

HISTORY OF MITCHELL AND WORTH COUNTIES, IOWA
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HARTLAND TOWNSHIP

Lying in the northern tier of townships is Hartland, made up of congressional township 100 north, range 21 west. It is bounded on the north by the State of Minnesota, on the east by Grove Township, on the south by Brookfield Township and on the west by Silver Lake Township.

Hartland Township was organized on the 21st day of February, 1859, and then embraced the present townships of Hartland, Brookfield and Danville. On the date mentioned an election was held at the house of Eli Wood, on Section 9, and the following township officers chosen: Duncan McKercher, justice (did not qualify) ; Christopher Pickell was appointed in his stead; William H. Russell, clerk; Nathan Swain, supervisor; Lafayette Parr, constable (did not serve, and A. L. Towne named for the office); Eli Wood, William H. Perkins, Sr., and W. H. Perkins, Jr., trustees.

Abraham Christopherson, a native of Norway, settled on section 24 and constructed the first house in the township in the spring of 1855. Here he lived until his death in the early '60s. About the same time Ole A. Lee, Aslag Lee and Sever Johnson came into the township. Ole Lee made a claim on section 15 and the last two named located on section 12. There is some doubt as to which of the above four men made the first settlement, but it is probable that they came in together.

Another early comer was John S. Mark, who made his claim on section 24 in the autumn of 1855, where he lived until his death about 1882. Mark was a soldier in the Civil war, also his son, Sever, who died while in the service of his country.

G. Jorgenson made a claim on section 36 in 18 making a total of six settlers, in Hartland Township at the end of the year 1855. In the spring of 1856 Horace Crandall, Stephen, Jonathan, Chester and Edmund Wright and a Mr. Crane made a settlement at Wright's Grove in the northwest part of the township. Stephen and Edmund Wright and H. Crandall remained just a short time in the township, and Jonathan Wright. after fifteen years, returned to his home in the East. Chester Wright moved into Northwood (Grove) Township about 1875 and there resided until his death in 1910. Benton Little was an addition to the colony about the same time, also Eli Wood, who located on section 9. Wood had been a soldier in the Mexican war under the gallant General Worth. When this county was organized Wood made an immediate effort to have the new county named after his favorite general; this, undoubtedly, is the source of the name of Worth County. Wood also enlisted in Company A, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry, when the Civil war broke out, and died while in the service.

Michael Paulson, a native of Norway, was another pioneer of 1856. He located on section 24, where he lived until 1885, when he moved to North Dakota. Christian Evenson located on section 12. Elling Ellingson Svensrud made a claim on section 12 and became a permanent settler, also became one of the most prominent men in the affairs of the township. His death occurred in the year 1908.

Beginning with the year 1857 a larger number of settlers chose Hartland Township for their homes. Those who took up claims were: John D. Johnson, Knudt D. Johnson, Knudt Nelson Kvittingen, Halvor Berg, Ole Berg, Edwin Haraldson, Nels Anderson Hengesteg, William H. Perkins, David Wright, John E. Towne, A. L. Towne and

Christopher Pickell. Knudt D. Johnson located on section 25 and lived there until 1886, when he moved to Bristol Township, where he died in 1906.

Knudt Nelson Kvittingen made his first claim on section 14, also Halvor Berg. After roaming around for some time the latter moved into North Dakota in 1873. Nels A. Hengesteg settled on section 29, where he resided until he died in 1876. He was a native Norwegian and had come to America in 1853, living in Dane County, Wisconsin, prior to his arrival in Iowa. Edwin Haraldson bought a claim on section 13; he later acquired a residence in Fertile Township and there spent the remainder of his life. John D. Johnson, who landed on American shores from Norway in 1849, made his claim on the southwest quarter of section 23, where he "threw up" his log cabin. His death occurred March 4, 1908. Ole Berg claimed on section 23; he died in 1862, leaving a wife and seven children. John E. Towne, born in New York State, afterward a resident of Wisconsin, located on section 8, where he made his home during his life. His son, A. L. Towne, located on section 17 in 1857. He was a member of Company B, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, during the Rebellion, and after the war became a prominent citizen and farmer of Worth County.

A postoffice was established at Hartland in April, 1860, and William H. Russell appointed postmaster. The business was conducted at his residence on section 8. In September, 1864, he was succeeded by William H. Perkins, who held office until 1866, followed by Russell again. In 1873 Chester Wright became postmaster and in 1875 the office was discontinued.

The postoffice of "Silver Lake" was moved from Silver Lake Township to Hartland Township about 1892 and continued until 1907, then discontinued.

The first white child born in Hartland Township was William H. Perkins, son of William H. and Louisa Perkins, on February 16, 1858.

The first death was that of a Mr. Hall, cook for the Pennybaker surveying party. The story of the drowning of this companionable Irishman is described in Chapter IV.

It is probable that the first marriage in the township was that of Hiram Mayne and Emeline Pickell in the fall of 1857. The couple had to go over the Minnesota line to find anyone qualified to perform the ceremony. They traveled in a wagon drawn by oxen. The first marriage license issued in Worth County to Hartland Township people bears the date of September 18, 1858, and was issued to Elling Ellingson Svensrud and Anna Abrahamson.

NOTE: In the 1860 census, Ole and his family are found in Northwood township.