice, Z. S. Whaley; Constable, G. W. Tomlinson.

There were many business places in town during the early years. From 1879 to 1890 businesses included:

General Store: Robert Given, Wm. Hemphill, E. D. and J. W. Blackman, Siegel & Gotstein, W. H. Dillon, S. Wright, L. W. Smith, J. Dillon & Son, F. W. Gaines and E. H. Haycraft.

Hardware: Mr. Cutter & Ed. Blinn, Payton & Mitchell, and B. F. Ervin.

Drugs: E. M. Giles and S. B. Campbell.

Doctors: Rogers, Hannawalt, S. B. Campbell, A. J. Smith, A. J. Langdon, D. C. Bice, A. C. Woodruff, Dr. Johnson and C. W. DeMotte.

Furniture: W. H. Smith and J. C. Ault.

Milliners and Dressmakers: Mrs. Holt, Mrs. Nichols and Snyder; Mrs. E. Pearn, Mrs. S. W. Garoutte, Miss J. Brown, Mrs. A. Collins, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Hattie Smith and Mrs. George Smith.

Artist: D. L. Watts.

Lightning Rods: E. M. Giles.

Egg-Butter: Smith & Chaplin and C. C. Hill.

Notions: Isaac Hoch, also postmaster since 1875.

Jewelers: E. L. Davis and R. French.

Boot and Shoemakers: W. H. Mole, A. F. Hart, Fred Swanson and R. P. High.

Harness Shops: J. L. Snyder and Frank Snyder.

Blacksmiths: Buchanan, Bonine and Sheets, B. F. Way, A. B. Rosenberg and E. J. Tinker.

Wagon Shop: Haysen & Son, W. H. Dillion, W. H. Nichols

and W. C. House.

Meat Market: P. Jones, F. D. Bush and Ex-Mayor Lee.

Agricultural Depots: Isaac Hoch, Payton and Mitchell;
Barrows.

Lumber and Grain: F. R. Lewis.

Stock Dealers: Peter Fish, Hemphill Bros. and Hill & Fox.

Poultry Dealers: L. W. Smith and Abraham Parker.

Restaurant: George Smith.

Photograph Gallery: S. W. Garoutte.

Piano & Organ Instructor: Miss O. E. Lowery.

Barber: Ezra Hutchison.

Hotel: J. L. Long (Kimball House), Mrs. Acklin; (DeSoto House) Payton.

Hotel and Livery: J. W. Blackman and W. W. Brown.

Livery and Feed Stable: W. L. Cook.

Insurance Agents: A. A. Nolan, F. R. Lewis and Silas Bailey.

Attorney at Law: A. A. Nolan and J. J. Totten.

Notaries Public: Isaac Hoch and A. A. Nolan.

Carpenters: R. J. Hook, J. L. Carter and J. M. Lowery.

Painters: R. L. Adello, C. W. Huntington and Chris Poffenberger.

Depot Agent: Edwin Conger.

Telegraph Operator: William Kibby.

Drayman: George W. Leonard.

Baggage Master: L. C. Drury.

The population of DeSoto was 347 according to the July, 1880 census.

This following article was taken from the Dallas Co. News published in March 1882.

"A custom has been carried out by a few inconsiderate dissatisfied parties, even of our own town, of speaking of DeSoto as being dull and too quiet a place. The real facts are these. We have a good territory. We have to support the town, a farming community unexcelled in wealth, in intelligence, beautiful homes, and everything contributive in building up a healthy, prosperous section. The town is beautifully located, well built at a convenient distance from Des Moines, and will in a short time become a very desirable point for homes to parties doing business at the Capital. Some have been here recently looking around with such intention."

In 1886 DeSoto is still on the boom, business is good and everybody happy and the citizens soon will be able to yell "Hello Adel" through the telephone.

Early in the morning in March of 1890 the cry of fire and the ringing of the Church bell startled many of our slumbering citizens from their beds to discover that the hotel, owned by David Thrailkill, was on fire but was under such headway that the building could not be saved. The hotel was the best building of its kind on the road between Des Moines and Stuart. There was insurance of \$1500.00 on the building and contents but the loss is quite a severe one to Mr. Thrailkill. We understand that Mr. Thrailkill will move into the building known as the "Haycraft Brick" and continue to entertain the transient public. (Taken from Dallas Co. News, March 1890).

In August of 1891 quite a number of steam threshers were at work in the neighborhood and many of the farmers were marketing their oats at 20¢ a bushel, in January of the same year corn was selling at 52¢ per bushel.

The first bank was established in town in 1892 under the name of "The Exchange Bank" with a capital of \$10,000.00. Officers were M. S. Kile, Pres.; F. M. Kile, Vice Pres.; Geo. M. Kile, Cashier.

The DeSoto Exponent (weekly newspaper) was started in 1891 with A. C. Hutchins, editor. He was also Principal of DeSoto Schools for 6 years. Mr. Hutchins was editor of the paper until May of 1894 when Solon Whinery purchased it. In 1898 the DeSoto Exponent was sold to A. W. VanCleave, publisher. The rates of subscription were one year in advance—\$1.00, 6 months—50¢, 3 months—30¢.

During this period in our town we had very adequate train service. There were three trains in each direction every day.

A market report in the DeSoto Exponent in February 1898: corn 19¢, oats 18-1/2¢, hogs 2.75 to 3.10, steers 4.00 to 4.50, butcher stuff 2.50 to 3.00.

BIG FIRE AT DE SOTO

(Taken from Dallas Co. News Oct. 1899)

"Last night at about half past seven o'clock word reached here that the town of DeSoto was on fire and the Adel fire laddies hustled into carriages and drove to DeSoto, accompanied by some forty or fifty citizens. The fire was under control before they arrived on the ground, and had burned the B. P. Jordan Hotel, J. W. Blackman's general merchandise stock and Isaac Hoch's store and ware rooms. The loss of the hotel property is estimated at \$1000 with only \$300 insurance. Mr. Blackman's stock was worth \$6000 to \$7000 with \$3000

insurance. I. Hoch's loss is \$6000 on stock and \$1500 on buildings with \$3000 insurance. This will be a serious loss for DeSoto. It is not known definitely how the fire originated, though a report is current that it was from a bonfire in the rear of the buildings. DeSoto fire boys and citizens labored heroically to save their town and it looked for a time as if the entire business portion must go. The ladies worked as hard as the men, carrying water and assisting in removing the goods from threatened buildings across the street. The fire burned both ways until it struck the solid brick wall of the empty Pritchard building, where it was checked. It is to be hoped that the wooden buildings destroyed will be replaced by solid brick structures."

At this time in our town history many of our business places were on Railroad Street.

By November of the same year, building after the fire was well on its way. Isaac Hoch had a new ware room built and resumed business in the Pritchard building. The Blackman building was being pushed rapidly. The fine brick structure was to have a fine plate glass front and cost about \$2500 when finished. It was occupied by E. D. Blackman. The new depot was completed and W. H. Nichols built an addition to his shop that he used as a blacksmith shop. Also Geo. DeLong built a new store.

Businesses listed during the years between 1890 and 1900 were as follows:

Real Estate: E. Bouchard.

Notary Public: Isaac Hoch.

Harness Shop: J. W. Snyder.

Groceries and Notions: Isaac Hoch.

Blacksmith: W. H. Nichols.

Hotel: D. K. Thraillkill and Clint Hosleton.

Newspaper: A. C. Hutchins, Solon Whinery and A. W. VanCleave.

Bank: M. S. Kile, Pres.

Dressmaking: Stella Wade.

Milliner: Mrs. Comely.

Photographer: Frank Cummings and Nelson Mayden.

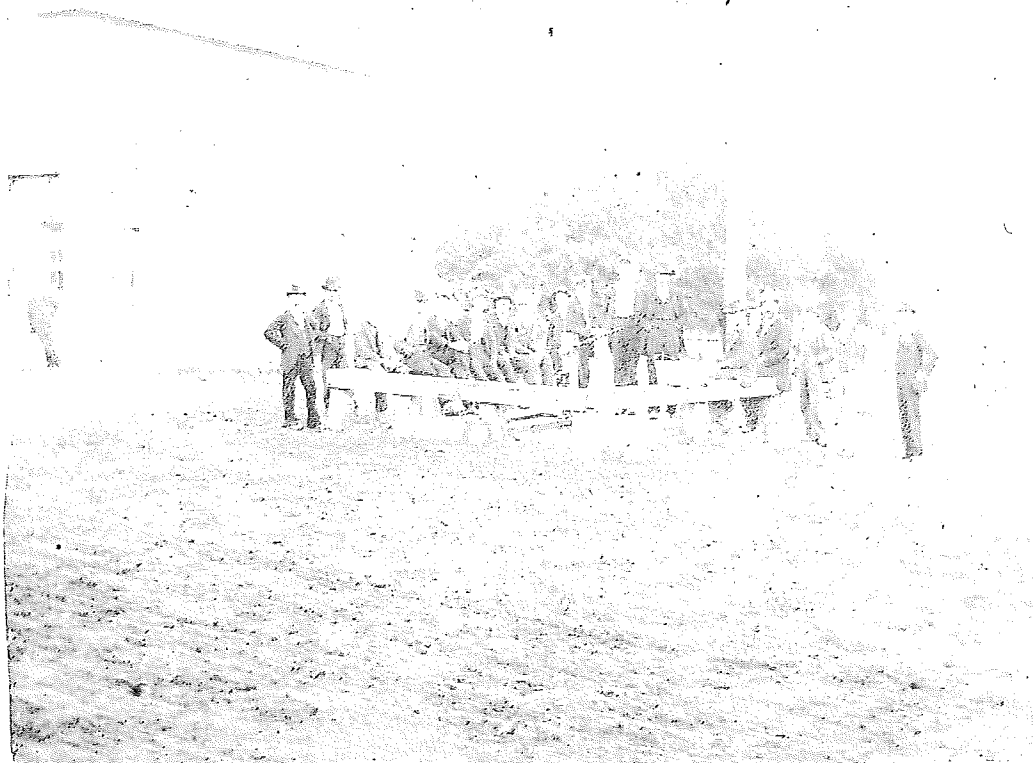
Hardware Store: Bower Bros.

