



**P.O. Box 114
Hwy 3 West
Hampton, Iowa 50441**

**Newsletter
Volume 22 #4
November 2006**

The Franklin County Historical Society Officers

We elected new officers at the FCHS Annual meeting in September. Officers for this year:

President, Darwin Meyer, Sheffield
Vice President, Berry Johnson, Hampton
Secretary, Sharon Theilen, Latimer
Treasurer, Charlie Brown, Hampton
Representing Ross Township are Myron and
Lyla Van Horn.

Director at Large: Marvin O. Rodemeyer, of
Hampton.

Thank you for volunteering and welcome aboard!

The Fall Festival

On October 8th the Annual Fall Festival was held at the Harriman-Nielsen Farmstead. What a beautiful day. Many people were there. There was pumpkin carving, free watermelon slices to eat, pumpkin and squash for sale, wagon rides around the farm, demonstrations of life long ago, such as hand corn shelling, a cider press, etc. About ten 4-H club kids were on hand to help with games for the younger kid's games. Fifteen pies were entered in the pie eating contest.



Photos courtesy Hampton Chronicle

Did everyone walk on the new ramp to the house? I did. Inside, all the rooms looked so nice. Those involved with all of this are really appreciated. The house, barn, and grounds are really a showplace.



Photos courtesy Hampton Chronicle

Coming up on the 3rd of December the Harriman-Nielsen house will host the Danish Christmas. Watch and listen for details in the newspaper and on the KLMJ radio.

Observing....

It has been called to my attention that after Adell Eustice resigned as Treasurer, it now takes 6 people to do the other jobs that she did, while serving as Treasure. WOW!

However did she do it? Thanks again, Adell.

Ideas Needed

I appreciate it when I am given ideas for the newsletter. Sometimes it's hard to find enough to write about and it does take a lot of research.

Did You Know?

- Burdette had a general store in its early day.
 - In 1920, the Commercial Club of Hampton was talking of building the dam and swimming pool at Harriman's Park.
 - The first Portable Feed Mill in Franklin County started in Hampton in September of 1930.
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The Atzbaugh Fox Farm

By Burnie Greimann

In the Hampton Story, 1970, it states that the Atzbaugh Fox and Fur Farm was started in 1930. In the Franklin County Recorder, July 24, 1930, it said Wm G. Atzbaugh constructed a fox ranch to be started July 28, 1930, on a 27-acre tract of land adjoining the Hampton Country club. W. V. Robinson, of Oskaloosa, who was the ranch contractor and architect, supervised the work. Local labor was to be used and workers could sign up in Hampton at Atzbaugh's Garage.



Courtesy of Jo Coonley

The ranch was to include 90 fox pens and 90 kennels, a ranch house and guard fence. Mr. Atzbaugh entered the fox farm business in the spring, when he purchased 11 purebred Tuplin-Dalton foxes at a cost of \$15,000. His purchase included 5 pair from 3 to 4 year olds and 6 pair of yearlings. He raised his foxes in Ames and then had 28 young ones for a total of 50 in all. He also raised mink and had purchased 6 pair of Yukon-Alaskan mink at a cost of \$1850.

Beulah Patton told me that her husband Lyle (Skinny) hauled them from Ames to the farm in his truck. Fencing had to lay underground, to keep the animals from digging their way out.

Jo Coonley has a postcard, which shows a picture of the fox farm. It was written to a Mrs. M. H. Evers in Texas from Mrs. Atzbaugh. She said, "My husband and I live in the tower house. The tower is modern and 5 stories high. Spring water is piped all over the place. The small pens by the big barn are for the mink."

Ileene Christensen of Charles City, a former Hampton resident, said they lived on the fox farm and moved there in 1949. At that time Mr. Atzbaugh did not have the fox farm anymore, but instead had a hatchery. They helped with all phases of the operation. He sold 10,000 baby chicks twice a week. She said, "We lived in the tower house. It was 5 stories high, and at the top was an 8-sided room with windows all the way around and it had a huge beacon light, at least 8 or 10 ft. across. It was on a stand, to rotate to all the pens to watch when the animals were ready to breed. Many of the pens were gone when we lived there, but the big barn still had a huge freezer used to keep the pelts."

