

RAMON

ILLUSTRATED

03

*Albert Smith,
Lamoni,
Iowa*

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LAMONI
ILLUSTRATED.

BY
PETER M. HINDS.

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1892.

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LAMONI ILLUSTRATED.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

IN 1870 a committee composed of E. Banta, D. Dancer, I. L. Rogers, D. Gamet, P. Cadwell, and C. A. Beebe was appointed by a General Conference of the Latter Day Saints Church in Plano, Illinois, to go west to select a location for the Saints to settle in. This committee traveled through Fremont county and in part of Page county, Iowa, and in Nodaway, Gentry, and Harrison counties, Missouri; and from thence into Decatur county, Iowa, and decided to locate in Fayette township, in the southwestern part of the last-named county, provided a sufficient quantity of land could be obtained to justify a settlement there.

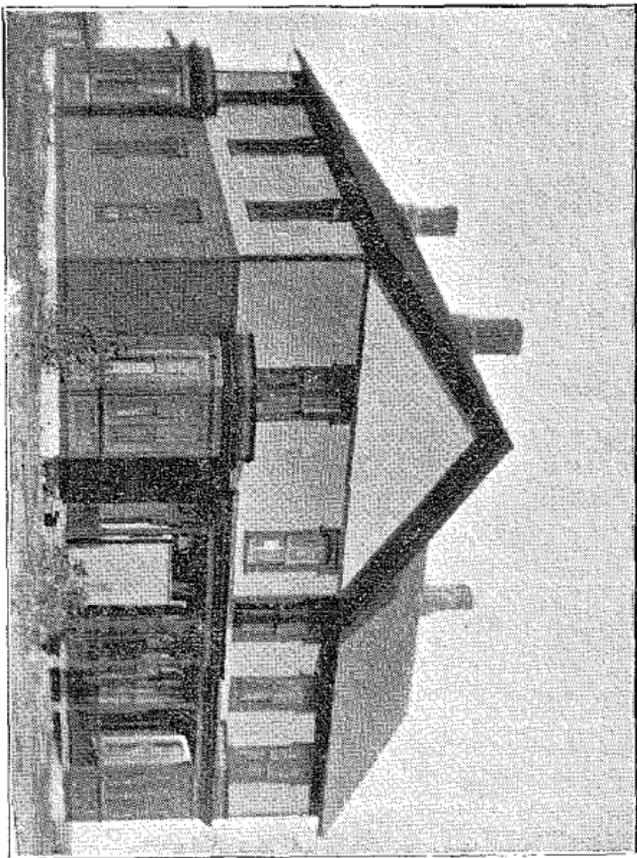
The purchasing of land began; but much

of it being held by speculators, progress in buying land and securing proper transfers was tedious and slow. The committee continued their efforts until the next spring, and succeeded in securing about three thousand three hundred acres, one thousand two hundred of which lay in one body, the remainder in detached portions of from forty to one hundred and sixty acres, all within three miles of the main body.

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTRY.

The face of the country throughout Southern Iowa is in most places broken and rough, but varies in its character of roughness from the abrupt and steep hills of the borders of the streams to the long, sweeping roll of the elevated land. That portion of Decatur county through which Grand and Little Rivers run, is in many parts hilly, and partially covered with timber, of large size and good quality. Here and there on alternate sides of the streams are spread wide tracts of bottom land, in some places abounding in a dense

RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH SMITH.



growth of heavy timber, in other places, in good, smooth meadow land.

THE SOIL.

The soil is of a dark alluvial substance, very flexible, uniformly rich, and remarkably fertile and productive, when thoroughly pulverized and frequently stirred. This soil holds moisture in an astonishing manner through the most severe droughts. Its freedom from stumps, stones, and inequalities permits the use of the numerous labor-saving machines necessary for the proper cultivation of the soil.

It has thorough drainage, the valleys opening into the creek bottoms with sufficient descent to keep the water from forming ponds or marshes. Good, pure well water is found in abundance at different depths, varying from fifteen to seventy-five feet, according to location; generally at from twenty to thirty feet.