Physicians and Surgeons: Dr. Bare and Mrs. Emma Bare; Dr. C. M. Wright and Dr. A. J. Smith.

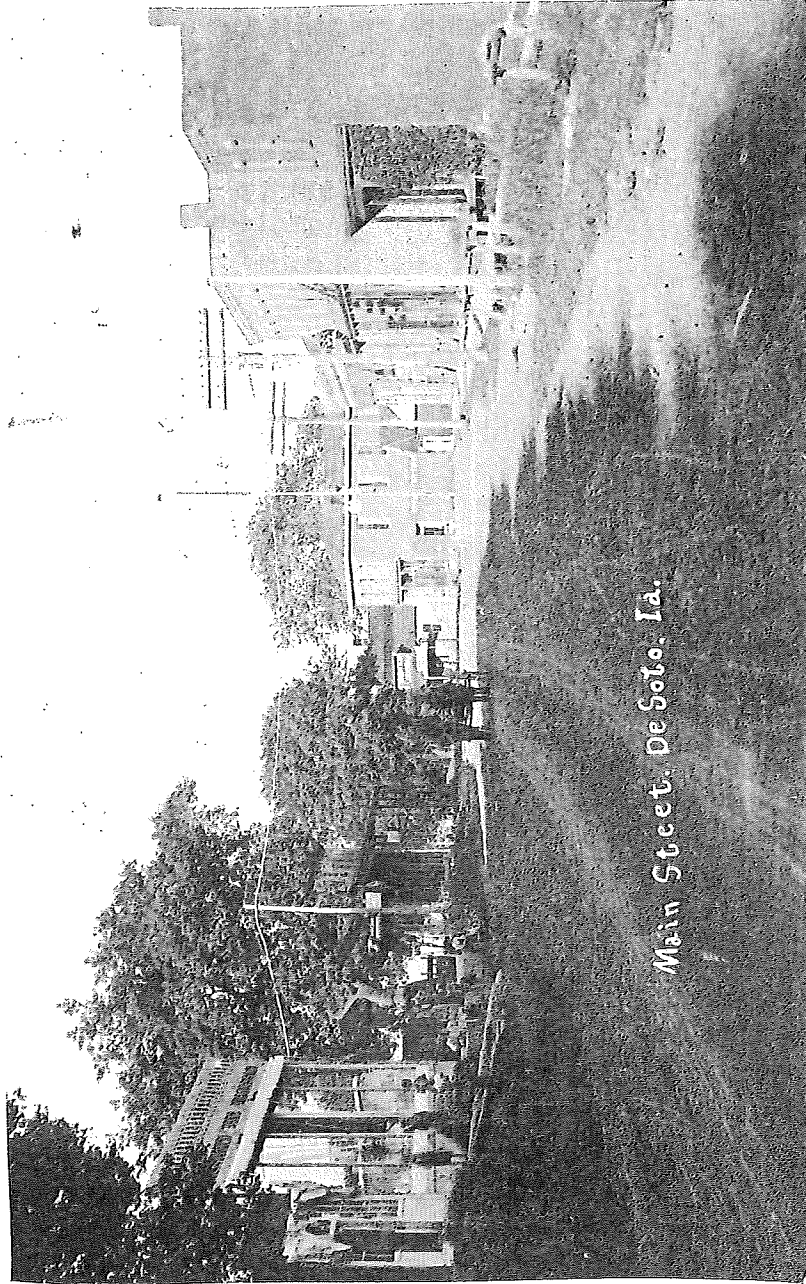
Brick and Tile Works: McKissick and Moorehouse.

Barber: H. W. Meyers and Ezra Hutchison.

General Store: Hoch & Son.



Town well visiting center (note wooden pump)



Main Street, De Soto, Ia.

Main Street - Early 1900's

Depot Agent: A. R. Williams.

Jeweler: Mr. Macomber.

Roller Mills: Mrs. D. D. VanMeter and J. J. VanMeter.

In October of 1900 a new rural mail route was started and the mail was carried out of DeSoto until sometime in the 40's.

The 1903 market report is as follows: hogs 3.00 to 3.50; eggs 23¢ doz.; oats 29¢; cattle 4.00 to 4.25; butter 20¢ lb.; corn 28¢.

In the early 1900's there were two telephone companies in DeSoto. They were the Hawkeye and Mutual Telephone.

In the year 1905 M. E. Parks was agent for Lozier's, Des Moines, for cut flowers and would fill any orders in short notice.

Another addition has been made to the town and this was known as the "Canine Addition".

George Kile caused a bit of excitement in our town in 1908 when he came driving home in a brand new Buick. It was the first car purchased by any of our citizens.

A huge cistern was built, located just north of the town well, solely for the storage of water for fighting fires. The unused water that was pumped out of the well ran through a pipe to the cistern. At the time of fires the pumper fire engine was pulled to the cistern by men and the water was pumped out through the fire engine onto the fires. (This cistern is still in Main Street but with our modern water system and fire engine it hasn't been used in many years.)

The following businesses were here during the years 1900 through 1910:

Restaurant: J. A. Pyers and Mr. McNeely.

Doctors: Dr. C. M. Wright, Dr. Rawson, Dr. Maulsby, Dr. Thornburg, Moorman, Dr. M. T. Brewer and C. M. Porter.

Drug Store: Mr. Spaulding, W. L. Sackett and I. H. McDonald.

Hardware Store: R. C. Taylor, Rose and Travis, Bower Bros.

Confectionery-Lunch Counter: Ezra Hutchison.

General Merchandise: E. M. Blackman and William Roberts.

Creamery: A. Cockarine.

Depot Agent: Mr. Ohle.

Butcher Shop: Mr. Crowder.

Photographer: Mr. Archer.

Lumber Yard: Wm. McKissick and M. S. Kile.
Poultry: A. M. Potter.
Blacksmith & Wagon Maker: M. W. Anderson.
Barber: Ezra Hutchison, R. C. Irwin, Norman Beeson
and Jess Lee.

Livestock Shipper: M. M. Pritchard.

Livery Stable: E. V. Hennen & Son.

Real Estate, Loans, and Insurance: W. T. Scarborough.

Millinery: Misses M. & E. Lane.

Groceries and Farm Machinery: Isaac Hoch & Son.

General Merchandise & Hardware: Blackman & Taylor.

Furniture: I. L. Carter and I. W. Rinard.

Grain Dealer: H. L. McCombs.

Meat Market: D. K. Jensen.

Dressmaker: Anne Smith

Blacksmith Shop: Warren Fisher and W. Mozena.

During this era the modes of transportation were few, so trains were depended upon for most traveling, even from one town to another. In 1911 the Adel football team came to DeSoto by carriages and had dinner at Duff's Hotel while waiting for the train to take them to Earlham to play ball. The meal was prepared by the French Chef, who was quite famous for her cooking and French specialties.

The DeSoto Savings Bank opened early in the year of 1913. It was a very neat and attractive office. The bank was a State Bank under the State Banking Laws. By 1915 the Exchange Bank of DeSoto purchased the DeSoto Savings and took possession. For a time both banks ran with no change in business or personnel. The new institution was known as DeSoto Savings Bank. Pres: M. S. Kile, Vice Pres.: F. M. Kile and Cashier: Geo. M. Kile.

Along in 1913 electric lines and lights were put in town. Before this the townspeople had to carry lanterns whenever they went out at night. This was quite a boost to the town and many of the homes were wired for electricity.

The town was noted for its many July 4th celebrations and its two baseball teams. The teams were named the "Leans" and "Fats" and one of the early ball parks was south and east of the railroad tracks down by Bulger Creek with the south hillside as natural bleachers.

DeSoto had a very active Band. In the early teens the town built a bandstand and the band played every Saturday night for many years. In September of 1915 the 20 piece band went to Adel to play a concert with N. N. Blackman, director.

Later, T. Fred Henry was conductor. The businessmen of DeSoto paid \$250 in advance for the band and concerts, and they were always enjoyed not only by the townspeople but also by people in the outlying area.

"Duff's Opera House" was used for most of the local entertainment including Burlesque Musical Entertainment, plays, etc. Admission prices to these programs were adults 25¢, children under 10 years 10¢, and reserved seats 35¢. Later in April of 1918 the Commercial Club was organized and took over the theatre to give the community the best of pictures.

During World War I a service flag was embroidered with all the servicemen's names by Mrs. H. H. Morrill. It was presented to the town at the July 4th ceremony in 1918. The DeSoto Band gave a concert and during intermission the service flag, a beautiful piece of work, was unfurled from the top of the drug store by Messrs. Clarence Manders and Roy Frederick. J. B. Weaver gave the address and several young ladies sang "America".

The creamery building burned in November of 1918 and for a time it threatened a number of houses in the vicinity. This was the building storing ice that was used in many of the homes.

There was quite an impromptu celebration in DeSoto when the Armistice was signed in 1918. The men of the community hung an effigy of "Kaiser" from the flag pole and built a huge bonfire under it. Lumber and logs and practically everything loose was thrown on the fire. Finally some of the men brought the four hole outhouse that served the bank. When they threw this building on the fire it blazed up so high the effigy caught fire and burned. The fire got so out of hand that it was feared some of the buildings would catch afire.