Some other information I gathered: Foxes were bred in the January, with a gestation period of 51 days. Litters were of 4 or 5. The female nursed the young for 3 months. The fox's ate; mice, ground squirrels, insects, fruit, and dog food, Pearl also said that Mrs. Atzbaugh fed them tomatoes. Wild fox were scavengers.

Wendel Schmitt helped for several weeks during the winter. He said, "An electric shock killed them, then the fur was cut and skinned. A spoon was used to scrape the fat from the pelts, then they were put in a tumbling machine, before being sent to the manufacturers of fur coats, collars or cloaks".

FURS

Beautiful half-fitting 24-inch jacket, sent express prepaid. Price, . . . \$50.00

The Very Latest Style

High storm collar, wide stayer, double-breasted box front. Lined throughout with heaviest seal-brown satin, closed with heavy click cord and passementerie fasteners. Every detail of workmanship is as perfect as that found upon the most expensive seal garments, which this closely resembles. Only an expert could detect the difference.

Express Prepaid \$50.00

We control the entire importation of this particular brand of skins and guarantee this garment to be more satisfactory than any seal coat up to the cost of \$150.00.

If you desire to see the coat before purchasing, send us \$1.00 as a guarantee of good faith and we will send it subject to your inspection — your money will be returned if you do not like the goods.

6441 — ISABELLA SABLE Fox Scarf — 7 feet long. Very beautiful, silky, and full furred. Handsomely trimmed with two large Sable Fox tails. Price, **\$15.00**

6408 — Genuine Stone Marten Cluster Scarf, six large Baum Marten tails. Price, **\$12.50**

4630 — German Sable Dyed Marten Scarf, over two yards in length; trimmed with four large, full fluffy tails. Price, **\$7.50**

4630 — This style in Sable Dyed Raccoon (one of the best and most popular furs of this season), handsomely trimmed. Price, **\$10.00**

6408 — Genuine Black Marten Cluster Scarf, six large, full furred tails. Price, **\$5.00**

Or in larger and better grades. Price, **\$7.50**

Every woman appreciates the comfort and elegance of fine furs, but as purchases are not frequent, the ordinary buyer cannot be experienced in fur values, and is dependent upon the integrity of the dealer.

The "Edw. S. George" name and trademark is a guarantee of quality, and, for the prices quoted, nothing equal in our furs can be bought anywhere.

Only the most reliable dealers in every town are our agents. Write us and we will tell you who is our agent in your town, and if we have no agent we will supply you direct. Write for our Complete Catalogue. It is sent free and illustrates and prices all styles of garments, from the most expensive seal coat to the child's inexpensive furs.

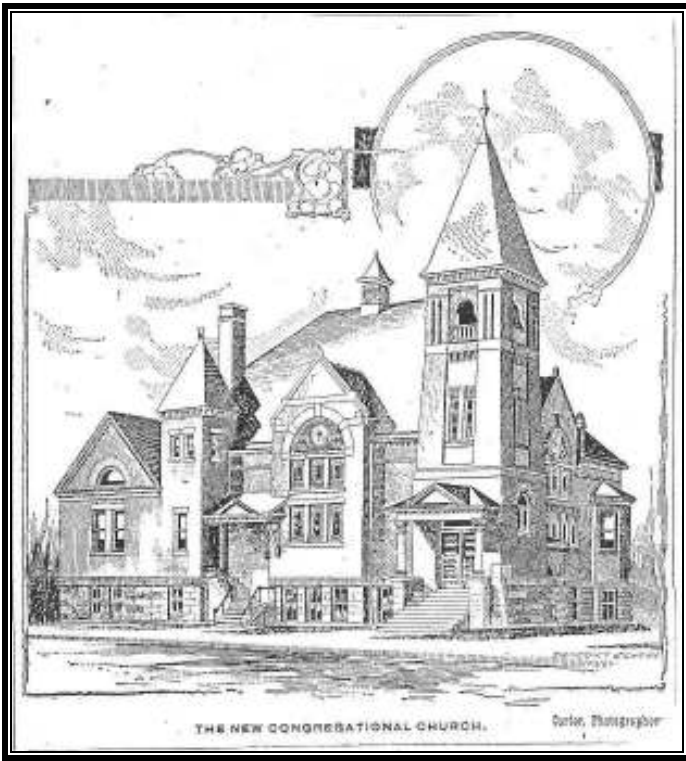
Scarfs sent, charges prepaid, subject to your approval, on receipt of \$1.00 as a guarantee of good faith. We refund the money if you do not like the goods — but you will.