BUILDING MATERIAL.

Good building rock is found in quarries,

near the surface of the ground, in various parts of the country; also sand, suitable for building purposes, is found in hillside deposits and along creek bottoms. Native timber, consisting of oak and elm, can be obtained suitable for making rough lumber for sheathing and also joist and square timber; but pine lumber has to be shipped in from other States, as pine is not a native of this country. Good brick is manufactured here in various parts of the country, and can be had at reasonable rates.

PRODUCTIONS.

The productions of this country include a great variety of grains, vegetables, and fruits, all of which can be raised in large quantities and of excellent quality, if the ground be thoroughly cultivated. Rye, oats, barley, flax, and potatoes are grown to advantage by good farming. Corn is the principal crop, about half of the cultivated land being usually planted with that cereal. The corn raised is largely fed to cattle and hogs within the country; also millet, Hungarian grass, timo-

thy, clover, and blue grass are raised in abundance, and fed to stock.

The apple, cherry, grape, and all garden fruits are successfully raised as far as cultivated, but the amount of land devoted to fruit raising is so limited that the supply is not equal to the home demand. To those who prefer fruit farming to stock raising, this region offers unequaled inducements, in soil, climate, and market facilities. With a small capital, anyone can start a successful business by purchasing a forty-acre tract, or more if he wishes, and planting a variety of fruit trees and shrubs, and cultivating them properly, thereby opening up an industry which will yield good returns for the amount invested.

LIVE STOCK.

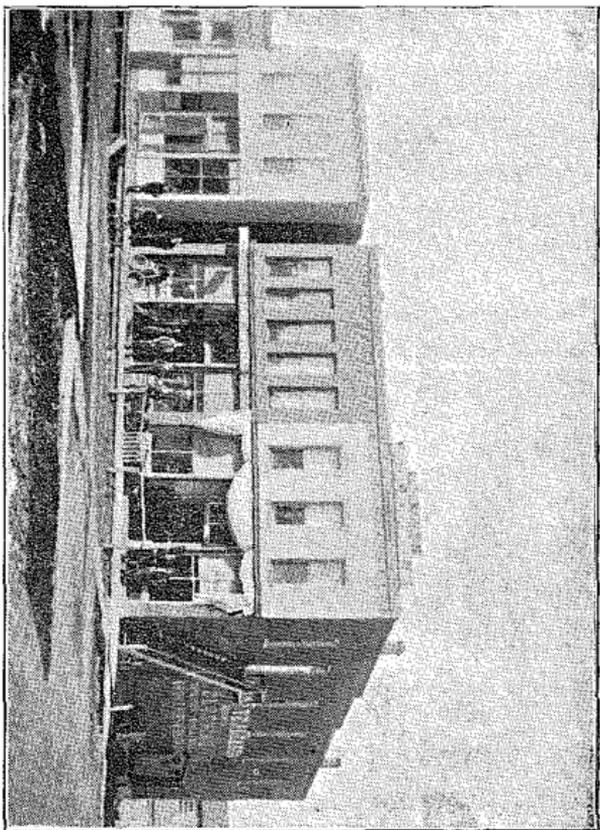
Good grades of horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs are found here; and owing to the grain, grass, and vegetables raised, this region especially invites ambitious herdsmen. Sheep raising is not carried on as extensively as in some States, as there is no home market, the

wool having to be shipped out of the vicinity. If any mills are erected here to manufacture the wool into different kinds of goods, it will make sheep raising a successful enterprise.

FOUNDING OF LAMONI.