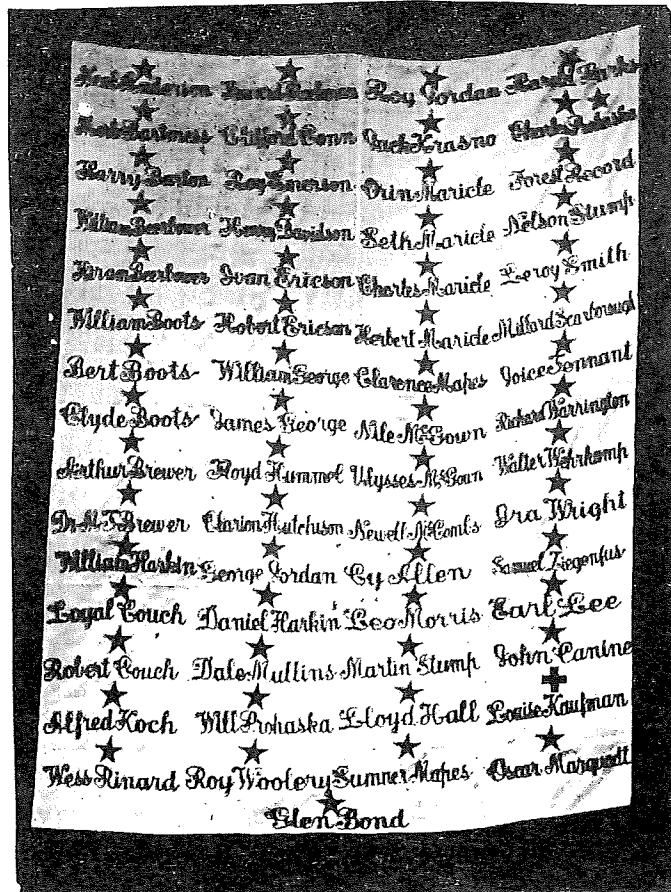
DeSoto had a big Homecoming Celebration for the servicemen returning home from World War I. It was a two day celebration which was held on August 19-20, 1919, highly advertised weeks ahead in the county newspaper. There was a large parade with someone dressed as "Uncle Sam" leading it. Also the band played and "Welcome Home" signs were displayed everywhere. A "Welcome Home" address was given to honor all the servicemen by a minister and also a dinner in the Christian Church basement. Merchants in town set up food concession stands along main street.

The following businesses were here from 1910 to 1920:
Confectionery and Lunch Counter: Ezra Hutchison.

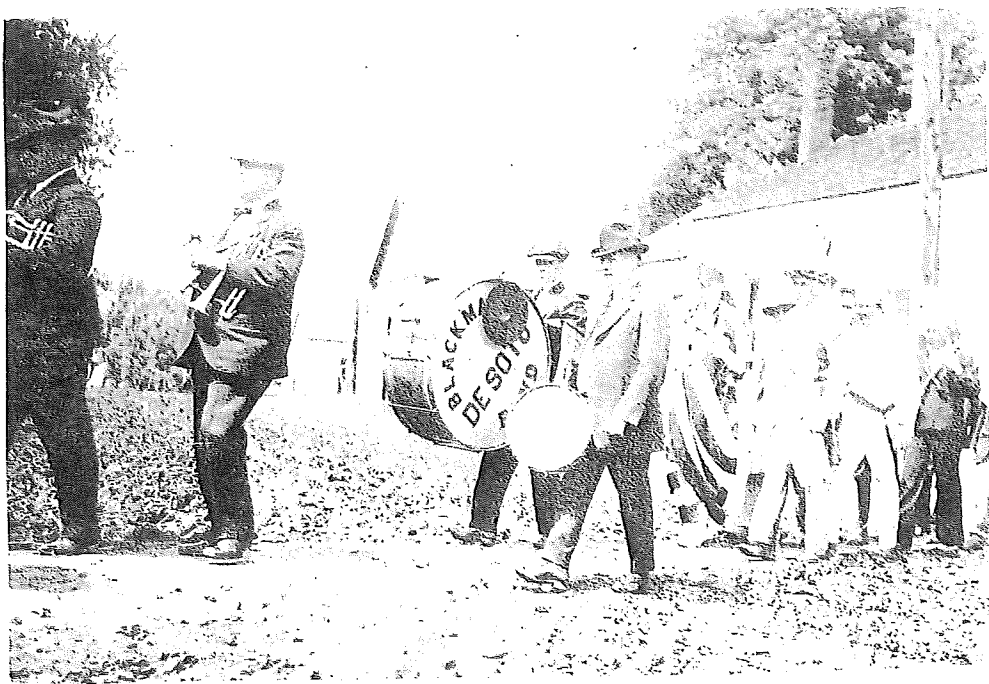
Barber: Ezra Hutchison, Scott Hutchison.



Street Scene – Servicemen's Homecoming



Service Flag



DeSoto Band – Servicemen's Homecoming



Homecoming Day – Christian Church in Background

Millinery: Mrs. Estella Green.
Laundry: Wm. Dillon.
Meat Market and Grocery: J. B. Williams, E. H. Moore,
D. K. Jensen and Glen Long.
Doctors: Dr. Brewer, health officer, City Physician;
Dr. Thompson, Dr. Glue, Dr. Summers, Dr. Hunt, Dr. Place
and Dr. Bowden.
Real Estate and Loan Office: Glen Long.
Optometrist: F. H. Nolte.
Drug Store: Mr. Russell, Mr. McDonald and H. H. Morrill.
Hotel and Restaurant: Duff.
Feed Business: C. C. Conn, D. K. Jensen, L. M. Mann
and Hylton.
Lumber: J. P. Trulin and W. O. Sloan.
Ice House: D. K. Jensen & Schultz and H. H. Morrill.
Depot Agent: Mr. Achison and H. L. Pitzer.
Postmaster: Glen Long.
Newspaper: Mr. Wood.
Opera House: Duff's.
Hotel: Mrs. Tombs (DeSoto House).
Tinshop: Frank Ervin.
Hardware: Frank Ervin and Maricle Bros.
Stock Business: Mr. Snyder.
Garage & Implement: Jordan Bros.
Elevator: Hazel Bales and Jim Thornton.
Auctioneer: Col. John Duff.
Grocery Store: C. A. Maricle and B. B. Landers.
Restaurant: F. L. Hoch and J. A. Pyers.
Hardware & Grocery: Bower Bros.
Implement Stock: James Duff.
Creamery: Mr. Mortisen.
Electric Shop: Clarion & Scott Hutchison.
Livery Stable: A. J. Shultz.

DE SOTO HAD A FIRE
(From Dallas Co. News August 1920)

"Last Wednesday night the Opera House and Drug Store at DeSoto were destroyed by fire. On Wednesday morning about 1:15 a general alarm of fire was given in the peaceful and quiet little city of DeSoto. The fire started in the rear of H. H. Morrill's drug store and was under full sway before boys in the American Legion Hall heard glass breaking and smelled the smoke and looked out and saw the smoke rolling

out of the windows. The people came forth from all directions and soon had the fire engine working at full capacity and with the splendid help of the bucket brigade, the fire was held under control and for a time it was thought the theatre would be saved. But the firemen were finally driven to the roof of Landers Restaurant, where the heroic work was carried on. But it seemed as though the restaurant and no doubt all the buildings in the square must go. Then at the right time our neighboring town, VanMeter, having received a new chemical engine arrived in our streets, just in the nick of time giving hopes and encouragements to our boys. By the excellent work of John England and his assistants, the fire was held back enough to give the hose cart and bucket brigade another chance and by the united efforts of all, our little city was saved with the loss of only two of its best buildings and total loss of all contents."

The record of organization and incorporation of the Community Association of DeSoto on Dec. 10, 1920. List of first ones to buy shares in the Community Association of DeSoto were: L. E. McCorkle, C. A. Maricle, B. B. Landers, O. H. Jeffrey, L. O. Benfield, George M. Kile, and F. L. Hoch. The first meeting was held on Oct. 20, 1920 at 7 p.m. The following were elected officers: L. E. McCorkle-Chairman; C. B. Hutchison-Vice President; F. L. Hoch-Secretary; L. O. Benfield-Treasurer. The following were elected directors of the Community Association of DeSoto: M. I. Mullins, J. G. Riley, C. A. Maricle, B. B. Landers, Geo. M. Kile, L. E. McCorkle (Pres.), F. L. Hoch, (Sec.). The meetings were held at the DeSoto Savings Bank.

Through this association the buildings destroyed by fire were rebuilt; a new store building 35 x 60 ft. was built and a theatre room 25 x 80 feet. The store building was rented to C. A. Maricle for a general store. This organization was dissolved in December of 1926.

DeSoto Post No. 448 of the American Legion was organized in 1920.

The residents of DeSoto were very fortunate in 1921 to have an excellent taxi service to Des Moines every day. Carroll McKibben left town at 7:25 a.m. every morning and returned in the evening. The railroad had reduced their schedule so the only east bound train did not arrive until 1:00 p.m. Early in the 1920's the Hawkeye and Mutual Telephone Companies merged as one company. The new company was named Adams Twp. Mutual Telephone Co.

DE SOTO DAY AT IOWA STATE FAIR

Friday, August 25, 1922, was DeSoto Day at the Iowa State Fair. The DeSoto Band gave three concerts in the pavillion and everyone was urged to attend from the vicinity in order that DeSoto would be placed on the map as a live town. T. Fred Henry was bandmaster and N. N. Blackman was organizer.

On August 8, 1924, the DeSoto High School Orchestra broadcasted from the Des Moines WHO Broadcasting Station from 7:30 until 9 p.m. The orchestra was under the direction of Mr. Randall Compton.

