

The Model T – An Affordable Car Introduced by Ford in October 1908

“On October 1, 1908, the first production Model T Ford is completed at the company’s Piquette Avenue plant in Detroit. Between 1908 and 1927, Ford would build some 15 million Model T cars. It was the longest production run of any automobile model in history until the Volkswagen Beetle surpassed it in 1972. Before the Model T, cars were a luxury item: At the beginning of 1908, there were fewer than 200,000 on the road. Though the Model T was fairly expensive at first it was built for ordinary people to drive every day. It had a 22-horsepower, four-cylinder engine and was made of a new kind of heat treated steel ... it weighed just 1,200 pounds ... It could go as fast as 40 miles per hour.” Source: History.com 2018.1012



How About ^{the} That New Buggy That
you want? Are you ready for it? It is ready for you.
Come and see our buggies. We can save
you money and give you the best on the
market.

SCHMITT BROS.



Horse & Buggy Meet Horseless Carriage circa 1909

The buggy advertisement on the left appeared in The Nichols Gazette published on August 23, 1906, on page 5. In 1907, the Schmitt Brothers moved their buggy and farm implement business to their new brick building in the picture on the right at the southwest corner of Main Street and Ijem Avenue. The Ford Motor Company commenced initial production in Detroit, Michigan, of its Model T car on October 1, 1908. A model T appears in the Town of Nichols around 1909 in the picture on the right. In 1913, the Schmitt Brothers disposed of their buggy and farm implement business and sold their brick building to William Oostendorp who was then the owner of Nichols Auto Co.

Photo Source: William Newton



Joshua and Laura Mills with their 13 Children in the Year 1909

Back Row Standing: Clyde Cayto Mills – Louis Cleveland Mills – Lester Edward Mills – Charles Espy Mills – Frank Elmer Mills – Hazel Frances Mills Oostendorp – Frederick David Mills.

Front Row Seated: Ada Mae Mills Curtis – Etta Pearl Mills Lukenbach – Lloyd Harold Mills – Joshua Adair Mills – Linnie Alberta Mills Finley – Laura Awilda Schildberg Mills – Burton Alvin Mills – Emma Viola Mills Park.

Photo Source: 1911 History of Muscatine County, Iowa, Vol. II, Page 757.



A Picture of All 15 Members of the Nichols Town Band in 1909

The Muscatine Journal, in an enlarged issue published on December 16, 1909, included on page 53, a comprehensive sketch of the Nichols community. One of the topics was the Nichols Band. Included was a very compact picture of all 15 current band members taken by the newspaper photographer on the west side of the Nichols Town Hall erected in 1907. A non-compact picture of the same 15 band members that appears above was taken by a different photographer for Bernard A. Kirchner who is kneeling front and center with his cornet. The young boy behind Bernard is Harry

Shannon, age 13. The newspaper article did not identify the individuals in the picture but in the text it did list the names of all band members in the following paragraph.

“There are other things that make Nichols residents proud of their town. The band is one of them. There are 15 pieces and Al. Quinby is director. The members are: B. A. kirchner, E. P. Ward, Polly Cone, Fred Hummel, G. A. Griggs, Harry Shannon, J. S. Fulmer, Fred Lobdell, C. P. Reynolds, Ward Reynolds, B. H. Black, Tom Carney, John Kirchner and Will Cone.”

Photo Source: Barbara Elder

A Story of the Town of Nichols

Some Features of this Hustling Little Muscatine County Town—A Real, Genuine, Hand-painted Barber Shop—A Splendid Brass Band—Something of the History of the Place—Its Business Activities.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

Nichols has the only original barber shop with hand painted walls. Twenty-six paintings, embracing both the landscape and portrait, adorn the walls, not in the frame, but executed with the brush on the bare wall. This barber shop and art gallery is owned and conducted by G. A. Griggs and the work, which shows considerable talent in the artist, was done by Mr. Griggs' cousin, F. Malo Lobdell, of Davenport.

The Journal correspondent happened into the shop one morning and got more than 15 cents worth while reclining in one of the chairs. And the commercial travelers who patronize this place can appreciate this extraordinary exhibition of art. Some one or more of the paintings are visible during all the various stages of tonsorial operation.

There are other things that make Nichols residents proud of their town. The band is one of them. There are 15 pieces and Al. Quinby is director. The members are: B. A. Kirchner, E. P. Ward, Polly Cone, Fred Hummel, G. A. Griggs, Harry Shannon, J. S. Fulmer, Fred Lobdell, C. P. Reynolds, Ward Reynolds, B. H. Black, Tom Carney, John Kirchner and Will Cone.

A number of important engagements were filled by the organization last summer and in each case the Nichols musicians received a very favorable reception. They played at the West Liberty fair and the Woodmen picnic at Riverside.

They also gave a series of concerts in Nichols during the summer months, for which they received \$160. The band was organized in 1893 and has been active every year since.

Nichols has an estimated population of 400 people. There are three churches, one bank, two large elevators, a good public school with a complete grammar and high school course, an opera house, a town hall and three hotels. Two branches of the Rock Island system run into the town, the Muscatine Western and the old Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern.

The Nichols Savings bank is capitalized at \$12,000 and has a surplus and profits of \$7,612.54. The last bank statement shows deposits aggregating \$150,835.54. John Hookey, of Iowa City, is the president, John Nicola, vice president and L. B. Smith cashier. The directors are T. B. Nichols, F. H. Elder, Henry Brugman, C. B. Kirchner, W. S. Baker of Sioux Falls, S. D., and Mr. Hookey and Mr. Nicola.

Nichols' chief source of revenue comes from the products of the farmer. A few of the residents own land by the thousand acres and there is a great deal of wealth for the size of the town. R. C. Black, T. B. Nichols, B. F. Swickard, Joseph A. Heath, John Nicola and Dr. F. F. Carl all own beautiful residences.

The three churches of the town are of the Methodist, Catholic and Christian denomination. The Catho-

lic church denomination represents an outlay of about \$20,000, and Pastor Benjamin Parkinson of the Methodist church is having \$5,000 worth of improvements done on the building.

The opera house, which has a capacity of about 650 people, was built by the Nichols Hall association, which is incorporated. The postoffice and the telephone exchange are on the first floor.

The town hall was built in 1897 and is a two story brick structure, containing a room for meetings of the common council and the city jail with two cages, which the citizens proudly declare are scarcely ever occupied.

Dr. F. F. Carl is mayor of Nichols and the members of the council are Lawrence Foley, E. J. Brown, George T. Nicola, P. C. Hart, R. M. Norris and C. E. Duncan. R. S. Wright, F. H. Schmidt and H. J. Brown are the school trustees and the principal of the public school is J. H. Boatman.

F. M. Mapes, whose business is shipping furs, brings a large amount of money to Nichols every year. Last year his business aggregated \$20,000 roughly estimated, with one sale amounting to \$6,000. He has a fur house three miles from town and his name and business is known in all parts of the United States.

Foley Bros. and Brugman Bros. operate two large elevators, both of which have a bin capacity of about 15,000 bushels. Considerable grain business is done in the town, which is accounted for by the excellent

railroad facilities and the rich agricultural land surrounding.

Several Nichols men follow the cattle feeding business. George Hookey, Henry Brown, the Gable Brothers, F. A. Pike, the Dean Brothers and B. L. Metcalf each handled many cars of cattle this year. R. M. Morris is busy buying and selling hogs and does a large amount of business.

W. E. Loeb, who with W. C. Adleman has a lumber yard at Nichols, carries a stock of coal and building material worth from \$8,000 to \$10,000 and a large country trade is handled the year around. The company has been in business four years.

R. S. Rice, who is always a hustler, has given Nichols a first class hotel, the Central hotel and restaurant. Mr. Rice recently took over the property and after completely remodeling and refurnishing it, has a comfortable place for the traveler to spend the night. A restaurant is in connection and the hotel is convenient from the depot.

The Commercial hotel is another hotel of Nichols and has been conducted by Mr. Reynolds for a number of years. The Rumley house is the third hotel.

Nichols is also noted for the crack shots that are among its residents. Hunting is one of the most popular diversions of the townspeople and it is not an infrequent sight to see some one drive into town with a long string of ducks.

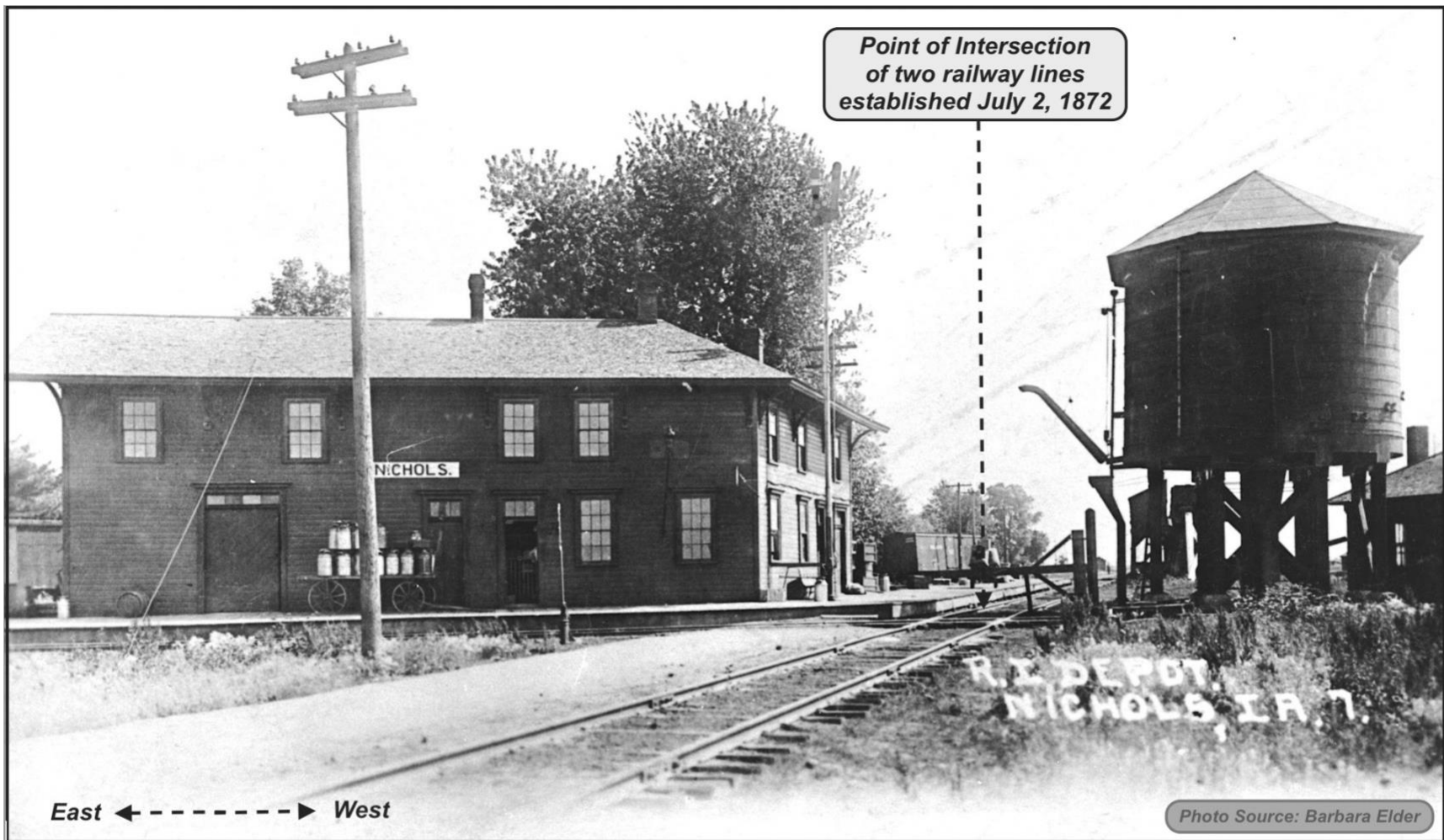
Town of Nichols Sketch in The Muscatine Journal on 16 December 1909, page 53