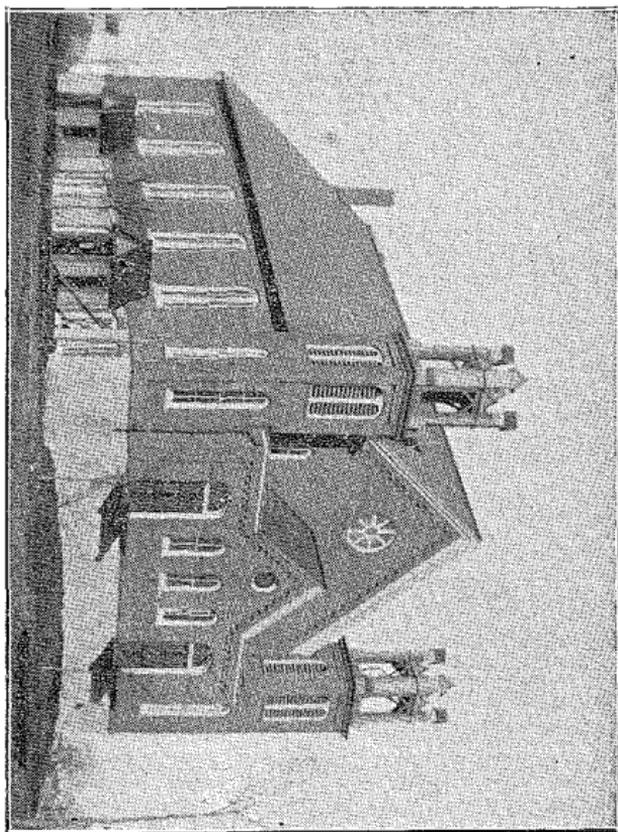
In 1879 a village was laid out on Sections 2 and 11 of Fayette township, by a company under the auspices of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad Company. The railroad was built the same year, also a hardware store erected by Thomas Teale, a general merchandise store by S. H. Gurley, a lumber yard opened by David Dancer, and the residences of A. S. Cochran, V. White, L. A. Fowler, R. Bissel, J. T. Dixon, and A. D. Ferguson were built. In 1880 Z. T. Earl & Co. began business, and Paul Biggs built his office and grain house, now owned by James R. Smith & Son. In 1881 the Herald Office building was erected, and the printing material moved here from Plano, Illinois, and the M. E. church was moved in from a farm about one and one half miles from Lamoni.

That part of Lamoni west of the original



SCENE ON LINDEN STREET.

SAINTS' CHAPEL.



survey was laid out by David Dancer, and is occupied chiefly by private residences. Lamoni has continued to improve each year by the erection of stores, residences, and other buildings, until it is now a village of about twelve hundred inhabitants.

CHURCHES.

The Saints' chapel is a large, brick building with stone basement, situated in West Lamoni, on a small hill, from which a good view can be obtained of the surrounding country. It was erected in 1883-4 at a cost of fourteen thousand dollars. The large main room is fifty by eighty feet, and has a seating capacity of about twelve hundred; it also has a large room and two smaller ones in the basement, which are used for meetings and Sunday school. The Lamoni branch contains about eight hundred and twenty-five members, including the First Presidency of the church, three of the quorum of Twelve Apostles, several high priests, seventies, elders, and other officers, all having homes here, where they

can leave their families while in their fields of labor.

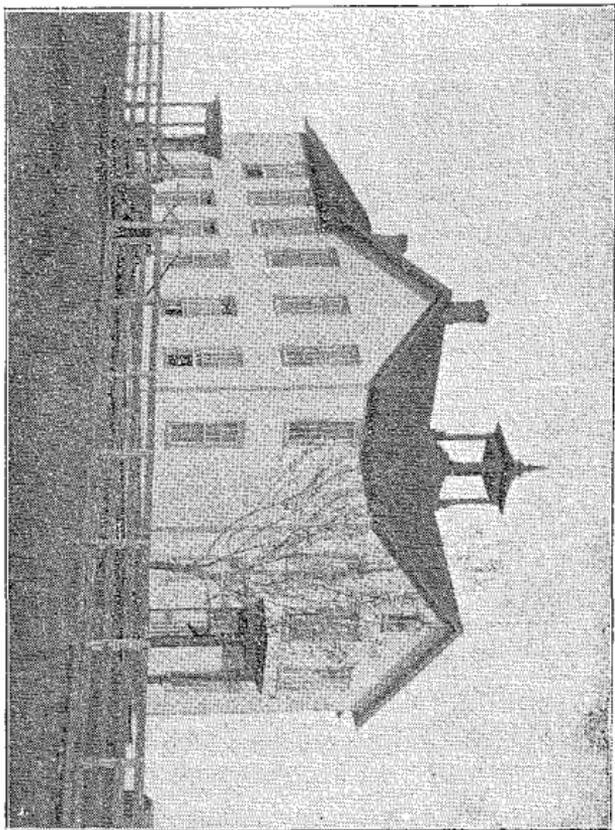
The Methodist Episcopal Church building is a neat, wooden structure, situated on the corner of Ninth and Linden streets. It has a seating capacity of nearly three hundred. The membership is quite small.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The schools are such as the town may well be proud of, ranking second in size in the county, and second to but few in point of excellence in the State. The schoolhouse is a neat frame building of five rooms, costing about \$4,800. The grounds are commodious, healthfully located, and provided with the necessary conveniences, such as outbuildings, a well of water, and shade trees. The school is quite well equipped with apparatus, and has a library of one hundred and thirty volumes, also an organ purchased this year.