In the later 20's the DeSoto Savings Bank was having difficulty and finally closed in 1927. The documents of the defunct bank were moved to the courthouse in Adel. In 1928 the bank paid 10% on the accounts that were in the bank at the time of closing.

The population at this time had decreased to 261.

The following businesses were in town during the 1920's.

Doctor: Dr. Hunt.

Millinery: Mrs. McGowan.

Barber Shop: Mr. Michel and Mr. Jones.

Grocery Store: C. A. Maricle, C. W. Carty and T. C. Graham.

Depot Agent: Charles Mark.

Garage: M. W. Anderson and Charles Forreth.

Shoe Repairing: M. W. Anderson & Son.

Oil Station: Alva Woolery, H. H. Morrill and Dan Baker.

Auctioneer: Col. John Duff.

Hatchery: A. M. Compton and G. H. Long.

Postmaster: Glen Long and Mrs. Mary Fudge.

Blacksmith: Mr. Fudge and Mr. Cox & Son.

Grain Dealer: B. C. Hemphill.

Dentist: Dr. J. M. Jackson.

Druggist: Dr. J. M. Jackson.

Drug Store: H. H. Morrill.

Wallpaper Salesman: A. H. McKelley.

Hardware: L. O. Benfield.

Construction Company: L. E. McCorkle.

Grain & Livestock Dealers: Jeffrey and McKray.

Blacksmith: Geo. H. Cox.

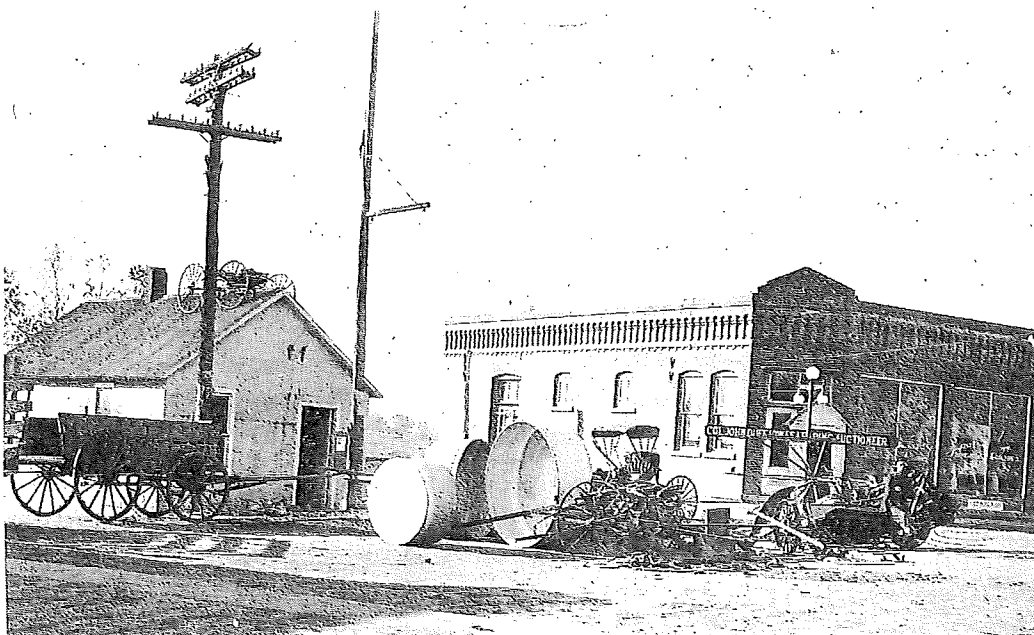
Tinshop: B. F. Ervin.

Grocery & Produce: B. B. Landers.

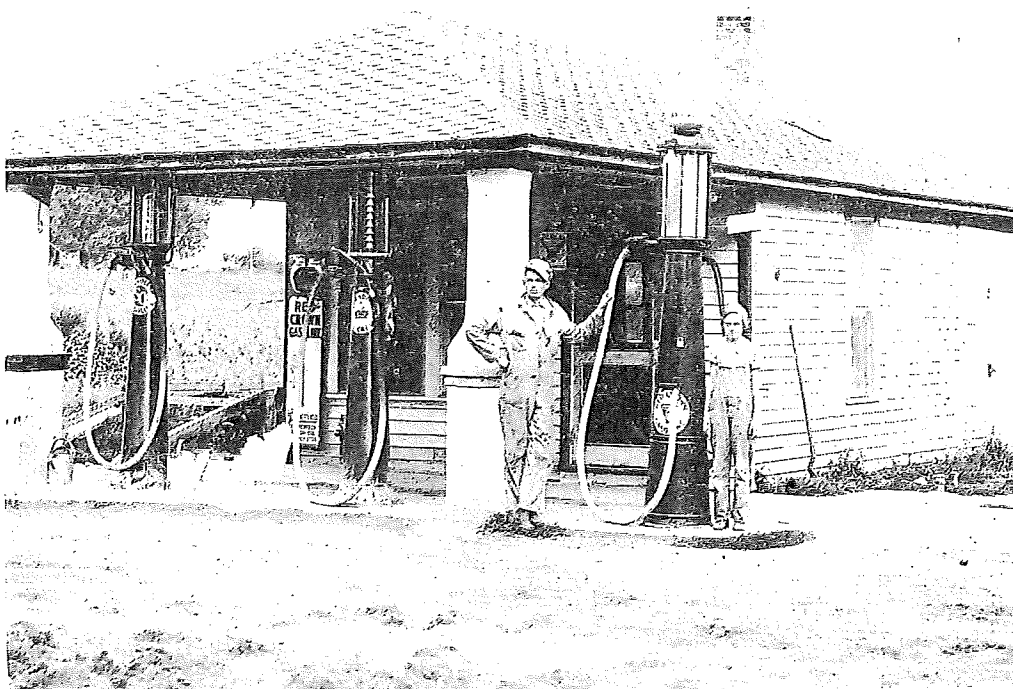
Restaurant: Steve Shediwy.

Lumber: W. O. Sloan.

Elevator: J. G. Riley.



Street Scene after Halloween Eve 1918



Old Service Station at Highway 169

Electric Shop: Clarion & Scott Hutchison.

DeSoto had a very active Garden Club in the 1930's with many of the ladies having lovely flower gardens at their homes. They had regular meetings and every summer a large Flower Show was held with the public invited. This organization helped to beautify the town with their many flowers.

Along about this time there was a Girl Scout organization in town.

In 1930 the Star Route service was established from DeSoto to Adel. A. W. Woolery delivered the early morning mail from DeSoto station to the post office in Adel.

During the depression in 1933 the town cut down the street lights to six. There was one in front of the school house, one at Highway 169 and Walnut St., and two blocks east, two at the town well and one on the block east of the town well. The town paid men 30¢ per hour for services rendered. During the years of Poll Tax the men paid \$3.00 per year as they reached the age of 21 or did such things as cleaning drainage ditches, streets and cemetery work. This also acted as registration to vote.

During the past 10 years the town was in its lowest ebb. Business was slow because of the depression and the town was at a standstill. Businesses during the 1930's were as follows:

Lumber Company: W. O. Sloan.

Garage: Vern Harkins and M. W. Anderson.

Oil Station & Ice House: A. W. Fisher, A. W. Woolery and Arthur Bond.

Auctioneer: Col. John Duff.

Barber: Leonard Elliott, Wayne Glazebrook and J. C. Foster.

Armour Produce and Cream Station: Elm. Shannon.

Depot Agent: F. E. Brown.

Grocery Store: C. A. Maricle, E. Barger and Charles W. Carty.

Cash & Carry Store: J. J. McKray.

Restaurant: Bert Waggener, B. B. Landers, Molly Stump and Gretchen Bond.

Real Estate & Broker: L. O. Benfield.

Elevator: J. G. Riley and J. Lawrence Riley.

Hatchery: Floyd Riegle.

Trucking: R. Fundinger.

Drug Store: J. M. Jackson.

Hardware: L. O. Benfield.

Culling Poultry: Glen Long.

For such a small community there were quite a number of boys who went into service in World War II. The servicemen's names were painted on a large board and displayed on a vacant lot on the north side of main street in honor of the boys who served. During the war DeSoto had what was known as the "brown out". The lights of the town were dimmed. Ration books were issued which consisted of food stamps (red & blue) and also stamps for most everything. Clothing, shoes, yard goods, and sheets were just some of the things that were very hard to buy. Gas and tires for cars were rationed. Jobs were frozen and people were not free to move from one job to another. Rental properties had a ceiling price so the rents couldn't be raised.

At this time the government was issuing pennies made out of lead to conserve copper. Defense Stamps were sold in five denominations of 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1 and \$5. With the first purchase of any Defense Stamp, the person received an album in which to mount the stamps. When the album was full it was exchanged at the post office for a Defense Savings Bond. Series E. Bonds were sold on a discount basis in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1000. A person paid \$18.75 for a \$25 bond and if held for 10 years, the bond matured and the person received a Treasury check for \$25.

The town practiced "blackout" drills. The church bell rang as the signal for everyone to turn their lights out.

The town library in 1942 was located in half of the present grocery store building and later was moved to the town hall.

The town of DeSoto purchased the old bank building in 1944 and moved the fire engine in the rear of the building, which was made into a fire station. The front part of the building was used as Town Hall and Library. Previous to this for several years the council held their meetings in various places.

From the time the electric lights were installed in 1913 the town owned the street lights, poles and wires. In 1943 the townspeople voted to give Iowa Power and Light Co. a 25-year franchise on the system. The street lights, etc., were sold to Iowa Power & Light Co. with the town paying only for electricity used. The maintenance was handled by the Light Co.