The “Big Barn” on the Townsend & Dora Nichols Farmstead – 1910

In 1895 a grandson of Samuel Nichols (Townsend B. Nichols, son of Benjamin & Susan Nichols) built a large red brick house on a farmstead just outside the east boundary of the Town of Nichols. On November 25, 1897, Townsend married Dora Sutton of Nichols at the “spacious residence” in Nichols of his widowed mother. Around 1910, Townsend erected on the farmstead the “Big Barn” above. Except for the distant grain elevator at the left side of the picture, the Town of Nichols is hidden behind the barn. – **Photo source: Charlene Nichols Hixon**

The people in the picture, on the north side of the barn, are Townsend and Dora standing at the top of the ramp, their daughter Anna (age 9) sitting on the side of the ramp and their son Benjamin (age 11) sitting on the white horse. The children will become graduates of Nichols High School, Benjamin in 1916 and Anna in 1919.



The Nichols Railroad Depot of the Rock Island Railroad ca. 1910

It was the intersection of two newly constructed railroads on July 2, 1872, that would put on the map "Nichols Station" and then the unincorporated village of Nichols and finally, on March 17, 1884, the incorporated Town of Nichols, Iowa. This photo shows (1) the depot building, (2) the point of intersection of the two railway tracks and (3) the elevated water tank that supplied water to the steam engines that powered the locomotives. To the photographer's immediate left was the Rummells Hotel.

Solon men in Nichols 1910

Nichols, Ia.



**Section Crew of the Rock Island Railroad
With a Motorized Maintenance Car in Nichols, Iowa, Circa 1910**

NICHOLS RESIDENT SUCCUMBED SUNDAY

**J. W. RUMMELLS PASSED AWAY
AFTER LONG ILLNESS.**

**Had Made Nichols His Home for
Nearly Thirty Years—Funeral
to Be Held Wednesday.**

J. W. Rummells, one of Nichols' most prominent and best known citizens and business men, succumbed to an illness of several weeks' duration and passed away at his home Sunday night, at the advanced age of 78 years, 3 months and 19 days. When the word went forth that he was dead many realized that Nichols had lost a good citizen and an upright man. His passing will be keenly felt as a loss to the commun-

ity, as well as to his family. J. W. Rummells was born in the state of Pennsylvania on December 1, 1831, and came to West Branch, Ia., in 1876. He moved to Nichols in 1882 and went into the general merchandise business, which he took an active part in until ten years ago, at which time he retired and the business was conducted by his son, J. W. Rummells, Jr.

Mr. Rummells was married in 1853 to Miss Amanda Squibb. Eight children were born to the union, of whom seven survive—Henry Rummells and Mrs. Mary Stepp, of West Branch, Ia.; Mrs. Sadie Few, of Lone Tree, Ia.; John Rummells, of West Liberty, Ia., and Susie Rummells, Mrs. Lillie Schomeberg and J. W. Rummells, Jr., of this place. One daughter, Mrs. Emma Cookson having preceded him in death. The wife and mother preceded him in death on September 11, 1905.

The funeral services will be held from the Christian church Wednesday forenoon, at 10:30 o'clock, Rev. W. E. Loeb officiating, and the Masonic lodge will have charge. Burial will be made in the West Liberty cemetery.

The Muscatine Journal, Tuesday, 22 March 1910, Page 2

Obituary of Josiah W. Rummells Sr. (1 December 1831 – 20 March 1910)

Obituary.

Dr. John J. Nolan was born in Kerry county, Ireland, on Feb. 15, 1869, and departed this life at his home at Nichols, Ia., April 10, 1910, having attained the age of 41 years, 1 month and 25 days.

Dr. Nolan received his early education in Ireland, graduating at an early age from St. Michels college at Listowe. Having completed the classical course, soon after this he emigrated to America, arriving at Nichols, Ia., in 1892. From here he went to Iowa City and entered the university. After spending two years there he went to St. Louis university at St. Louis, Mo., where he graduated in medicine in 1895, and directly afterward located in Nichols, where his cheerful, hopeful disposition, linked with his skill in his chosen calling, soon won for him a steadily increasing practice which often

tried his time and strength to the utmost.

In September of 1899 he was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Ryan, of Nichols, and to this union were born three children—Robert, aged 10, Marie, aged 6, and Edward, aged 3—all of whom, with their sorrowing mother, are left to mourn the departure of a loving husband and father, while in far-away Ireland, an aged mother and three sisters and two brothers, with one brother in this country, Rev. M. F. Nolan, of Missouri City, Ia., are left to mourn a son and father. One brother, Rev. Robert Nolan, preceded him in death at Nichols, Ia., in 1901.

In 1903, Dr. Nolan, accompanied by his wife and a brother, made a trip to Ireland and visited boyhood scenes, little thinking this would be the last time he would look upon the face of the dear ones there.

The Muscatine Journal, Thursday, 14 April 1910, page 4

Obituary of Dr. John J. Nolan (15 February 1869 – 10 April 1910)

POPULATION OF MUSCATINE COUNTY IN 1910.

The census of 1910 is here given and for comparison the total population of the county for the preceding two decades is shown in parallel columns:

	1910	1900	1890
Bloomington township	920	905	747
Cedar township	360	345	352
Fruitland township	824	917	789
Fulton township, including Stockton town	894	995	1,039
Stockton town	138
Goshen township, including Atalissa town	818	906	836
Atalissa town	220
Lake township	505	566	569
Montpelier township	508	586	576
Moscow township	724	704	640
Muscatine township, coextensive with Muscatine city..	16,178	14,073	11,454
Orono township, including Conesville town	560	562	470
Conesville town	347
Pike township, including Nichols town	1,073	1,151	1,048
Nichols town	396	398	237
Seventy Six township	634	650	658
Sweetland township	1,068	1,188	1,134
Wapsinonoc township, including West Liberty town....	2,519	2,565	2,185
West Liberty town	1,666	1,690	1,268
Wilton township, including Wilton town	1,920	2,069	2,007
Wilton town	1,157	1,233	1,212
Total	29,505	28,242	24,504

Source: 1911 History of Muscatine County, Iowa, Clarke Publishing, Chicago, Pages 104-105

DEDICATION OF NICHOLS CHURCH

NEW METHODIST CHURCH BUILD-
ING AT MUSCATINE COUNTY
TOWN DEDICATED.

HANLEY IS SPEAKER

Centerville Pastor Preaches Sermons
at the Dedicatory Exercises—\$3,-
000 Raised and Church Is Dedicat-
ed Free From Debt.

Nichols, Ia., May 10.—(Special.)—
With appropriate and impressive
exercises the dedication of the new
\$6,000 Methodist Episcopal church
building at Nichols was completed
yesterday, the services of the day
being marked by large congrega-
tions, impressive sermons and a spir-
it of generous giving which made it
possible for the new structure to be
dedicated free from debt.

The new church building, which
is of frame construction, and a mod-
ern and commodious structure, seat-
ing some 400 was formally opened
yesterday by the dedication services.
The exercises began at 10 o'clock in
the morning, Rev. P. H. Hawk, of
Wellman, offering the opening pray-
er. The scripture lesson was read
by Rev. Mr. Oathout, the pastor of
the Nichols Christian church. The
sermon was delivered by Rev. J. R.
Hanley, of Centerville, formerly the
pastor of the Methodist Episcopal
church of West Liberty.