The course of study includes, besides the common branches, such higher ones as follows: Civil Government, Word Analysis,

SCHOOLHOUSE.



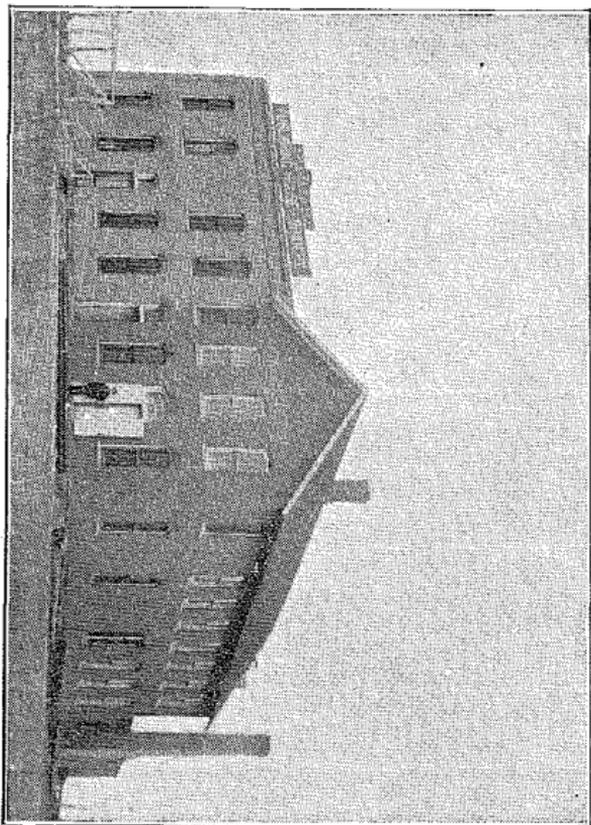
Physical Geography, Algebra, Botany, Natural Philosophy, Rhetoric, Astronomy, General History, Bookkeeping, Geometry, and Literature. Two classes have graduated; one in 1888, of seven members, and one in 1891, of eight members. The school opened up this fall (1892) with the largest attendance in its history, the enrollment being about two hundred and forty. The school is divided into five departments; viz.: High School, Grammar, Intermediate, First Primary, and Second Primary.

Believing as the management does, that the object of school work is to best fit boys and girls for good citizenship rather than to make professionals of them, or experts in any particular line, the course of study is made as broad and as thorough as possible. The patronage from pupils outside of the district is very liberal, such pupils paying one dollar and a half per month for tuition in the High School, and one dollar in each of the other departments. The management of the schools solicits the patronage of those residing else-

where, and anyone desiring, can receive additional information by addressing Prof. J. A. Gunsolley, Principal of Schools.

BUSINESS.