I was told there are still fur farms today, and a number in Iowa. No wonder P.E.T.A. is against some things. But early settlers made a living trapping, which was for barter in that day.

The History of the First Congregational Church of Hampton



Few religious services are recorded in the early history of the county. There were the Methodist's in the area of Beaver Creek and the Congregationalist's in Hampton. Rev. John Wilcox a Congregational minister from Iowa Falls, came to the new village of Hampton and the new village of Old Chapin, every two weeks, in the fall of 1857. At the Rose farmstead, northeast of Hampton a group of settlers formed The First Congregational Church of Hampton. Charter members were N. Dodd, w. Southard, Harriette Southard, Laura North and Anne Beed, wife of Thomas Beed.

John Avery, who came to the newly platted town, northwest of Hampton, knew the settlers needed a full time minister. He mentioned that his brother, Rev. Wm. P. Avery, of New York was without a charge. They contacted him and invited him to come. In the spring of 1858, Rev. Avery, his wife Olive and children Wm and Elizabeth came to Old Chapin, then called "Saratoga". Mrs. Ione Boehmler, wrote this in a booklet about the First Congregational Church of Hampton, for the Diamond Jubilee Celebrating 75 years 1856-1931.

Mrs. Boehmler was the grandmother of both Joyce Blum and Barton Boehmler, now residents of Hampton. I learned of the booklet, when Joyce introduced me to her grandmother in 1966. She quoted, in the book, what Elizabeth Avery wrote that her father preached in Hampton once a week, but that they lived in Old Chapin. His salary was \$500 a year. Some parishioners paid with produce. One paid \$5.00 with sorghum at 50 cents a barrel. Sometimes they had donation parties. They piled into a wagon, or bobsled and went to Hampton, where they had a good supper and social time.

Rev. Avery served as the second minister to Old Chapin for 17 years and to Hampton for 14 years. His eyesight gave out, forcing his retirement. At his death on Jan. 23, 1885, he was completely blind. Shortly after his death, Mrs. Avery moved to Hampton. Rev. Avery, his wife Olive and daughter Elizabeth are buried in the Old Chapin cemetery.

The 30th pastor is the present Pastor John Byrne who came Jan. 29, 2006. The Pastor serving the longest was Rev. David M. Beggs 1939-1957.

At first, services were held in the first small court house in Hampton. The first church building was constructed in 1871-1872. It was the first church in Hampton and cost a little less than \$5000. Those on the building committee were John Beed, Uzziel Weeks, and a Mr. Walker. There were 35 members in the congregation. The choir occupied the rear platform. The church was heated by stoves, which, during the depression years of the 1880's, burned corn for fuel.

In 1893, Rev. J. W. Ferner came and was Pastor for 7 years. The congregation increased and a new and larger church was needed. On the building committee were Rev. Ferner, E. S. Patterson, Henry Gray, H. Procter, J. H. Hutchins and W. D. Evans, with D. D. Ingles, Treasurer. The architect was James Taggart, of Minneapolis. George Sargent, of Hampton was the contractor and builder. Col. C. W. Boutin, was superintendent of construction. At the dedication on Feb. 14, 1897 the Hampton Globe, dated Feb. 19, said of Mr. Sargent "and excellence of his work, in every detail, is a monument to his capability and integrity as a builder."