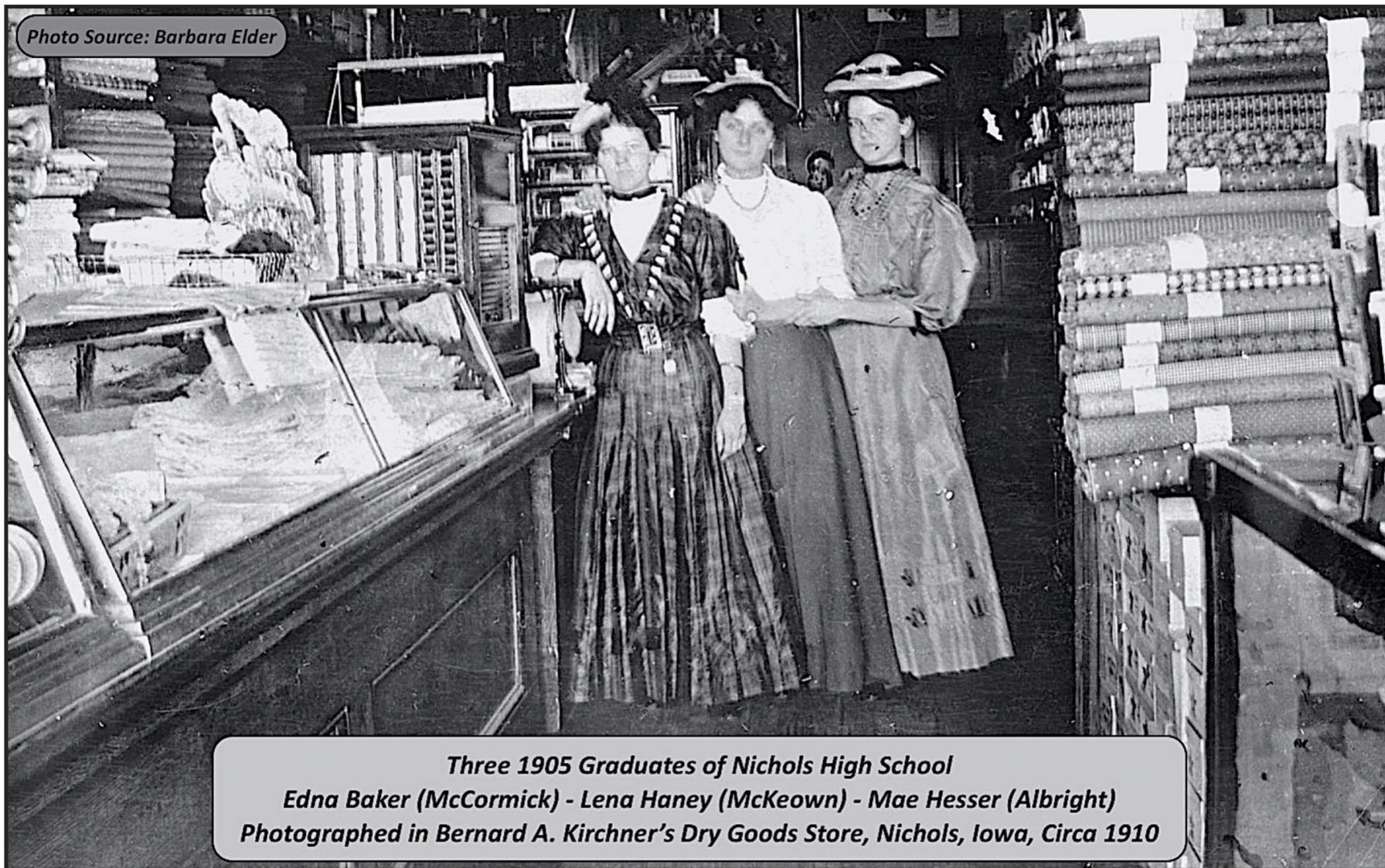
The Muscatine Journal, 10 May 1910



Members of the Newly Dedicated Nichols Methodist Church 1910

Seated in Front: Miriam Richter (Renshaw 1907-1991) – **Standing L-R Row 1:** Ila Olive Nash (1898-1990) – Frances Kirchner (Elder 1899-1999) – Stella Metheny (Olson 1898-1980) – Harry R. Metheny (1903-1918) – ? – ? – ?. **Row 2:** Lillian Buck Richter (1882-1974) – Ida Brockway Nash (1858-1953) – Isabelle Reid Metheny (1876-1951) – Caroline Hechter Shannon (1862-1934) – ? – Laura Nash Loeb (1880-1944). **Row 3:** ? – ? – Mary Mellisa Johns Black (1849-1941) – Caroline Sauer Brown (1866- 1955) – Clara Elder (1861-1926). **Row 4:** ? – ? – Anna Mizner Stafford (1864-1946). Photo Source: Barbara Elder

Photo Source: Barbara Elder



*Three 1905 Graduates of Nichols High School
Edna Baker (McCormick) - Lena Haney (McKeown) - Mae Hesser (Albright)
Photographed in Bernard A. Kirchner's Dry Goods Store, Nichols, Iowa, Circa 1910*

Seniors



EVERSON	SCHNUG	HAMMER	KAUSA	ALBERTSON	<u>MUENCH</u>	ANDERSON	MORRISON	JOHNSTON	PATTON	WOOD	
BENEDICT	MATER	BAMMERT	VAN METRE	MAPLETHORPE	FREEMAN	BLAKELEY	BAIRD	KRESENSKY	LAMPE	WOLLCOTT	SMITH
SCHADT	YENERICH	POWERS	CORRELL	MINTHORN	JOY	CARLSON	SIMONS	MILLER	BROOKS	WILKINSON	
OCKS	CARPENTER	SHERLOCK	O'BRIEN	KELLER	JOYNT	MC GREGOR	MC KENNA	MOON	THOMAS	OSBORNE	

*Virgil O. Muench in the 1909-10 Senior Class Picture in the College of Medicine at the State University of Iowa
Source: SUI Hawkeye Yearbook published in the Spring of 1910, University of Iowa Digital Library*

Senior Class Graduates Received Their Diplomas on June 15, 1910

Following graduation Dr. Virgil Muench established a medical practice in the Town of Nichols, Iowa, during the summer of 1910. His first offices were on the second floor of the Van Tuyl Building then owned by Bernard A. Kirchner. In 1916, Dr. Muench purchased the Hart building in Nichols and relocated his offices to its second floor where he would practice medicine until his death in 1948.



James  *NOTY GUTH, IOWA*
1256 W. TOWN ST. GROUND FLOOR.

Photo Source: Linda Kaalberg White

Six Men With A Netherlands Connection

WHO. The six men in the picture, numbered from left to right as 1-2-3 in the back row and as 4-5-6 in the front row, are:

1. **Frank Wieskamp (1870-1947)** married Frances Linderman of Davenport, Iowa, on January 16, 1900.
2. **John L. Brugman (1877-1960)**, son of Stephen Brugman, married Mary R. Healey of Muscatine County, Iowa, on September 1, 1908.
3. **Arnold A. Brugman (1880-1938)**, son of Stephen Brugman, married Mary (Mamie) Hazen of Nichols, Iowa, on May 24, 1905.
4. **Joseph E. Brugman (1883-1969)**, son of Englebert Brugman, never married.
5. **Henry S. Brugman (1875-1950)**, son of Stephen Brugman, married Anna Mary Milder of West Liberty, Iowa, on April 26, 1911.
6. **Arnold Kaalberg (1871-1940)**, brother of Bernard Kaalberg, married Mary Linderman of Davenport, Iowa, on February 15, 1898. Three grandchildren of Arnold Kaalberg graduated from Nichols High School: Mary Kaalberg Steinocher (NHS 1944), Robert A. Kaalberg (NHS 1946) and Patricia Kaalberg Matthews (NHS 1949).

WHY. 1 - All six men had ancestral roots in the Netherlands. Frank Wieskamp was born in the Netherlands and emigrated to Iowa. Arnold Kaalberg (and his brother Bernard) were both born in the Netherlands and emigrated to Iowa. The four Brugmans were sons of fathers who were born in the Netherlands and emigrated to Iowa. 2 - The six men were further connected by blood and marriage. Frank Wieskamp and Arnold Kaalberg married Linderman sisters of Davenport. Anna Brugman, older sister of Joseph Brugman, married Bernard Kaalberg in 1894. 3 - All six had farm roots in Iowa and all would choose farming as their occupation except for Arnold Brugman. The 1916 Anderson Atlas of Muscatine County shows farms in the southwest part of Wapsinonoc Township (about 4 miles northwest of the Town of Nichols) owned by Arnold Kaalberg, Bernard Kaalberg, Englebert Brugman, Stephen Brugman and John L. Brugman. Henry Brugman would later acquire a farm in the same neighborhood.

WHEN. At the time of this picture the taking of a studio photograph was usually associated with a special family event. The presence of Frank Wieskamp from Palo Alto County in north central Iowa indicates this was a special event. And for these Iowa farm boys the first such event would be their wedding for which they would purchase a good suit with a vest. Five of the six men are wearing good vested suits. The last of the five to be married was Henry Brugman in 1911 and that suggests that this picture was taken in conjunction with the gathering for Henry's wedding. Confirmation may exist in the fact that Henry appears in the honored position of front row center.

Annotation by Don Smith 2017.0513

Nichols Made Famous By Its Sportsmen; A Thriving Town Situatd int he Midst of a Rich Farming Community It is an Important Shipping Point

In the western part of Muscatine county, at the intersection of the old B., C. R. & N. branch of the Rock Island and the Muscatine and Western branch of the same system is situated the wealthy and prosperous town of Nichols, the trading center of a rich farming community and the home of a progressive citizenship.

Nichols is accredited by the last federal census with a population of 369. It possesses three churches, one bank, grain elevators, an opera house, a good public school with complete grammar and high school course, a town hall and a hotel in addition to other business enterprises. It is of particular importance as a shipping point, and boasts of its extended grain and produce business. It is estimated by S. H. Smith, the town weighmaster, that from 9,000 to 12,000 bushels of corn has been handled through Nichols during the last sixty days preceeding November 15, while in season over 800 wagon loads of cabbage have been shipped from this town.

Nichols city hall, a two story brick structure, contains the city offices and the town jail and also houses the fire department which is equipped with a modern improved hose wagon. The city officers of Nichols at the present time are mayor, Will Loeb; councilmen, John Nicola, L. B. Smith, B. L. Metcalf, Arnold Brugman, and William Schmitt; town assessor, Fred Shmitt.

The Nichols Savings bank has a capital stock of \$15,000 and a surplus of \$8,000 and undivided profits of \$2,700 with deposits of over \$160,000 which evidences not only the wealth and substantial prosperity of the residents and community but also of the high standing of the bank and its officers. These latter are president, John Hooley; vice-president, John Nicola; cashier, L.

B. Smith; directors, B. A. Kirchner, E. B. Kirchner, T. B. Nichols, Henry Grugeman and Freeman H. Elder.

Among the most enterprising of Nichols business concerns is the firm operating the new auto garage composed of T. B. Nichols and the Foley Bros. This firm has installed a completely equipped garage and handles the Stoddard-Dayton automobiles and a full line of auto repairs and accessories. T. V. Nichols, one of the partners is a chicken fancier of high standing raising Buff Orpingtons. He has a large pen of choice stock highly scored.

Nichols has one asset which not every town of equal size can claim, a well organized and competent brass band. The Nichols band is an organization of years standing and is in large demand filling engagements during the year at many surrounding towns. The band was organized in 1893 and has had an active year every year since that time. The present membership of the band includes C. P. Reynolds, Ward Reynolds, Poly Cone, Amos Borgstadt, R. Borgstadt, Tom Carney, Harry Shannon, F. Shannon, Charles Elder, O. Hazen, P. Quimby, B. A. Kirchner, H. Rummels, John Oostendorf, and Willard Rice.

Among the new residences erected during the past year were those built by Miles Doran, John Foley and Steven Brugman.

The three denominations represented in Nichols are the Methodists, the Christians, and the Roman Catholic church. Rev. Rollo J. Fisher is the pastor of the Methodist church and Father Fitzsimmons is pastor of the Catholic parish.

The Nichols Opera house has a seating capacity of 650 people. It was built by the Nichols Hall association, an incorporated company.