The Herald Publishing House is a two-story brick building, erected in 1881, to which was added, in 1891, a two-story brick addition with stone basement, also additional machinery put in, including outfit for binding and finishing books. It requires quite a number of persons to perform the amount of work necessary, the building being divided into different departments according to the kind of work done; viz.: The editorial rooms, containing two editors, assistant editor, and proofreaders, where the editorial work of the *Saints' Herald* is done, all articles prepared for the printing department, proofs read, corrected, etc.; the counting room or business department, containing three, the Business Manager, Secretary and Bookkeeper, and assistant, where all funds are received, books mailed, and record kept of all business transacted; the composing room, containing nine,



HERALD PUBLISHING HOUSE.

for setting type and arranging it for printing, the pressroom, containing three, for printing and stereotyping; the bindery, containing six, for folding, sewing, and binding books, pamphlets, etc., also folding and preparing for mailing the periodicals; the boiler room, containing one, for firing and steam heating. The total number of employees is twenty-seven. There are also in the building, the private offices of Joseph Smith, President of the Church; H. A. Stebbins, Secretary; and E. L. Kelley, Bishop; also the Mite Society have their meeting room here. As the Herald Publishing House is the property of the Latter Day Saints Church, its publications are all of a religious character.

The Saints' Herald is a sixteen page, covered weekly, containing editorials, correspondence from missionaries in all parts of the world, religious reviews, articles on doctrine, and all church business; circulation 4,450.

Zion's Hope is a four page weekly paper for children. It contains instructive and enter-

taining stories, sketches of history, editorial chats, and letters from the little folks. It is also used extensively in Sunday school work. Circulation 4,400.

Autumn Leaves is a forty-eight page monthly magazine, published in the interest of all, but specially the youth of the church. It contains biographies, religious, historical, and household articles, correspondence and editorial reviews. Circulation near 3,000.

There are also a large number of books published and bound, consisting of Bibles, hymn books, books on the doctrine and history of the church, beside pamphlets, tracts, card, and job work.

The Patriot Office is situated on the corner of Eighth and Linden streets, owned by Lambert Brothers, publishers of the *Independent Patriot*, a weekly, seven-column, eight page, general family newspaper. Circulation over 2,000.

Lamoni also contains two banks, one flouring mill, six general merchandise and hardware stores, one drug store, post office, two

furniture stores, two farm implement warehouses, one jewelry store, one tin shop, one grocery, two hotels, two restaurants, two meat markets, two lumber yards, two blacksmith shops, two barber shops, one grain house, two millinery stores, one photograph gallery, beside doctors, attorneys, carpenters, masons, painters, draymen, dressmakers, and day laborers.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES.

Lamoni offers good inducements for the establishment of various manufacturing industries. A woolen mill is needed here, as there are none in this vicinity, and sheep can be raised at a cost that would enable the manufacturers to successfully compete with other factories in supplying the surrounding country with their goods, besides making a home market for the herders to dispose of the product of their herds.

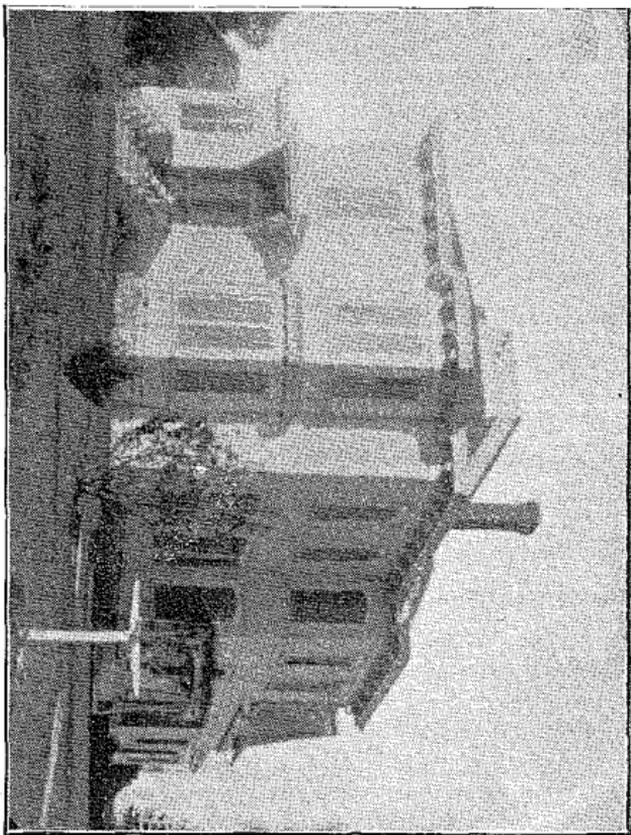
This being an excellent fruit country, with prospects that fruit raising will be carried on more extensively, a canning factory would well repay the amount of capital invested. A