The style of this edifice was Modern Renaissance. The structure was of St. Louis brick and the exterior was 84 x 69 ft.. The main tower was 71 ft. tall. Nearly 1000 persons attended the dedication. Delivering the sermon was D. D. J. O. Stevenson, of Waterloo.

On Tuesday evening, an organ recital was held, presented by Prof. August Halters, of St. Louis. "This new pipe organ was the most, magnificent instrument in north Iowa It is a two manual and pedal organ, with a total of 10 speaking stops, 489 pipes and 12 couplers", the newspaper stated. The final cost of the edifice, including the organ was a total of \$16,500.

Then on Dec. 27, 1912, the church was gutted by fire, the cause unknown. John Marschall and Ruby Behrends, noticed smoke, and turned in the fire alarm. Fireman and hundreds of people rushed to the scene. The fire started in the northwest corner between the ceiling and roof. There was no way for water to reach the source. The interior above the basement was a total wreck and all furnishings were lost. The building and contents were insured for \$11,000.

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Franklin County Historical Society
P.O. Box 114
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The History of the First Congregational Church of Hampton (Continued from 3rd page)

The following Sunday, services were held in the public library basement and later at the Methodist Church.

Work began immediately after the fire, to reconstruct the church. The walls were the same, but the large magnificent stained glass windows were installed. The pipe organ was duplicated, but this one was electrically operated. The cost for rebuilding was \$20,000 minus the insurance money. On November 2, 1913, services were held in the church and it was rededicated.

Major events since then was the 75th anniversary of the church organization on Sept. 11, 1932. At the church Centennial, Sept. 1957 and retirement of Rev. Beggs, he was made Pastor Emeritus in appreciation of his 19 years of service.

In 1958 the organ was repaired and moved so that the organist faced the pulpit. Additional rooms were added to the church. In 1961, the congregation voted to become a part of the United Church of Christ.

Edna Tucker, church organist for 30 years, resigned in 1979. About that time Maurice Feese, choir director for 27 years, resigned. In 1991 an elevator was installed and dedicated. This coming year of 2007 is the 150th anniversary of the church body. There will be different observances throughout the year. Congratulations are extended to them from the Historical Society.

A little side story: In 1992 at a chance meeting in the Hampton Cemetery, of Charles Robert Beed, of Rockford, IL and Larry and Joan Windelow of Hampton, who told him they lived in the Beed house, and invited him to visit it. At home, shortly after, Marge Hamilton called Larry and told him that Ruth Beed Titus, of Amarillo, TX was camping at Beeds Lake and wanted to see the house. She was a Hampton native. So the two distant cousins got together. They didn't know each other before, but they set up reunion plans for every two years.

This summer they met in Hampton for their 7th reunion. There were 20 there and all 20 attended church services at First Congregational Church. They are decedents of Anne Beed, a charter member of this church body.

Mallory Conservation or Memorial Park

In 1959, one acre was acquired as a gift to the Franklin County Conservation Society from Art Mallory. In 1969, Mary Mallory sold 70 more acres for \$9275, with the stipulation it was to be used as a park and for recreational purposes. If it ceased for that purpose, it reverts back to the owners.

The park has two entrances, on the south and on the north. The south side is for camping, the north for picnicking. There is a trail, across a rustic bridge over Maynes Creek, which connects the two areas.

The camping area has 30 electrical hook ups. The south entrance is 4.5 miles south of Hampton and 2 miles west. The north entrance is 3 miles south of Hampton, one mile west and a half-mile south. This park is a beautiful park for camping, hiking or for picnicking.

Apologies To Bradford

In my report about the Bradford Centennial, August 19th, I said that the curtain with the advertisements on it had been in the Bradford school. Not right! It was in the Community Center. Sorry, about that.

Another Mistake

I also said that the Franklin County Recorder ceased in 1928. Not so, as in the museum, we have the 1930 volume of it. I must be more careful!