The Central Hotel is conducted by Mrs. A. S. Rice. W. N. Quimby is the proprietor of the local livery barn.

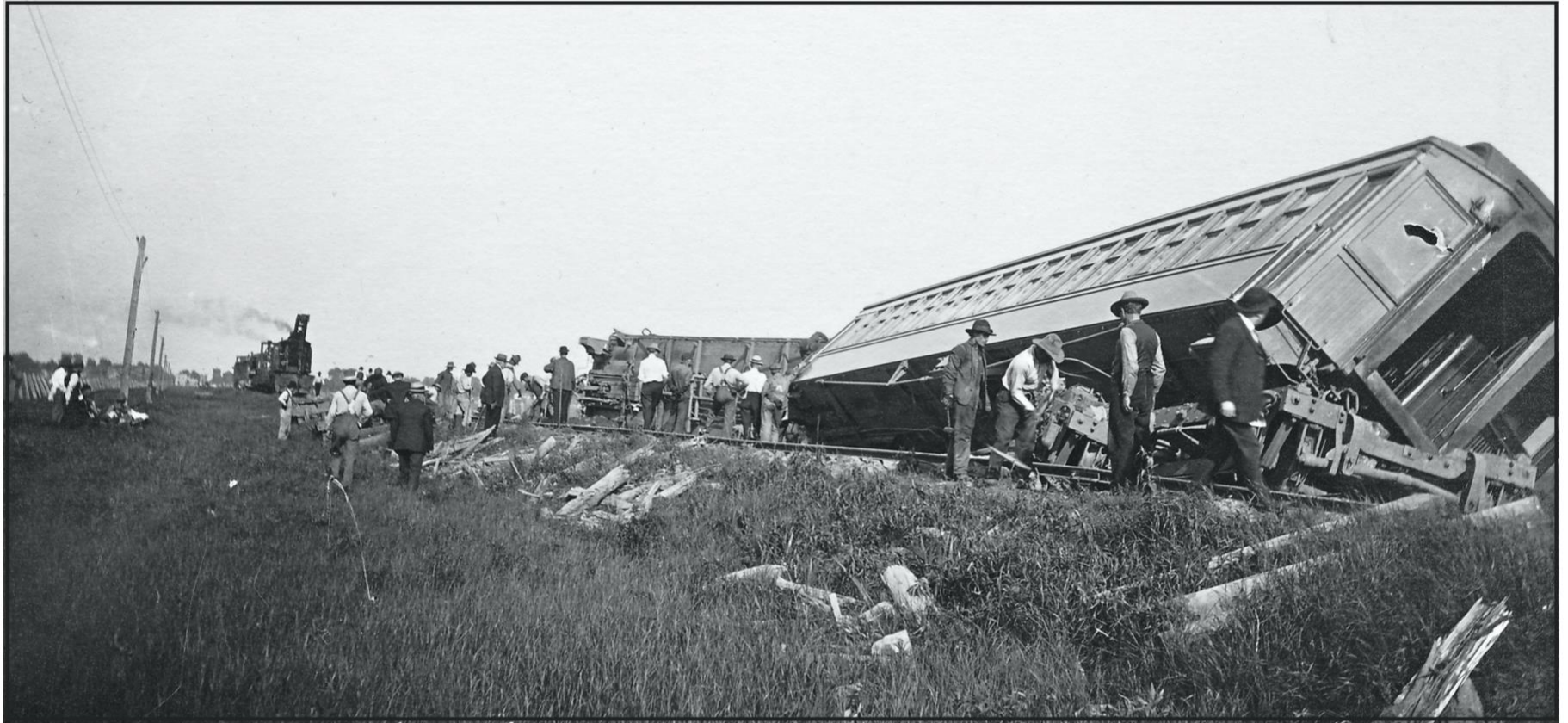
George T. Nicola, horseman and buyer, is a heavy dealer in this class of stock, making a specialty of draft horses and mules.

Nichols is noted as being the home of good sportsmen and crack shots, some of Iowa's best known shooters being Nichols men.

The Nichols Gun Club is one of the most important organizations in the town and has a membership of eighteen sportsmen. T. B. Nichols, the president, has the distinction of having once tied for first place in the Grand American handicap, and William Whetleaf, the vice-president, once tied for first place and once for second in the same event and has also won the Iowa State championship for three successive years. On one trip he shot in events at St. Paul, Minn., Anaconda, Mont., Spokane, Wash., Seattle and Denver, Colo., winning first place in every event entered. Lawrence Foley also a member of the club has three times tied for third place in the Grand American handicap. Other members of the club include John Croutcup, B. H. Black, John Foley and C. E. Duncan.

Ben. H. Black, who is one of Nichols' most prominent residents, was representative of Muscatine county at the last session of the state legislature, being elected on the democratic ticket.

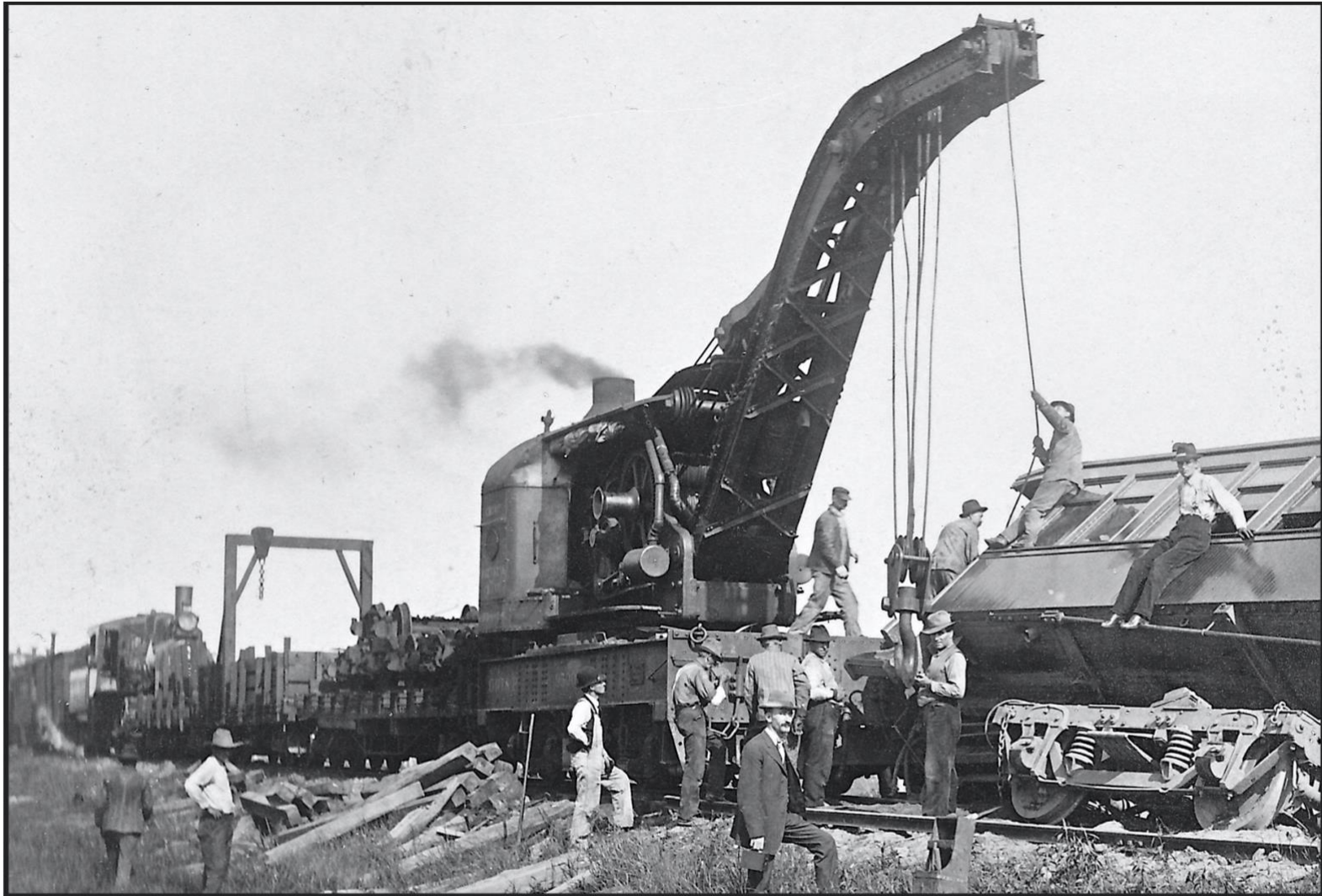
***Published in the
Annual Edition of
The Muscatine Journal
on Friday,
December 8, 1911,
on page 27***