A ladies social club was organized in October, 1943. The club was named "M.A.O." (My Afternoon Out) with the first officers: President-Cora Martens, Secretary-Beatrice Boots and Treasurer-Katie Anderson.

Outdoor movies were very popular in the late 40's, every Saturday night was movie night.

In 1946 Herman Jensen built a garage at the northwest edge of town on Highway 169. In the following year Ralph J. Diddy bought from the town a vacated store building, originally built by the Bower Bros. in 1905. Mr. Diddy remodeled the store into one large store, instead of a divided building as it always had been, also he made an attractive and comfortable apartment in the rear of the building which is the present store.

A big flood came in June 1947. Bulger Creek which is normally very small went out of its banks, came across the railroad tracks and washed out Bulger Bridge in the south part of town. A cattle shed was located across the tracks. Several men had to wade in water almost to their shoulders to rescue some hogs that were in the shed.

The population of DeSoto in 1940 was 274 and tax valuation was \$110,141 in 1942.

The businesses in the 1940's were as follows:

Hatchery: Floyd Riegle.

Locker Plant and Grocery: Cyrus McDonald.

Gas Station: H. R. Jensen.

Garage: Vern Harkins and Art Scheiffarth.

Grocery Store: C. A. Maricle, E. Barger and Ralph Diddy.

Hardware: L. O. Benfield.

Tavern: Jake Wolfe.

Produce: H. Adkins.

Trucking: Lee Palmer and R. Fundinger.

Elevator: J. Lawrence Riley and Gordon Coffin.

Depot Agent: B. N. Richards, and Henry Shetterly.

Postmaster: Nola Chapman and Gladys Williams.

Cafe & Tavern: R. C. and Darlene Fundinger.

Along with progress in times come disappointments for others. At the time the State Highway Dept. started grading and widening 169 to get it ready for paving, the oil station that had been built in the 1920's was moved into the country and used as a farm building. Herman Jensen had operated the old station for 28 years. In 1950 he built a new station as an addition to the garage he built in 1946 on Highway 169. In 1951 Highway 169 was paved, a great improvement over the dusty rock road with its chuck holes, etc. that we had for many years. At some time this highway was known as number 16.

A Community Club was organized in 1952 which helps to sponsor the Little League baseball teams and also sponsors the July 4th Celebrations. The Club purchased the building that was formerly the C. A. Maricle Grocery Store. They rebuilt the front and did considerable work on the interior of the building to use it for community social affairs, such as card parties, teen dances, potluck dinners, etc.

In 1956 the residents of DeSoto voted to have a city water system established.

During the fall of 1956 and spring of 1957 a well was dug and water lines laid out. By April the water was turned on. This was a wonderful thing for all the residents in town, for water had always been a short item in many homes. Most of the homes had cisterns to store water for washing clothes and bathing, but many of the residents pumped and carried water from the town well to use in cooking and drinking. For the town the water was a great boon, because without it there was no chance of getting new businesses. Since this time our town has become a really modern town with many of the homes installing bathrooms, automatic washing machines, etc.

The Post Office was moved Nov. 1, 1959 from the north side of main street to a building on the south side. The postal department installed all new equipment at this time, which made our post office very modern on the interior.

Several of our boys served in the Armed Forces in the Korean War in the 50's.

The population in 1950 was 280 with a tax valuation of \$127,701 in the year of 1951.

The following businesses were in town during the 1950's:
Grocery Store: John Knapp, Joe Caudron and Guy Wyant.
(All in the same building).

Gas Station: H. R. Jensen.

Auto Salvage: John Swihart.

Cafe & Tavern: R. C. & Darlene Fundinger.

Garage & Station: Vern Harkins, Harold French and John Jensen.

Garage: Art Schleiffarth.

Produce: LeRoy & Harold Alexander.

Postmaster: Gladys Williams.

Sale Barn: (Auction) Don Devore.

Telephone Office: Myrel Minnick.

Elevator: Phillip Duff.

On January 1, 1960 Mr. and Mrs. Myrel Minnick pur-

chased Adams Twp. Telephone Company. It was named DeSoto Telephone Company. On February 17, 1961 a big ice storm put all of the lines down beyond repair. At this time the company was sold to Central Iowa Rural Telephone Co. and a complete system of underground cables was installed, one of the finest systems in this area. The new plant was cut over to dial May 21, 1963. Mr. Minnick stayed on as manager of the plant. In 1967 Central Iowa Rural Telephone Co. merged with the General Telephone and Electronics Corp., the second largest in the United States. They will improve as times change and direct dialing will come in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS BUILDINGS

There have been quite a few new business buildings in the years from 1960 until 1968. Betty Golightly built a building on main street for a beauty shop in 1961. In the same year John Jensen and Harold French built a cafe close to their Hi-Way Service on Highway 169. When the telephone system changed to dial in 1963 the Central Iowa Rural Telephone Co. built a brick office building. Along in 1965 Wayne Moorehead built a new building for a tavern; later the Post Office was moved to this location. Then Don Tipling opened his upholstery shop on main street in 1965. There were two buildings built in 1967. The Edgetowner Motel was constructed, 20 units, by Raymond Jungman and is located on Highway 169. Also, the Skelly Oil Co. built a service station and restaurant on the northwest corner of Highway 169 and the county road. In 1968 Mobil Oil Co. built a service station on the northeast corner of the same location. Also in 1968 John Jensen and Harold French changed their Hi-Way Service from Texaco to Standard Oil and are doing extensive remodeling.

Since 1955 there has been a great building boom with an increase of approximately 35 new homes. These have been either newly constructed or homes that were moved into town.

DeSoto is growing. The town annexed land to the west and north adjoining the town boundaries. It extends west and north to Interstate 80. This annexation is approximately 160 acres.

Finally after these many years the town has a speed zone on Highway 169.

During the years 1966-1968 the town has had Iowa Power & Light Co. install 14 new vapor street lights to replace the old ones. This has made our town much lighter and more

pleasant.

The town has surveyed and plans drawn for a new sewer system. As soon as the Federal Government appropriates funds, the town will have city sewer. The residents of the town voted to give a 25 year renewal light franchise and also a gas franchise to Iowa Power & Light Co.

In 1967 the town bought a fire truck that is quite adequate for the town's needs. Later they purchased a nozzle for foam used in fighting gas fires, also fire hats, coats and boots.

Early in 1968 the Post Office was moved into a new location. The building was built in 1965 and later purchased by Myrel Minnick who remodeled it to postal regulations and now we have a very modern Post Office. Also in 1968 the town council remodeled the Town Hall.

The population of DeSoto in 1960 was 273 and the tax valuation was \$156,501. In 1967 the population had increased to 340 and the tax valuation was \$264,295.

The businesses in town during the 60's are as follows:

Aladdin Upholstery: Don Tipling.

Grocery Store: Guy Wyant and Frances Van Pelt.

Betty's Beauty Fashions: Betty Golightly.

B. & C. Welding & Fabricating: David Branam and Merle Cron.

DeSoto Elevator: Phil Duff.

Tavern: Barbara Moorehead.

Auto Salvage: Elsie Swihart.

Postmaster: Gladys Williams.

Sale Barn: (Auction) Don Devore.

Hi-Way Service (garage and station): Harold French and John Jensen.

Hi-Way Lunch: Kenneth Stewart, Rose Van Buren, David Cade, John and Ethel Holden and Pauline Ostrander.

Chapman & Swihart Construction Co.: (Backhoe) Larry Chapman and Lon Swihart.

Sod Cutting, Printing, and Guitar Lessons: Leonard Austin.

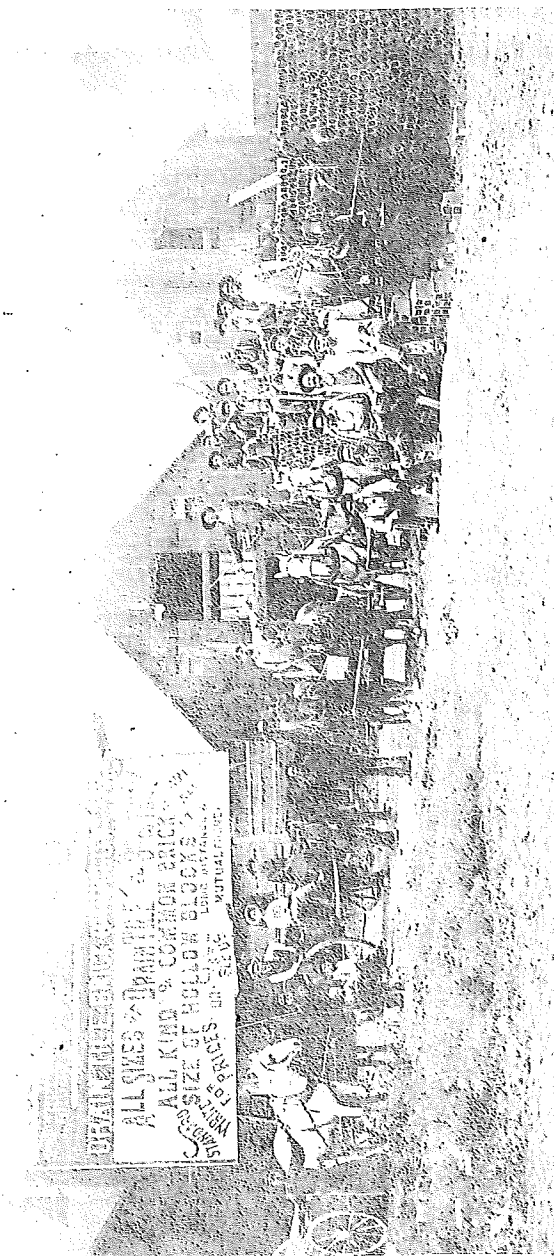
Edgetowner Motel: Raymond Jungman.