sorghum factory would also reward the outlay necessary to construct one. This being a good stock country, it offers good inducements for a creamery and cheese factory. A packing house would be a successful establishment, as at present hogs have to be shipped to distant cities, and dressed and smoked meats, hams, and bacon shipped back; thus making a large additional expense to both producer and consumer.

This country being in the great corn belt, a good opportunity is offered for locating a starch factory, also a broom factory. There is also needed a lumber dressing and sash factory, where lumber could be cut in the dimensions needed, and fitted for the various uses necessary in building. A good machine and repair shop is greatly needed.

CONCLUSION.

Missionaries and ministers whose labors call them away from their families the greater part of the time, will find Lamoni an excellent place to establish a home. Here they will have good church and school privileges, in a



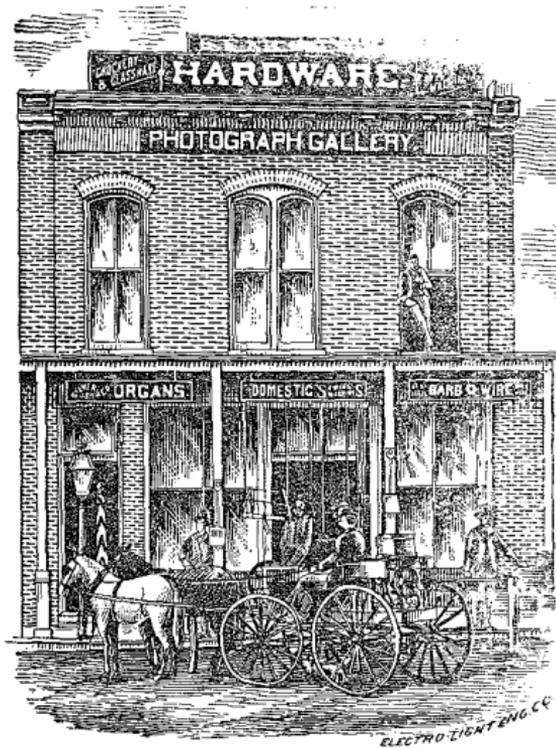
RESIDENCE OF DAVID DANCER.

quiet location, away from saloons, gambling places, and evils of like nature. They will find the majority of the inhabitants to be sober, temperate, and religious people, trying to live according to their profession, and zealously defending what they believe to be right.

While Lamoni is away from the cities and the many evils and temptations existing in them, it has railroad facilities by which all necessary business with other localities can be transacted.

Lamoni is 375 miles from Chicago, 97 miles from St. Joseph, 174 miles from Independence, 105 miles from Des Moines—Capital of Iowa—and 15 miles from Leon, county seat of Decatur county.

Owing to the absence of factories and mills, the facilities for giving employment to laboring men is very limited; but with the establishment of various enterprises, a better opportunity will be afforded for laborers to obtain employment.



STORE ON MAIN STREET.

F. E. COCHRAN,

Typewriter and Copyist,

LAMONI, IOWA.

All kinds of documents copied in typewriting. I have access to *Evening and Morning Star*, *Times and Seasons*, *Millennial Star*, and many other books and periodicals relating to the early rise of the church; also the Church Library, containing many valuable books now out of print. Will supply anyone wishing certified copies of any portion of these works at reasonable rates. Work guaranteed. *Confidential work a specialty.* Correspondence solicited.

JUSTICE.

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Confidential Business.

Loans, Collections.