Rock Island Train Wreck Just West of Nichols, Iowa, in 1913

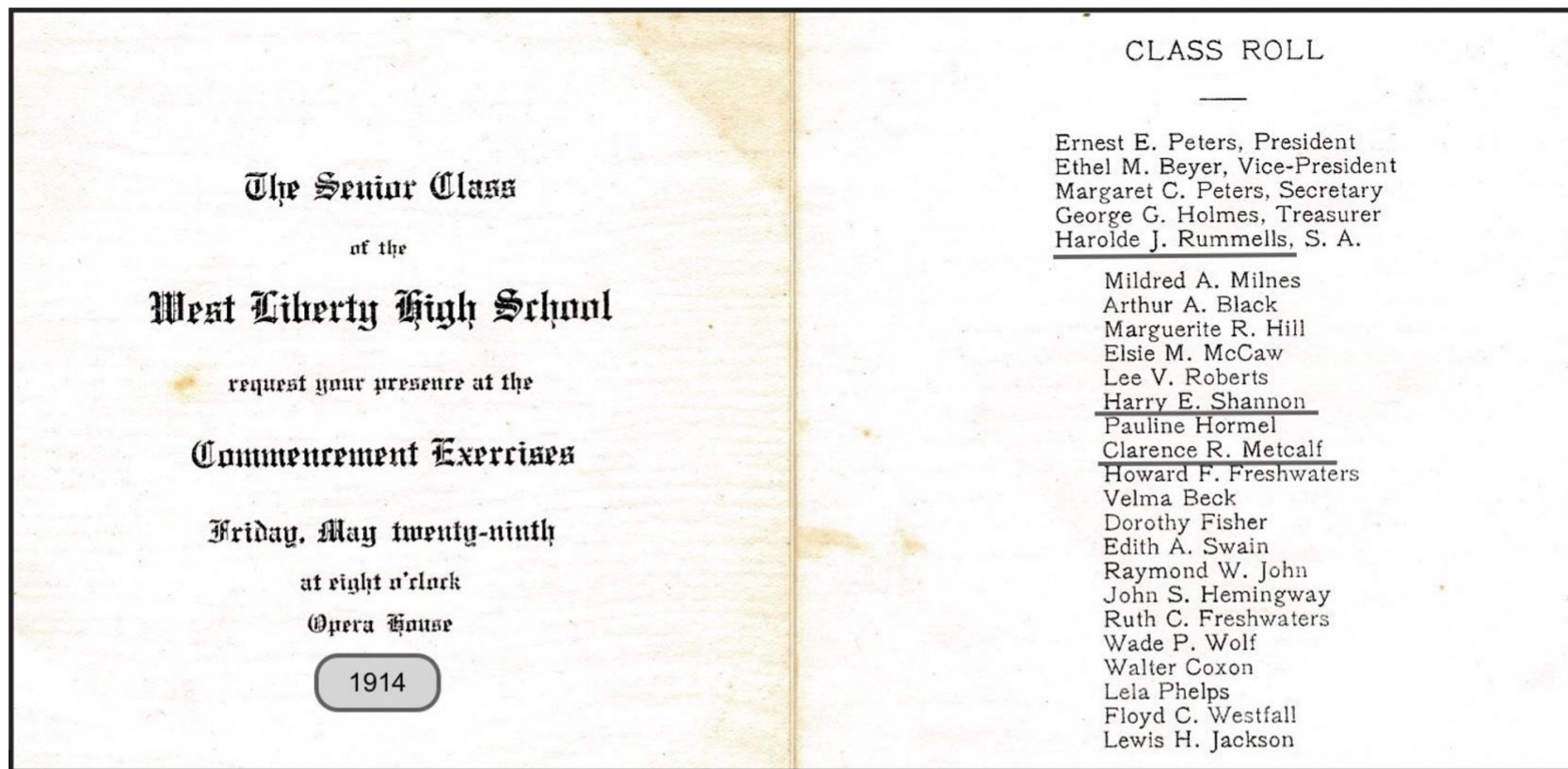
Train wrecks were not an uncommon event in the early decades of the railroad industry. This passenger train went off the rails on May 27, 1913, on a line that that was originally built in 1872 and 1873 by the Muscatine Western Railway running from Muscatine through Nichols to Montezuma, Iowa. The two railway lines intersecting at Nichols were both acquired by the Rock Island in 1903. The Nichols business district is visible on the eastern horizon in this picture. The pointed top of the elevated water tower at the Rock Island depot is visible directly behind the locomotive approaching the wreck scene.

Photographer: William Crozier of Riverside IA – Photo Source: Keith Mills



Clearing The Tracks of A Train Wreck West of Nichols 1913

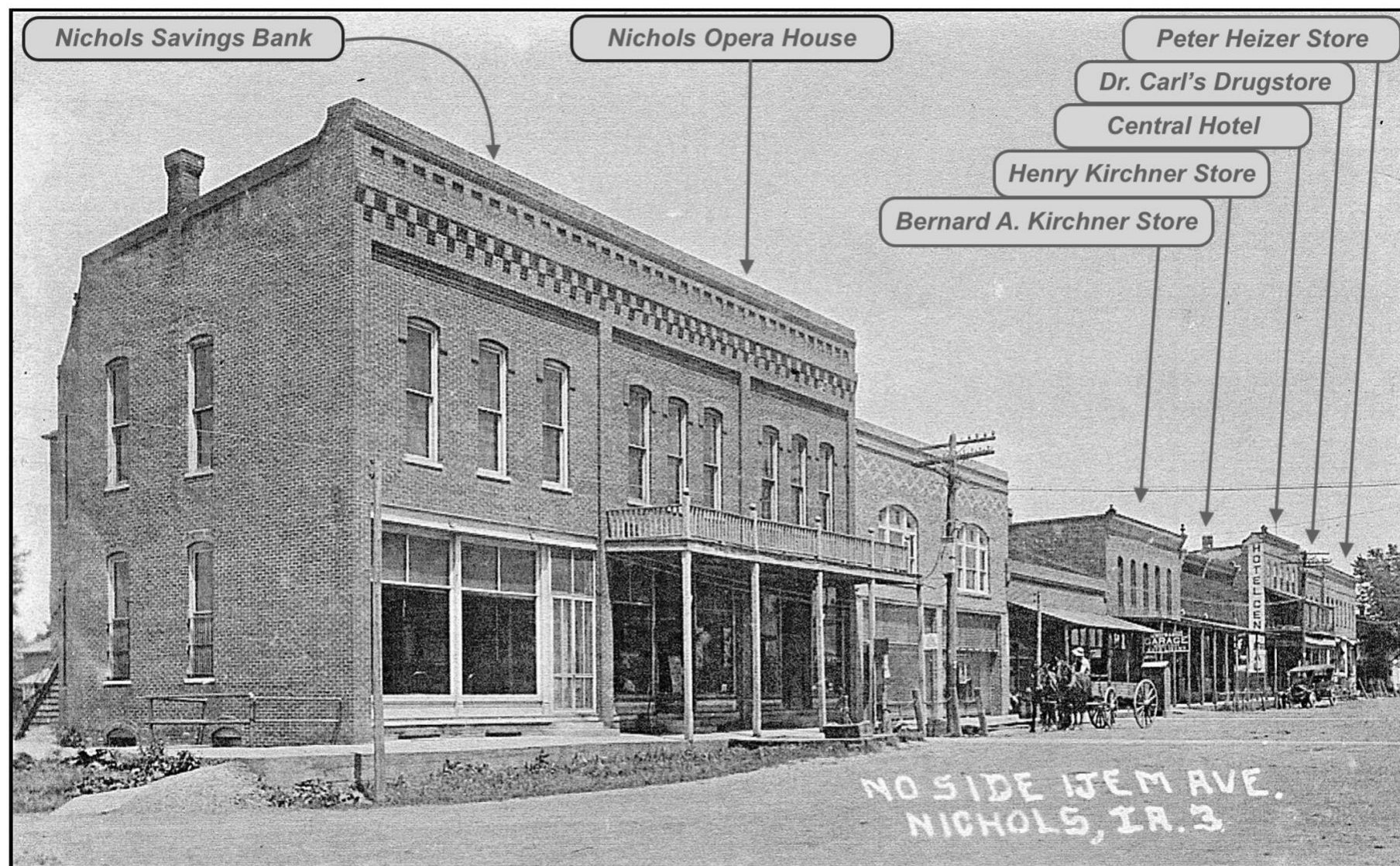
On May 27, 1913, William Crozier of Riverside IA photographed the scene of this train wreck just west of the Town of Nichols. The Rock Island Railroad maintained a "Section Crew" in Nichols to do routine maintenance and inspection. But for a wreck involving derailments an outside crew with a heavy duty crane would come in to clear the tracks and restore them to operating condition. Photo Source: Keith Mills.



Senior Year at West Liberty High School, Class of 1914

The Nichols High School Class of 1926 was the first to receive 4-year diplomas. Prior to 1925 NHS was an accredited high school but had only a 3-year curriculum. Its graduates from 1903 to 1924 were able to earn a 4-year diploma by enrolling for their Senior year at a 4-year high school. Three graduates of NHS, Harolde Rummells (1911), Harry Shannon (1913) and Clarence Metcalf (1913), did their Senior year together at West Liberty High School where they received their 4-year diplomas on May 29, 1914.

These three 4-year graduates would also have future family connections. Harold Rummells' sister, Amanda, married Harry Shannon. Harry Shannon's sister, Verda, married Clarence Metcalf. Harry and Amanda Shannon are the grandparents of Michael Appleby of Colorado. Mike has been a major source of town and school historical photos and documents for building the NHS Digital Archives. **Document Source: Mike Appleby**



Nichols Central Business District on Ijem Avenue circa 1915

Photo Source: William Newton

"Stoddard-Dayton"

Stoddard-Dayton Motor Cars for 1912
offer extraordinary value in cars of quality.

The lines of all the body designs are
simple and effective.

Many new features—some of them ex-
clusive with Stoddard-Dayton—make for
comfort, pleasing appearance, long and
satisfactory service.

Permit us to show you the new models.
Or we will send you information regarding
them, if you prefer.

T. B. NICHOLS

FOLEY BROS.

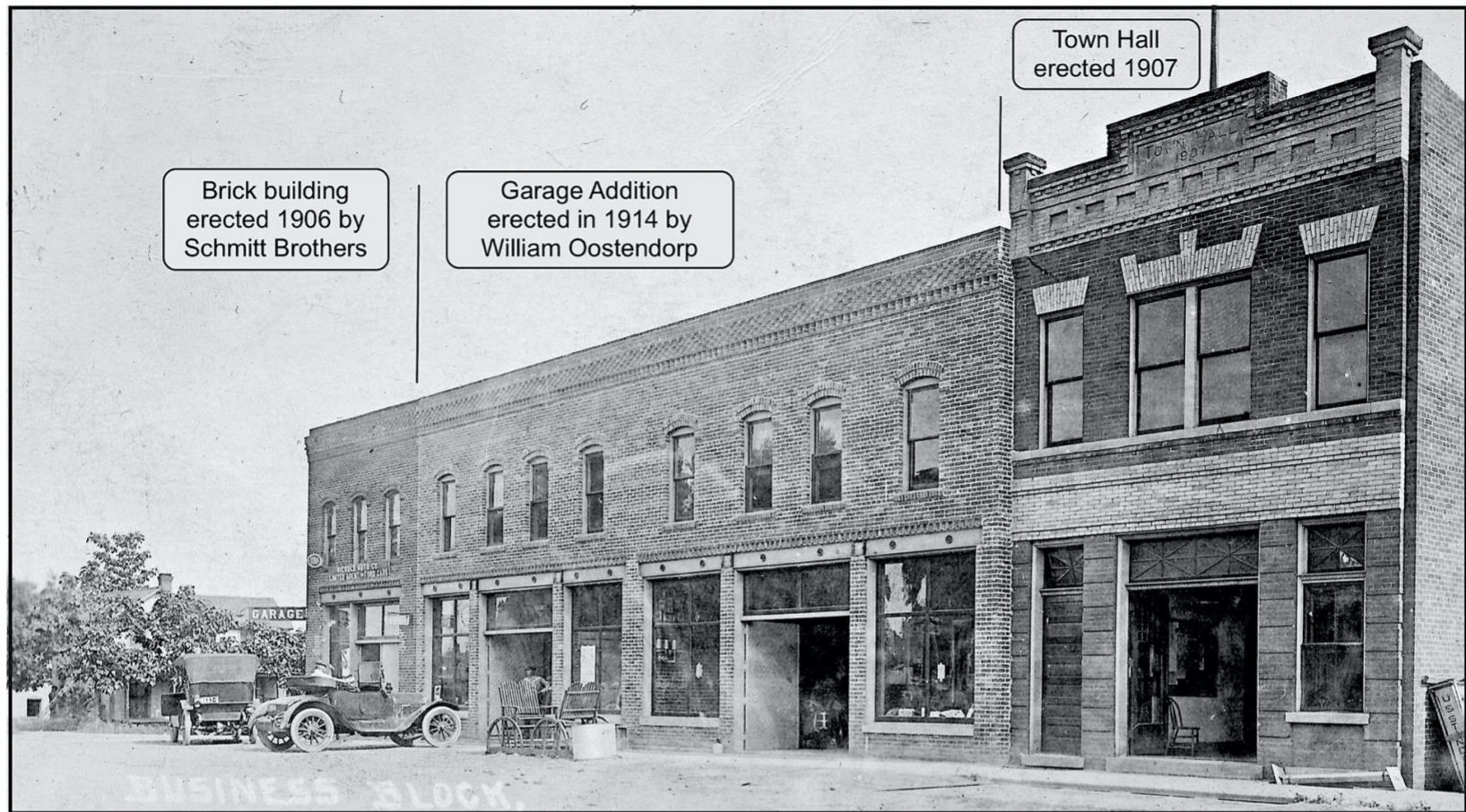


NICHOLS AUTO CO.