Skelly Service: Bernard Heckner.

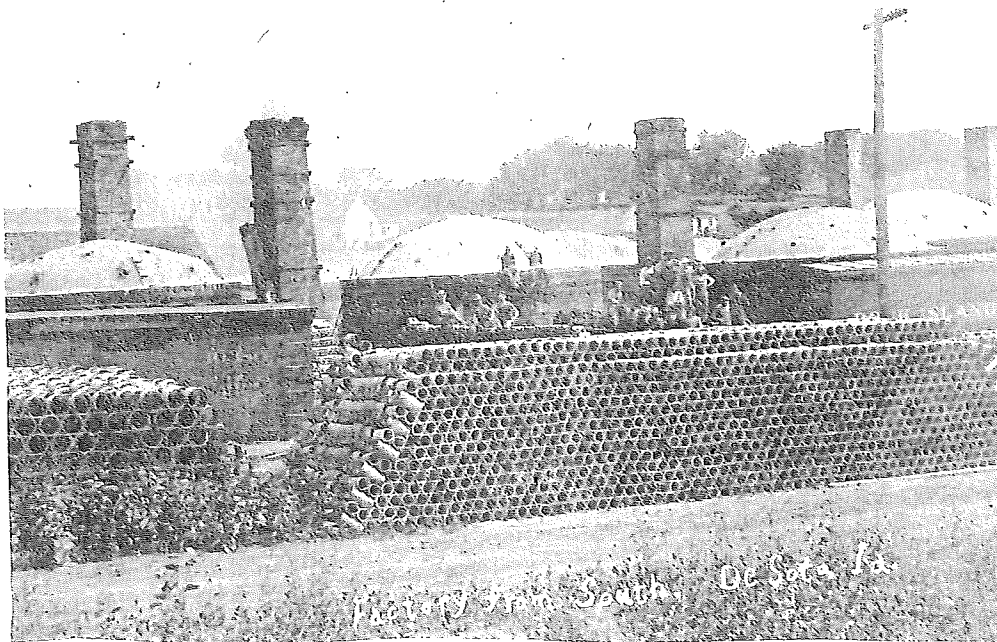
Tiny's I-80 & 169 Horse 'n' Buggy: Tiny & Larry Lindblom.

Mobil Station: Don B. Eyerly.

Palmer & Palmer Auto Service: Dale & Von Palmer.



DeSoto Brick and Tile Works



Tile Factory



Tile Factory Fire July 22, 1919

TILE FACTORY

The DeSoto Brick & Tile Works was established in 1884 by William L. McKissick. The factory was located in the south east part of town near the Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, which made it handy for shipping the brick and tile. Business was very good and several new kilns were built in 1886 to help meet the demand for brick and tile. An excellent quality of clay was obtained south of town. The clay dug from the clay pit was loaded on dump wagons and hauled by a team of horses to a storage shed at the factory. The clay was wheeled by wheel barrows to the crusher where it was crushed to a sizeable powder. Then it was carried by an elevator to the top of the large hopper where it was emptied onto a fine wire screen. After leaving the hopper the fine powdered clay was released into a machine called the pug mill. The pug mill had two rotating shafts with sloping knives on each that mixed the clay with water and forced the clay mixture to the front part of the machine. An auger then forced the mixed clay through a die, which formed the clay into a large tube. It then traveled to a cutting table which cut it into given lengths. At the end of the table two men would take every other tile and set them on two wheeled trucks. The trucker would wheel them to the drying room where they were unloaded to dry out. When they were dry they were loaded on trucks and wheeled to the kiln. When the kiln was full of tile, the entrance was closed with brick and clay mortar. Fire was started in several fire pockets and was gradually increased until the tile in the kiln became white hot. Then the fires were banked and the tile allowed to cool gradually. When the tile was cooled the entrance was reopened and the men would wheel the tile to cars on the railroad side track or out in the yard. A large steam engine furnished the power for all the machinery used at the factory. The factory covered about six acres and sold grain, lime, coal, lumber, paint and oil in addition to the manufacture of brick and tile. The brick and tile factory had been a source of employment to men of the town for many years.

During the early years Mr. McKissick had as partners in the factory: J. W. Blackman, E. D. Blackman, A. D. Moorehouse, M. S. Kile and F. M. Kile. In 1907 William McKissick sold the tile factory to H. L. McCombs and M. W. Anderson. Mr. Hudliska later bought the brick and tile factory and on July 22, 1919, the tile factory was destroyed by fire. Mr. Hudliska tore down the remains of the factory as there was very little to be salvaged after the fire. A new building for

the brick and tile factory was built in the fall of 1919. The factory continued in operation until the summer of 1923 when it closed.

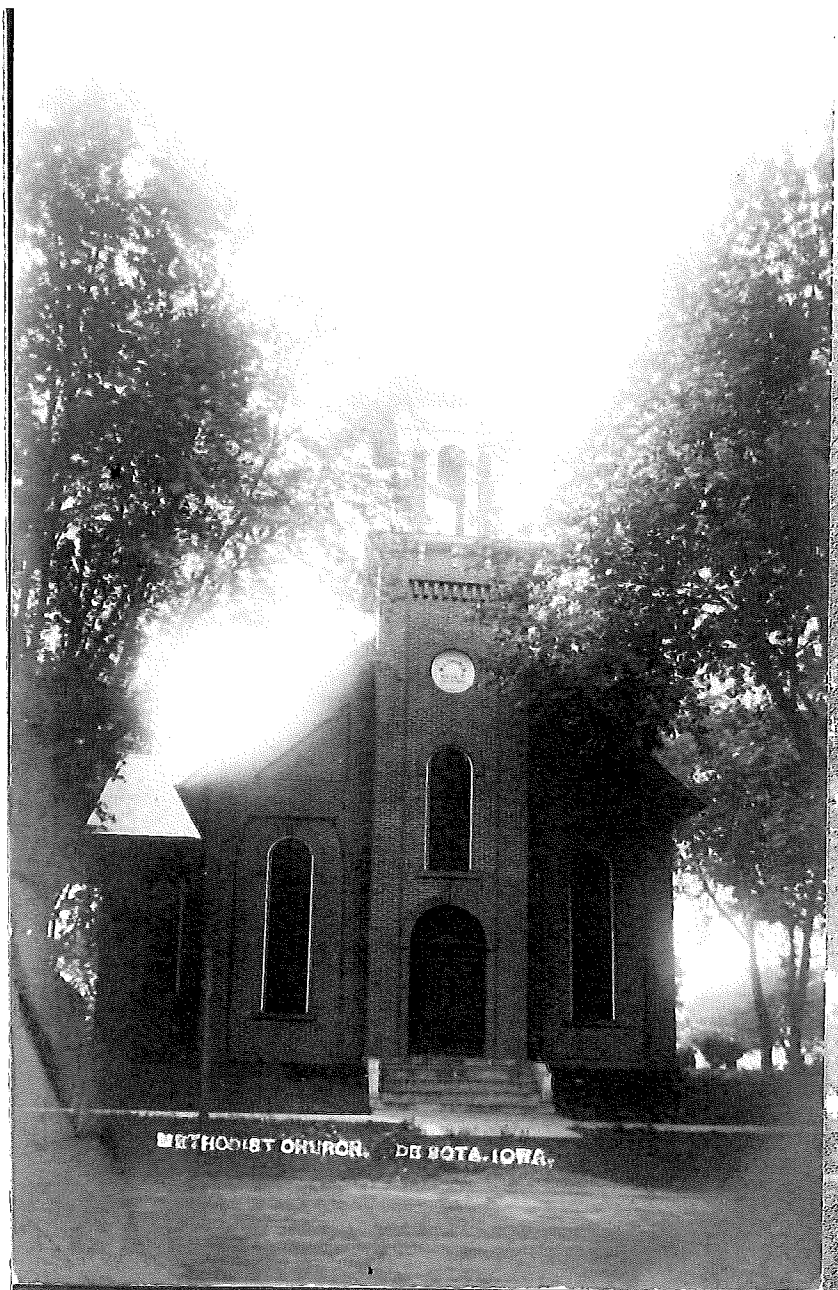
HISTORY OF THE DE SOTO METHODIST CHURCH

Among the early settlers were the people who were willing to give of their time and money that DeSoto could become a town in the Christian tradition. One of the churches established and the only church now in DeSoto is the Methodist Church.

The DeSoto Methodist Circuit was formed from part of the Winterset Circuit plus one class, formerly called Mt. Zion, now DeSoto, from the Adel work. The division was made at the annual conference held in Council Bluffs in August 1868 and A. J. Darby was appointed the first pastor. No doubt there had been a Methodist Organization in DeSoto before this time but no record can be found except "there was a class." Thomas Evans had organized the Mt. Zion class and John Hestwood, who was pastor of the Winterset circuit, planned the organization of the DeSoto Circuit when the town was plotted. The first financial meeting was held at Payton's school house in September and the first quarterly meeting was held at the Jefferson school house Nov. 3 and 4, 1868. The year commenced with a membership of about 230. As then reported, it contained 9 preaching places; Mt. Zion, now DeSoto, Payton, VanMeter, Liberty, Jefferson, Fairview, Worthington, Pilot Grove and North River. Worthington was dropped at the end of the year because no class leader could be found and the membership was only eight.