NICHOLS, - - IOWA



Published in The Muscatine News-Tribune 13 March 1912



Nichols Auto Co. on Ijem Avenue circa June 1915

In 1906, the Schmitt Brothers were selling buggies and farm implements from their new brick building at the southwest corner of Ijem Avenue and Main Street. On October 1, 1908, Ford Motor Co. started mass production of its affordable Model-T car. On September 22, 1913, William Oostendorp purchased Nichols Auto Co. from T. B. Nichols and L. Foley and J. Foley. In December, 1913, he purchased from the Schmitt Brothers their brick building and the land between it and the Town Hall on which he erected, in 1914, a garage building for Nichols Auto Co. In March of 1915, William Oostendorp sold to Elmer Ray Swickard and Frank L. Grigg the Nichols Auto Co. and the building in which it was located on the east side of the Nichols Town Hall. **Photo Source: Keith Mills**

WHO'S WHO IN NICHOLS

W.E. LOEB & CO.

DEALERS IN

Building Material and Coal

Agents for Freeport Gas Machine

Announcement



We are just opening up a new line of ladies' and children's shoes in addition to our complete stock of men's shoes, boots, etc.

F. W. HUMMEL

Harness, Saddles, Robes, Blankets, Whips, Nets, Etc.

For Your Christmas Dinner

And any other time remember you can buy the best meats at

City Meat Market

H. L. GREEN' Proprietor

The Place to Buy Your Car

Overland, Model 83

4-cylinder, 35 h. p., 106 w. b.

Detachable Limousine Top, \$200 Extra

\$750



Hup, Model N

4-cylinder, 40 h. p., 119 w. b.

Detachable Limousine Top \$100 Extra

\$1085



NICHOLS AUTO COMPANY

SWICKARD and GRIGG

Poole Bros.

Plumbing Heat-
ing & Repairs
U. S. Cream
Separators

Headquarters in Nichols for

Everything Needed on the Farm

Implements, Windmills, Gasoline Engines
Wagons and Buggies

W. M. Poole

A. B. Poole

Fred Poole

Nichols the Garden Spot of the Hawkeye State

Nichols the Garden Spot of the Hawkeye State

The Muscatine Journal, 11 December 1915, page 19

Thriving Muscatine County Town is the Home of Watermelons and Cabbage

Though Nichols is one of the smaller towns of the county in population it is by no means unimportant and the fact is that its importance far outstrips its population—it fulfills the old saying "Good goods sometimes come done up in small packages" for this city though having less than 500 people—435 to be exact—is noted far and wide for three things, namely, its produce, its fine residences and its progressiveness.

Nichols is in the heart of the great produce growing industry of the county and its greatest specialty is cabbage. In this vegetable Nichols literally feeds the world. This year, which has been a poor one for the business because of the heavy yield, over 800 acres of cabbage were grown ready for the waiting world's call. Most of this cabbage goes to the west and the southwest though oftentimes the shipments to eastern markets are almost as heavy as to the west.

In this particular industry J. W. Rummels is perhaps the leading grower. During the past year he had 250 acres of this one vegetable under cultivation.

Sweet Potatoes and Melons.

Others specialize in sweet potatoes of which car load after car load is shipped to all points of the compass. Melons, particularly watermelons, are grown in great quantities in the vicinity of the town and in fact practically the entire town is built around "truck farming."

This does not mean that the farming of small grains is ignored for three large elevators with a total capacity of 70,000 bushels, handles thousands of bushels of corn each year and the oats and wheat crops are always big factors in the total income of the residents.

Beautiful Buildings.

Beauty and convenience have ever been the watchword of the citizens in the building of both their homes and their public buildings. During the past year a fine new post office was built by the government. This is of brick and stone. It is a two-story building, the first floor of which is used as the post office while the postmaster has a fine modern flat on the second floor for his home

during his incumbency.

Fine High School.

A \$22,000 High School building was dedicated this fall by these progressive townspeople. This building is a two story brick and stone structure built as fireproof as it is possible for a building to be constructed. In the basement is a finely equipped manual training department for the boys and a domestic science department for the girls.

On the first floor are the study, dressing and recitation rooms besides a laboratory for physical and chemical research for the students. The third floor is taken up with an auditorium large enough to comfortably seat practically the entire town. The building would be a credit to a city many times the size of Nichols, both from an educational and an architectural standpoint. The courses offered are practically as complete as can be had at any high school in the country with the decided advantage that the classes being smaller, the opportunity for individual instruction is much greater.

At present there are 115 pupils in attendance and the Nichols High School has, during the past year, been put on the accredited list by the state superintendent. The teaching corps consists of F. H. Dawson, principal; Miss Beulah Beshears, assistant principal; Miss Lena Gliese, grammar; Miss Mayme Foley, intermediate, and Miss Alice Billings, primary department.

City of Residences.

Nichols is a city of fine residences. In fact the buildings of the entire city are far above the average and any number of residences built within the past few years cost more than \$5,000 to erect. The most noted residence in the town is that of John Nicola, whose home cost close to \$12,000 when completed.

Up to this time there has been but one thing lacking and that has been that no electric current reached the city and the people were compelled to install private plants for each home. This, however, will not be for much longer as plans are under way for the erecting of a plant and the matter is being whipped into shape for presentation to the voters at the coming election next spring.

When the franchise is granted the streets will be lighted with ornamental post lights and the residences will then be equipped with the only convenience not at present at the command of the progressive owners.

Progressiveness is Evident.

The progressiveness of the town is indicated by what its citizens have accomplished both for themselves and for the city and looking at the matter in this light, the town is certainly progressive when it can gain a national reputation as a produce shipping point, when it secures a fine modern \$3,500 post office from the government, when a town so small builds such a high school and when it contemplates installing an electric light plant.

The Concert Band.

The booster fever is virulent in this thriving town and to proclaim the merits of the place a concert band which has been in existence for some years not only furnishes music on all local occasions but also goes to the neighboring cities to display its talents.

The Nichols Concert Band is composed of fifteen pieces as follows: Grant Nichols, leader, A. L. Quimby, Clell Reynolds, Harry Shannon, cornets; Will Wagner, Raymond Borgstadt, Lloyd Shannon, Bennie Nichols, altos Tom Carney bass drum; Willard Rice, Ward Reynolds, trombones; John Nash, Frank Sampson, clarinet; Polly Cone, tuba; and Amos Borgstadt, baritone. They hold weekly concerts in summer time and also play at the fairs.

Three churches flourish in Nichols each in its own home and each has a following which comfortably fill the house of worship.

The denominations and pastors are Methodist, Rev. H. E. Butler; Christian, Rev. L. E. Sampson; St. Mary's Catholic, Father James T. O'Neill.

Nichols is noted as being the home of good sportsmen and crack shots, some of Iowa's crack marksmen being residents of the town. The Nichols Gun Club is one of the most important organizations of the town. T. B. Nicholson, one of the leading members of the club, has the distinction of once having tied for

first place in the Grand American Handicap and William Whetleaf once tied for first place and once for second place in this same event and has also won the Iowa championship three consecutive times. On one trip he shot in events at St. Paul, Anaconda, Spokane, Seattle and Denver, winning first place in every event entered. Lawrence Foley, also a member of the club, has three times tied for third place in the Grand American Handicap.

One bank, the Nichols Savings Bank, amply takes care of the financial needs of the town and countryside and has on deposit more than \$211,000 with a capital of \$15,000 and a surplus of \$23,000. The taxable value of the property is given at \$67,505.

The Rummel Farm.

One of the show places of the Nichols neighborhood is the J. W. Rummel farm near that place. Mr. Rummel represents the newer methods in truck gardening. He is a real progressive in things agricultural and the success which has marked his efforts is indeed worthy.

The Rummel farm is one of the spots in Muscatine county where extensive experimental work is being carried on in co-operation with the Muscatine County Crop society and is materially assisted by the staff of the Iowa State College. The cabbage and other experiments which have been under way here for a matter of months have been under the closest observation of the Iowa State College and is also being interestingly watched by the farmers of that locality.

It is here that a wilt resisting strain of cabbage is being developed. Cabbage wilt is a disease which annually results in a loss of thousands of dollars to the cabbage growers of this locality. Several years ago an effort was made to gain relief through scientific methods and the experiments have been eminently successful. A wilt resistant strain of cabbage has been developed on this place and thus extends assurance to those growing that strain in the future that their cabbage will be protected from one of the most feared diseases known to the stock.

In order to accomplish the result it was necessary to bring a wilt resistant strain of seed from Wisconsin and acclimate it to Iowa soil conditions. It was only through the greatest care that the work was carried out to a successful conclusion.

What is being done at the Rummel farm is typical of the progressiveness of the community. Here truck gardening and melon growing has become a fine art. Every scientific and practical method is followed out in improving the quality as well as the amount of the yield. Spraying is generally indulged in

with the result that lice and other pests have been successfully combated. In the Nichols neighborhood farming is seen in its most advanced stage. The same progressiveness which is a mark of the Nichols farmer is expressed in the general make-up of the town of Nichols. The townspeople realize that the town is benefited by the prosperity of the countryside and its business men are as keenly interested in what is being done outside the town as within it.

NICHOLS AUTO CO. A GROWING CONCERN

A veritable young giant is the name which best fits the Nichols Auto Company which in but little over a year has seen a wonderful increase in business and instead of handling one agency, the firm has three of the most desirable lines of cars to be had, including the Ford which was purchased as part of the business included in the transfer from Wm. Ostendorf who erected the garage and was handling the Ford car for that vicinity.

But few months had passed when this enterprising firm added the Huppmobile agency to their list and again the sales received a good boost.

Such gains were recorded during the fall sales campaign which the company entered upon that it was decided to add still another car to their popular string. This time the Overland was the car that the firm decided upon and that their choice was well made there can be no doubt for shortly afterward the price of this car was lowered and the car jumped into popularity second only to the Ford, which they previously have been handling.

With this strong trio of cars there could be no question of the outcome save the magnitude of the business and from the past experience of the firm the future should hold much in store for them, especially so since the firm handles as complete a line of accessories as it is possible to obtain not only for the cars which the company is agent for but all others as well. A first class repair department in charge of competent and skilled mechanics who are ready at any hour to render assistance; to any in need, is also maintained.

The firm is composed of Mr. Grigg and Mr. Swickard, both men are native sons who have a wide acquaintance not only in the town but also in the surrounding territory as well. Mr. Grigg is a brother to J. J. and C. C. Grigg who do an extensive stock sales business in West Liberty. Mr. Swickard was the former proprietor of the Swickard garage which was consolidated with the present firm at the time of purchase of the garage.

Farmers Directory Pike Township, 1916 Anderson Atlas Muscatine County, Iowa, page 14 - Years in County ()

Adams, Frank A. Ch. Erma, Willie. Nichols. O. 80 ac., sec. 13; 43 ac., sec. 19, T. 77, R. 3. (36).

Barton, D. A. Wf. Emma; ch. Edith, Helen, Cecil, Bernice, Dorothy. Nichols, R. 1. R. 239. 26 ac., sec. 18. (14).

Becker, G. B. Wf. Teresa; ch. Bernard, Alice, Raymond, Agnes. Nichols. R. 230 ac., sec. 3. (33).

Billings, Chas. W. Hazel; ch. Cecil, Helen. Nichols, R. 1. R. 80 ac., sec. 23. (10).

Black, Mary M. Nichols, R. 1. O. 160 ac., sec. 3. (50).

Black, R. C. Wf. Mary. Nichols, R. 1. O. 160 ac., sec. 3. (50).

Brown, G. W. Wf. Ada. Nichols. R. 160 ac., sec. 3. (45).

Brown, H. J. Wf. Lucy; ch. Lovey, Mary, Lewis. Nichols, R. 1. O. 76 ac., sec. 14. (50).

Brown, H. S. Wf. Henrietta; ch. Elsie, Roy, Archie, Harry. Nichols, R. 1. O. 160 ac., sec. 18. (45).

Hurke, Miss Margaret J. West Liberty, R. 3. O. 120 ac., sec. 12. (47).

Carl, Dr. F. F. Wf. Maggie; ch. Evan, Maleta. Nichols, Box 1. O. 320 ac., sec. 6; 35 ac., sec. 13; 40 ac., sec. 15; 80 ac., sec. 22; 28 ac., sec. 24. (30).

Carney, T. J. Wf. Nellie; ch. Goldie, Pearl, Lee, Clarence. Nichols. R. 167 ac., sec. 2. (32).

Chambers, J. A. Ch. Harmon H. Muscatine, R. 2. O. 233.50 ac., sec. 24. (25). "Weston Farm."

Christopherson, Nels. Wf. Murney; ch. Marie, Blanche, Hazel, Christian, Jessie, Leroy, Martin. Nichols, R. 222.6 ac., sec. 13; 40 ac., sec. 24. (14).

Cottrell, Geo. Nichols, R. 1. O. 80 ac., sec. 33. (50).

Crautcup, J. G. Wf. Celesta. Nichols, R. 1. R. 14.64 ac., sec. 14. (30).

Curtin, John T. Wf. Ethel. Nichols. R. 76 ac., sec. 14. (6).

Dean, Eugene. Wf. Lenna; ch. James, Beatie, John, Ruth, Francis, Dorothy, Howard. Nichols, R. 1. O. 164 ac., sec. 32. (42). Breeder of Belgian horses.

Dean, James and Thomas. Nichols, R. 1. R. 130 ac., sec. 30; 76 ac., sec. 28; 40 ac., sec. 21. (37).

Driver, John. Wf. Mary; ch. Theodore, Henry. Nichols, R. 1. R. 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ ac., sec. 5. (2).

Elder, Fred. Wf. Grace; ch. Francis, Robert. Nichols, R. 1. R. 160 ac., sec. 27; 74 ac., sec. 29. (32).

Elder, James. Wf. Lottie; ch. James. Nichols, R. 1. R. 160 ac., sec. 28. (27).

Elder, J. F. Wf. Clara E.; ch. Charles, Mary, Walter. Nichols. O. 110 ac., sec. 16; 319 ac., sec. 21; 40 ac., sec. 27. (56).

Fagan, T. P. Wf. Alta; ch. Ruth. West Liberty, R. 3. R. 160.77 ac., sec. 1. (32).

Felton, Harry. Wf. Ida. Nichols, R. 1. R. 40 ac., sec. 22; 40 ac., sec. 23; 40 ac., sec. 26. (25).

French, N. Wf. Louisa; ch. Nicholas, Elsie, Clarence. Nichols, R. 1. R. 320 ac., sec. 31. (6).

Gabel, Theo. Nichols, R. 1. R. 160 ac., sec. 7; 29.65 ac., sec. 19, T. 77, R. 3. (36).

Gierse, Henry. Wf. Lydia. Nichols, R. 1. O. 200 ac., sec. 8; 160 ac., sec. 1. (20).

Gideon, T. E. Wf. Clara; ch. David, Addie, Joseph, Charles, Sarah, Clyde, Frank. Nichols, R. 1. R. 70 ac., sec. 32. O. 20 ac., sec. 31. (48).

Grover, Eli. Wf. Ola; ch. Mabel, Lawrence, Waldo, Virgil. Nichols, R. 1. R. 80 ac., sec. 33. (7).

Hafner, H. C. Wf. Orlena; ch. Lillian, May, Clinton, Russell, Charles. Nichols, R. 1. R. 78 ac., sec. 29; 53 ac., sec. 32. (32).

Halleck, W. C. Wf. Anna. Nichols, R. 40 ac., sec. 2; 146 $\frac{1}{2}$ ac., sec. 11. (31).

Healey, J. J. Wf. Agnes B.; ch. Cyril J., Clement M., Agatha, Leo. Nichols, R. 1. O. 186 ac., sec. 11, 360 ac., sec. 12. (58).

Heath, V. V. Wf. Edna; ch. Kenneth, Joseph, Dorothy. West Liberty, R. 2. R. 77 ac., sec. 2. (25).

Helbing, Lewis. Wf. Theresa. Nichols, R. 1. O. 160 ac., sec. 7. (30).

Helser, J. H. Wf. Phoebe; ch. Beatrice, Florence. Nichols, R. 2. R. 70 ac., sec. 26; 182.90 ac., sec. 35. (14).

Hendricks, Geo. W. Wf. Clara; ch. Cecil. West Liberty, R. 3. R. 80 ac., sec. 1. (36).

Hillyer, James H. Wf. Edna; ch. Bernice, Clarence, Archie, Lester. Nichols, R. 1. R. 239.20 ac., sec. 18. (35).

Hollenbeck, W. G. Wf. Kate; ch. George, Arthur, Albert. Nichols. O. 161.38 ac., sec. 23; 180.98 ac., sec. 24; 80 ac., sec. 28. (49). Breeder of Poland China hogs and Durham cattle.

Holladay, E. Nichols, R. 1. R. 160 ac., sec. 27; 44 ac., sec. 34; 32.77 ac., sec. 35. (3).

Hoolley, John. Ch. Agnes, Margaret, Anna, Theresa, Geraldine. Nichols, R. 1. O. 120 ac., sec. 17; 119.50 ac., sec. 18; 80 ac., sec. 19. (41).

Idle, A. V. Ch. Irene; ch. Alma, Carl. Nichols, R. 1. R. 160 ac., sec. 20. (40).

Jameson, Mack. Wf. Sarah; ch. Maude, Bernard, John, Ezra, Susan, Lewis, Edward, Raymond, Esther, Elmer, Oscar. Nichols, R. 1. R. 40 ac., sec. 27. (25).

Joens, Miss Emma. Lonetree. O. 80 ac., sec. 6. (25).

Joens, J. Wf. Minnie. Nichols, R. 1. O. 80 ac., sec. 6. (37).

Johnston, C. E. Wf. Blanch. Nichols, R. 1. R. 80 ac., sec. 30. (1).

Kirkpatrick, W. J. Wf. Anna; ch. William, Elizabeth M., Annabel, Mabel, Helen, Lowry. Nichols, R. 1. O. 400 ac., sec. 19. (50).

Lamb, Lester. Wf. Alice; ch. Ruby, Rophel. Nichols, R. 50 ac., sec. 13; 130 ac., sec. 14. (8).

Lindie, G. C. Wf. Ettie M. Nichols. O. 143.43 ac., sec. 34, 20 ac., sec. 33; 11.60 ac., sec. 35. (42).

Longstreth, O. J. Wf. Carrie; ch. Ralph, Kate, Lloyd. Nichols, R. 1. O. 80 ac., sec. 33. (50).

Lord, Richard. Wf. Mary; ch. Richard, Herman, Andrew. Nichols, R. 2. O. 200 ac., sec. 23; 10 ac., sec. 25. (60).

Ludmann, Harry. Nichols. R. 79 ac., sec. 13. (4).

Melsky, O. G. Wf. Tillie; ch. Albert, Ray, Gladys, Ruby. Nichols, R. 1. R. 204 ac., sec. 8. (34).

Metcalfe, B. L. Wf. Ina G.; ch. Clarence, Alberta. Nichols. O. 160 ac., sec. 15; 60 ac., sec. 14. (47).

Meyers, Henry. Wf. Susie. Nichols, R. 1. R. 80 ac., sec. 27. (60).

Milburn, Everett. Wf. Grace; ch. Wendell, Mabel. Nichols. R. 80 ac., sec. 1; 79.50 ac., sec. 2. (12).

Milder, S. G. Wf. Emma; ch. Lawrence, Marie, Lenora. Nichols. R. 320 ac., sec. 3. (10).