The DeSoto Circuit continued about the same during 1870 and 1871 under the pastorate of W. F. Hestwood when the new DeSoto church was commenced. In 1872 and 1873 J. W. Todd was pastor and the DeSoto church was completed so as to be used for public worship. It was a lovely red brick structure, 34 x 60 feet, facing the east with a high steeple and bell tower. Later there were beautiful stained glass windows. Above the door was the inscription "Dedicated September 1872". It was built on lots 11 and 12, Block 16 at a cost of \$6000.

At the annual conference in 1873 the circuit was divided into two charges; DeSoto charge and VanMeter charge. The DeSoto charge was composed of DeSoto and Fairview, a country church about 4-1/2 miles south. T. M. K. Stuart was appointed pastor and served until the fall of 1876. During this time the church enjoyed quite a revival and the year closed



Methodist Church
Built in 1872



Methodist Church – 1968

with about 200 members. In 1876 W. E. Bennett became pastor and served until 1877. W. F. Bartholomew was appointed pastor in 1877 and served until 1879.

In February of 1878 Sister Belle S. Leonard assisted the pastor in a series of meetings lasting four weeks, resulting in over 100 conversions. In January of 1878 a bell was purchased from Vanduzen and Tift of Cincinnati, Ohio, weighing 450 lbs. and costing \$150 when hung.

Following is a list of pastors who served the charge:

1879 D. Sheaton to fall of 1882.

1882 Geo. C. Clammer to fall of 1884.

1884 J. R. Wellborn to fall of 1886.

1886 Wm. Patterson and P. V. D. Vedder to fall of 1889.

1886 C. W. Blodgett appointed presiding elder.

1889 C. J. English to fall of 1891.

1891 Benj. Shinn to fall of 1892.

1891 D. C. Franklin appointed presiding elder.

1892 E. W. Dugger to fall of 1894.

1894 McKindree Stahl to fall of 1897.

1896 W. W. Ramsey appointed presiding elder.

1897 J. L. Johnson to fall of 1899.

1899 A. F. Conrey to fall of 1902.

1902 Geo. W. Ladd to fall of 1904.

1903 Wm. Stephenson was appointed presiding elder.

1904 Carl Brown to fall of 1906.

1906 Frank L. Watkins to fall of 1907.

During this time a new parsonage was built in DeSoto at a cost of \$2300 and left debt free. It is located on lots 5 and 6 Block 17. It was sold in 1950 because it needed repairs and was no longer used as a parsonage.

1907 John F. Gibson to fall of 1908.

1908 Albert Foutch to fall of 1910.

During this time four weeks of revival meetings were held in DeSoto. Many souls were added to the church and the members were "quickenened".

1909 E. W. Dade was appointed District superintendent.

1910 R. E. Harvey to fall of 1913.

Membership increased each year and the best benevolence report in the history of the charge was made to the annual conference.

1913 J. F. Davis to fall of 1916.

1916 Robert J. Tennant to fall of 1917.

1916 M. R. Tally was appointed District Superintendent.

1917 I. B. Holman to fall of 1918.

1918 J. W. Illsley to fall of 1919.
1919 V. G. Fellows to fall of 1920.
1920 A. H. McKellup to fall of 1921.
1921 Clifford Cody to fall of 1923.
1923 L. B. Shannon to fall of 1925.
1925 G. J. Stephens to fall of 1926.
1926 James A. Walls to fall of 1929.

The DeSoto church was repaired and repapered with money the Ladies' Aid raised to pay for it. There was a drive to rebuild the old brick church. It is recorded "had it not been for the energy generated in opposition to this scheme even the repair work would not have been done."

1929 Ward W. Watson to fall of 1930.
1930 James Owen Smith to fall of 1931.
1931 E. J. Laird to fall of 1932.

1932 Stuart C. Peterson to fall of 1936.

During this time services were discontinued at Fairview for two years and VanMeter was added to the charge. The parsonage at VanMeter was used and the DeSoto parsonage was rented.

1936 Charles F. Hand to fall of 1937.

1937 Charles J. Fix to June 1938, the annual conference year was changed.

1938 W. L. Hawn to June 1942. He preached at VanMeter, DeSoto, and Fairview until 1941 when Fairview became part of the Creston District.

1942 Elmer L. Peterson to 1943 when he became an Army Chaplain.

1943 Earl McGinness to February 1946 when he became ill.

February 1946 Floyd Newbrough to February 1952, Drake student.

1952 John Clinton in February, March and April.

May 1952 A. V. Weigel to June 1956, Drake student.

1956 Harold Vaughn to June 1960, Drake student.

1960 Leonard Root to June 1964, Drake student.

1964 Milton Lentz to June 1968, Drake student.

During the depression all of DeSoto suffered including the church. Many people moved from the town seeking a better life. Services were discontinued in the new Christian church which had been built in 1924. The big red brick Methodist Church had great cracks, the paper was tattered and discolored and the furnace smoked so badly on windy days that the congregation could not worship. In the spring of 1943 Rev. Earl

McGinness and his young wife came to the VanMeter-DeSoto charge directly from Garrett Seminary. Things looked very discouraging to the young couple. The Christian Church building was for sale and through his efforts a few families contributed the \$400 to buy it. It was a sturdy small building located on Lots 8 and 9 Block 13. There was much work to be done, painting, scrubbing, repairing broken window panes, etc., but the Methodist Church began a new life in DeSoto. In October 1945 the furnishings were moved from the old building into the new. The children carried chairs, books and small items and the men moved the pews and piano in a farm truck. It was dedicated December 2, 1945. Rev. Claude Cooper, District Superintendent, conducted the worship and there was a covered dish dinner at noon.

Since 1945 the Ladies Aid Society, which had always remained active raising funds and working for the church, became a Woman's Society of Christian Service and held its meetings in the fellowship room, celebrating the 10th anniversary with the VanMeter ladies in 1950.

The Sunday School took on new life because there was more privacy for class meetings. Daily Vacation Bible School was held each summer for several years. The Youth Fellowship gained in enthusiasm because there was much work to be done and the youth felt needed. Twenty-two children were baptized at the close of Daily Vacation Bible School in 1946. New members were taken into the church each year and 36 new members were taken in on the 10th anniversary.

In 1952 a new oil furnace was installed in the church with money raised from a "God's Portion Sale". In 1954 the stucco finish was removed from the church and the building was re-shingled. In 1955 it was painted white and a basement addition was built on the north of the church. In 1961 the chancel was remodeled. In 1962 an educational extension was built over the basement addition. On November 4, 1962 the building was consecrated with Dr. Allan K. Williams, District Superintendent, conducting the worship. Since that time the lots where the stately red brick church once stood were sold and a beautiful home was built in 1963. The new building has been painted and cleaned on the inside and painted on the outside. Through the years, much of the labor to keep this church renewed has been done by willing hands and minds.

Several organizations are active within the church. The Women's Society of Christian Service continues to work, study and pray. The Sunday School continues in its program

of study and inspiration for all ages. The Youth Fellowship inspires our youth for responsible leadership and the Young at Heart Married Couples enjoy Christian Fellowship and are ready to help wherever and whenever needed. The membership of the church is now about 139.

In 1968 we face reorganization, but in the words of the Apostle Paul, "We press on to the high calling which is in Christ Jesus," doing that which makes DeSoto a better place to live and raise our families.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church was organized in 1869, being the second in order of organization. The membership was about thirty and at one time had increased to sixty. A beautiful little church was erected in 1870 and dedicated that fall. It was the first church built in town. Due to immigration and death the membership decreased and they were compelled to be without regular services about two years. The membership had reduced to about ten when the services closed.

Some of the early ministers were Revs. Bayliss, T. S. Bailey, Wm. Campbell, John Sylvanus, R. J. Hughes, and M. L. Bardue. Prominently connected with the church were R. S. Walker, Mr. Collins, Wm. Paine, Ezra Mann and Geo. W. Leonard.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian Church was organized in 1870 by Elder A. J. Hobbs. The church building built in 1870 was completely furnished before the organization of the church was made. Also, the entire frame structure was paid for. At this time Elder A. J. Hobbs formed the organization with about forty members. When he left, there were over one hundred active members. One Sunday evening in June 1871, shortly before the evening services were to begin, the building was blown down by a tornado. It was rebuilt in the same style and dedicated in November 1871.

The first regular pastor was J. M. Crocker. He was followed by Wm. M. Roe, J. W. Mouser, B. W. Johnson, Neal Cheatham, A. M. Haggard, F. Waldon, B. W. Johnson, F. Morgan, T. W. Grafton, J. D. Houston, W. R. McRae, Wm. Semones, J. H. Ragan, J. H. McQuery, C. D. Stout, J. E. Denton, W. W. Williamson, A. D. Veatch, E. E. Mack, R. E. Harvey, Rev. Stahl, John M. Grimes, Rev. Wycoff and Rev. Knoles.

The prominent members in this early church history

were Mr. and Mrs. Z. W. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Silas Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hathaway, Mr. and Mrs. Julius J. VanMeter, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo G. VanMeter, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar H. Haycraft, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Ault, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. Thurston P. Chase, Edgar H. VanMeter, Alfonso VanMeter, Mrs. Cyrene Bickhard, Rbt. D. Dodge, Cicero Dodge, Bernice Dodge, Edwin Conger, Emma Babb, Samuel J. Harper, James Maynard, Mary J. Maynard, Laura A. Way, L. H. Whinery, Solon B. Campbell, W. D. Gross, and Julia K. Haycraft.

The church held many very successful revival meetings in the early years. They were well attended by people from the surrounding towns as our own community.

A new brick building was built in 1904 and cost about \$9000. Much of the work was donated by the congregation. The Church had a membership of about 300 persons at this time. There was a Sunday School with an average attendance of 90 to 135. The Endeavor, Junior Endeavor and Intermediate Societies were very active youth groups. The Ladies Aid and the C.W.B.M. Society sponsored the church suppers and kept quite busy with their quilting bees. After many hours of hand quilting the quilts were sold for \$3.00 to \$4.00 apiece.

In 1922 the Christian Church burned to the ground. It had apparently been burning for hours before it was discovered. The ceiling was blazing before the children got out. The Sunday School room and the basement were being used by the Primary grades as school rooms until the new Consolidated School building was finished. All that could be saved was the piano and a few seats. After the fire destroyed the church, the people held their services in the Community Hall. A beautiful brick church was built in 1924 to replace the one destroyed by fire. There were approximately 200 members when the new church was built. The congregation was still quite active in their individual church groups.

Since membership had greatly decreased due to deaths and removals, the church finally closed in the early 1940's.

OAKLAND CEMETERY

The Oakland Cemetery is situated about a half mile south of town. It was established in the summer of 1878. The citizens of DeSoto didn't have burying grounds for ten years. They buried their loved ones in neighboring cemeteries during that time. It was a town custom for many years to have

a drum and bugle corps lead all the children of the town to the cemetery on Decoration Day. The children carried armloads of flowers to decorate all the graves. In 1923 a metal fence and double gate were installed along the front of the cemetery. The cemetery is owned by the town of DeSoto, which is responsible for the upkeep.

SCHOOL

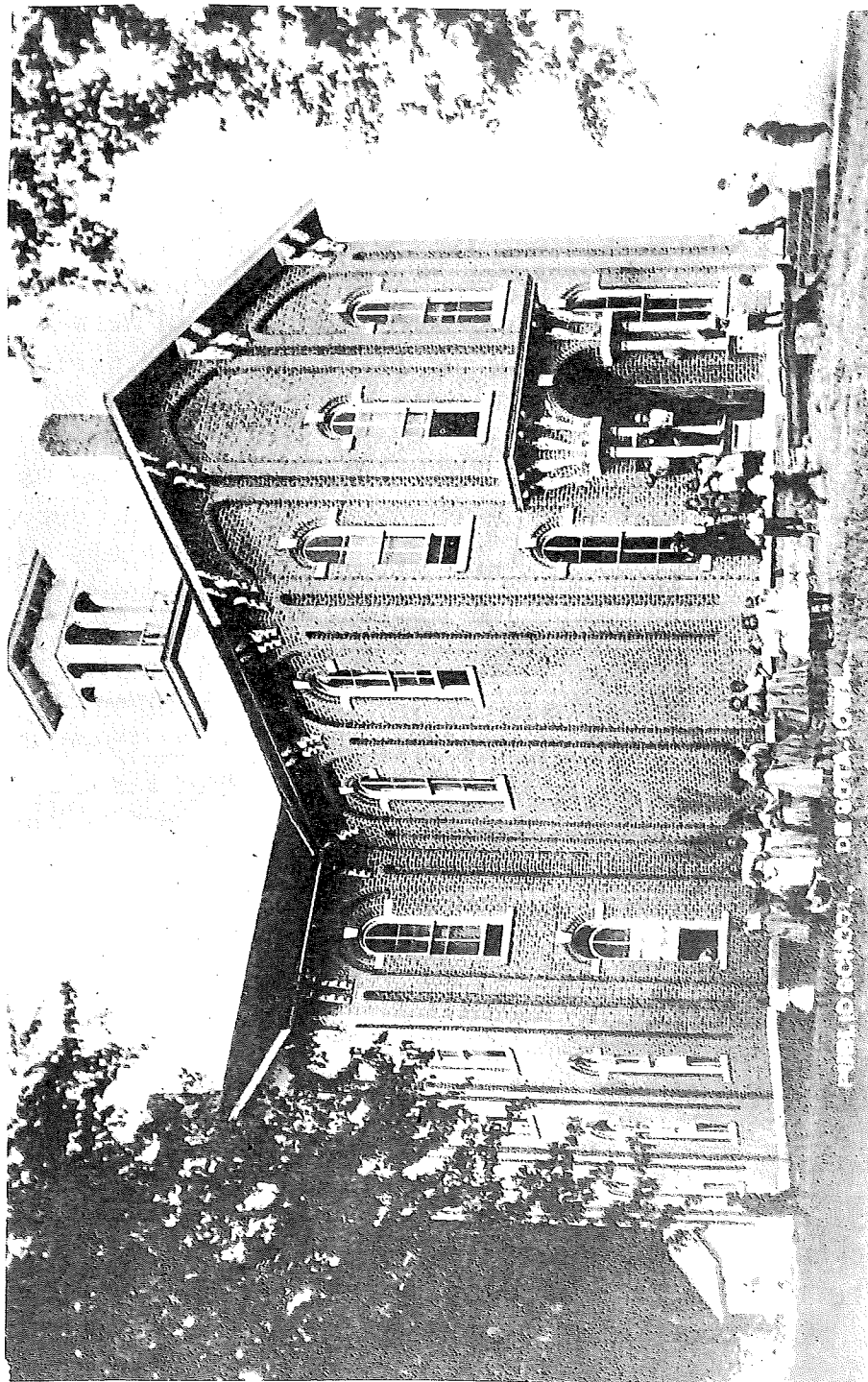
Soon after the town was established, a frame building was built near the park. It served the double purpose of school and church. Mrs. A. A. Collins, wife of the postmaster was the first teacher. Other early teachers at the school were Professors Whitney and Crockett, the latter also being a minister.

In 1870 the DeSoto Independent School District built a two story brick school building. It was 30 x 60 feet, had four large rooms and cost about \$5000. The first floor was used by the Primary and Intermediate departments. The second floor was occupied by the high school. The teachers were C. M. Pinkerton, Principal; Miss M. E. Caldwell, intermediate teacher; Mrs. Jennie E. Whinery, primary teacher. There were about two hundred pupils attending school. The first school board included L. W. Smith, President; Isaac Hoch, Secretary; F. R. Lewis, Treasurer; J. J. VanMeter, Ezra Mann, E. M. Giles, I. L. Carter and Peter Fish. C. M. Pinkerton, the principal, presented his first graduating class in 1882. The graduates were Lillian McBride, Jennie McFarland, Dora Denton, Alcy Moyer, Anna Hopkins, Charles Haycraft and May Adams.

The citizens of DeSoto took great pride in their school. They would spare no expense to make it successful and prosperous. In 1882 an addition was built on the schoolhouse. The educational advantages were excellent at DeSoto with many fine teachers in the school system. Some of the early principals were E. M. Pinkerton, Prof. Bailey, A. C. Hutchins, Prof. Rowley, Prof. Bradbury, W. E. Garrett, B. M. Cobb, W. J. Lawson and E. C. Sturdevant.

The election for the building of a new \$18,000 schoolhouse was defeated by a vote of the people in the spring of 1915.

In 1920 the DeSoto Independent School District voted on school consolidation and it carried. The details for the consolidation were drawn up by the State Department of Instruction, the county board and the local school board. The district took in a larger territory due to the consolidation of the school.



DeSoto Independent School Built in 1870



DeSoto Consolidated School built in 1922

Following this, the school was known as the DeSoto Consolidated School.

In January 1922, the school district paid J. G. Riley \$6,750 for ten acres of land to be used as a school site.

Bids were taken for the construction of beautiful new three-story school building in March 1922. John A. Benson Construction Co. of Des Moines, Iowa, submitted the low bid of \$68,057 for the general construction work. The low bid of \$14,348 for the plumbing, heating and ventilating work was submitted by Bengé and Robinson of Winterset, Iowa. The school district purchased Twin City brick at \$28 per thousand for the building.

While the work progressed on the new building, the Christian Church was used as class rooms for the Primary grades. In the late fall of 1922, the Christian Church burned so the lower grades moved into the new school building before it was completed. In January 1923 the entire school in a body, led by the faculty, marched from the old school building to the new one. On January 21, 1923 the school board met in the new school building. Previous to this they had always met in the home of the Secretary.

The dedication of the new DeSoto Consolidated School building was quite the center of attraction March 7, 1923. The program itself was an excellent affair, with Judge Hubert Utterback giving the Dedication Address. Following the program, a dinner was served to several hundred people. For a number of years the country children were brought to school in horse-drawn school buses. Then, of course, as the times changed the horses were replaced by motorized buses. Through the years of the DeSoto Consolidated School, it was very active in all sorts of extra curricular activities. These included dramatic plays, operettas, declamatory contests, music contests (both vocal and instrumental), basketball, baseball, softball, and track. The people of the community supported the activities by attending the events in large numbers. Many of the teams in athletics, and also many of the vocal and instrumental students, advanced to the state level.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's there were many meetings on re-organization with either Adel, Earlham, or VanMeter.

The State Department of Public Instruction set up new standards of high schools with small enrollments. Due to the new standards the DeSoto School was put on the unapproved list.

The Class of 1961 was the last class to graduate from the DeSoto Consolidated School. Beginning in the fall of 1961 the DeSoto High School students were sent to Adel on a tuition basis. A few high school students chose to attend the VanMeter, Earlham or Winterset schools. For five years the school continued with the high school going to Adel and the Elementary grades remaining at DeSoto. During the summer of 1966 there were many reorganization meetings to include all the DeSoto district and Adel. These meetings did not come to any final decision. Following this, the attachment of most of the DeSoto Consolidated School District to the Adel Community School District was made by the Dallas County Board of Education. The State Board of Public Instruction approved the attachment, which became effective August 20, 1966. Since the attachments of our school district to Adel our school building has been filled to capacity with students. All of the fifth and sixth grade students from both schools attend the DeSoto building. Also there is a section of second grade and two Special Education Classes that attend the school.

Throughout these 100 years of our DeSoto Education System our students have had a good scholastic record with many of them going on to higher education.

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