Mills, J. A. Wf. Laura; ch. Lewis, Clyde, Viola, Frank, Lester, Lennie, Lloyd, Burton, Fred. Nichols. O. 154 ac., sec. 12; 30 ac., sec. 18, range 3; 25 ac., sec. 19, range 3. (59).

Murray, Geo. Wf. Blanch; ch. Francis, Alice, John, Wilda. Nichols, R. 1. R. 159 ac., sec. 28. (2).

Nash, Ida O. Ch. Laura, Alice, Edgar, John, Reuben, Ila. Nichols. O. 80 ac., sec. 14; 40 ac., sec. 16; 124 ac., sec. 25. (60).

Neff, J. T. Wf. Grace P.; ch. Duane, Ortha. Nichols, R. 1. O. 276.50 ac., sec. 34. (41).

Newton, Philander, Waldo and Ida. Nichols, R. 1. O. 142.20 ac., sec. 34; 41 ac., sec. 33. (54).

Nichols, T. B. Wf. Dora; ch. Benjamin, Anna. Nichols. O. 253.45 ac., sec. 9; 217.50 ac., sec. 10; 124 ac., sec. 11; 55 ac., sec. 14; 127.35 ac., sec. 15; 7.50 ac., sec. 16; 20 ac., sec. 24. (42).

Nicola, John. Ch. George J., Margaret. Nichols. O. 127 ac., sec. 2; 19.50 ac., sec. 24. (62).

Norris, R. A. Wf. Nellie; ch. Elmer, Helen. Nichols, R. 1. R. 80 ac., sec. 33. (25).

Ostendorf, W. H. Wf. Jessie. Nichols, R. 1. R. 273 ac., sec. 10; 80 ac., sec. 3; 40 ac., sec. 9. (42).

Peters, August. Ch. Altha, Robert, Russell, Albert. Nichols, R. 1. R. 90 ac., sec. 22. (19).

Pike, A. E. Wf. Minnie; ch. Elsie. Nichols. O. 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ ac., sec. 11; 38 ac., sec. 2. (28).

Pike, F. E. Wf. Mary. Nichols. O. 116 ac., sec. 11. (25).

Powell, John. Wf. Ollie; ch. Wm. McKinley, Leona O., Roy, Hubert, Everett, Margaret. Nichols, R. 1. R. 120 ac., sec. 28; 98 ac., sec. 29. (30).

Pratt, Ed. Wf. Menora; ch. Fred, Vida, Joseph. Nichols, R. 1. R. 220 ac., sec. 17. (16).

Rathjen, Albert. Wf. Alvina; ch. Neola, Ella, Adaline, Velma, Elmer, Lewis. Nichols, R. 1. R. 154 ac., sec. 31. (10).

Reynolds, A. Wf. Margaret A.; ch. George C., Charles Earl. Nichols, R. 2. R. 208.20 ac., sec. 26. (3).

Reynolds, T. C. Wf. Jessie; ch. Albert, Walter, Agnes, Russell, Dorothy. Nichols, R. 1. R. 160 ac., sec. 6. (4).

Richter, Joe A. Wf. Margaret; ch. Iona. Nichols, R. 1. O. 80 ac., sec. 32.

Rogers, Mary P. Nichols, R. 2. O. 13 ac., sec. 23. (54).

Rummels, J. W. Wf. Della; ch. Harold, Amanda, Helen, Howard, Edna. Nichols. O. 59 ac., sec. 23. (30).

Ryan, Joseph. Wf. Catherine; ch. William, James, Robert, John, Treseda, Teresa. Nichols, R. 1. O. 80 ac., sec. 27. (33).

Ryan, James. Nichols, R. 1. O. 120 ac., sec. 33.3 ac., sec. 35. (25).

Ryan, J. D. and W. J. Nichols, R. 1. R. 246 ac., sec. 34. (22).

Ryan, P. T. Wf. Ella E. Nichols, R. 1. R. 160 ac., sec. 22; 50 ac., sec. 21; 5 ac., sec. 23; 8 ac., sec. 24. (55).

Sams, Stephen D. Wf. Laura; ch. Walter, Pinky, Anna. Nichols, R. 2. O. 210 ac., sec. 26. (3).

Samuels, Chas. Wf. Agnes; ch. Ray, Carl, Esther, Vera, Margaret, Helen. Nichols, R. 1. R. 120 ac., sec. 31. (32).

Schmidt, Adam. Wf. Catherine. Nichols. O. 160 ac., sec. 22; 10 ac., sec. 26. (50).

Schmidt, N. G. Wf. Lena; ch. George, Albert. Nichols, R. 1. O. 80 ac., sec. 6. (33).

Schomberg, H. J. Wf. Lillie. Nichols, R. 1. O. 80 ac., sec. 18. (45).

Severin, Peter J. Nichols, R. 1. O. 110 ac., sec. 32. (5).

Shaffer, Will. Nichols, R. 1. R. 160 ac., sec. 30. (3).

Smith, Delbert. Wf. Blanch; ch. Alfred. Nichols, R. 1. R. 196 ac., sec. 29. (30).

Smith, Everd M. Wf. Rosa. Nichols, R. 1. O. 80 ac., sec. 30. (23).

Smith, H. W. Wf. Mary; ch. Virginia L. Nichols. O. 41 ac., sec. 13. (6).

Smith, L. J. Wf. Natalie; ch. Herbert, Gladys. Nichols, R. 1. O. 80 ac., sec. 6. (25).

Smith, W. H. Wf. Anna M. Nichols. O. 15.75 ac., sec. 13. (28).

Solemink, John. Wf. Aubria; ch. Harry, Lawrence. Nichols, R. 1. O. 100 ac., sec. 8. (42).

Solemink, Theodore, Henry and Lena. Nichols. O. 160 ac., sec. 5; 140 ac., sec. 8. (42).

Swickard, B. F. Wf. Jessie E. Nichols. O. 40 ac., sec. 9; 80 ac., sec. 3; 275 ac., sec. 10. (45).

Thomas, J. F. Wf. Julia. Nichols, R. 1. R. 152 ac., sec. 32. (23).

Umscheid, George. Wf. Lizzie. West Liberty, R. 1. O. 163.05 ac., sec. 1; 121 ac., sec. 2. (30).

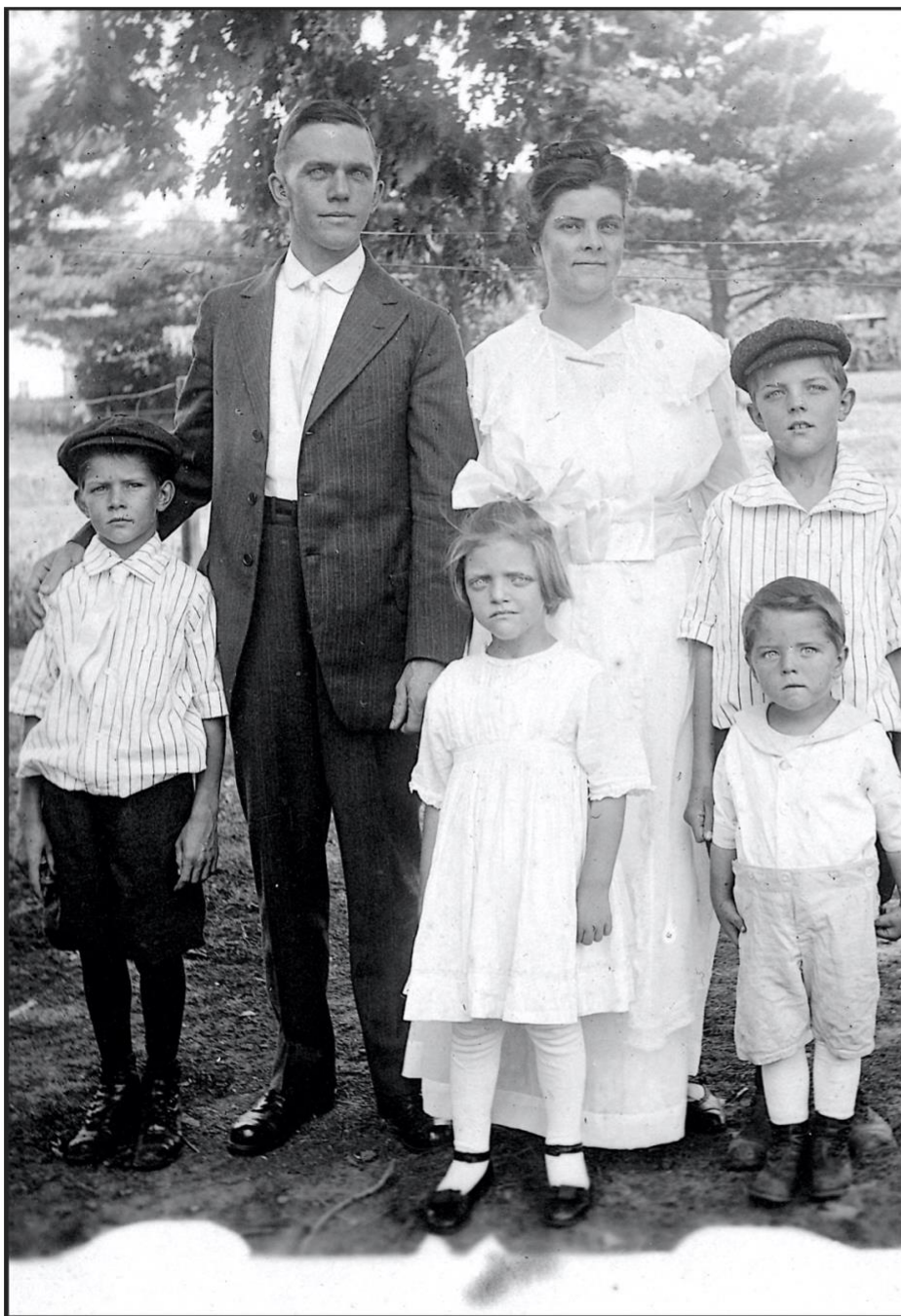
Van De Maat, H. G. Ch. Lloyd, Merle. Nichols. O. 79 ac., sec. 13. (43).

Wendt, Jacob. Wf. Lena. Nichols. R. 80 ac., sec. 22. (2 months).

Wetleaf, W. Ch. Gust, Will, John, Fred, Earnest, Emma. Nichols, R. 1. O. 120 ac., sec. 9; 280 ac., sec. 4. (40).

Will, J. H. Wf. Eva; ch. Arthur. Nichols, R. 1. O. 77 ac., sec. 27; 40 ac., sec. 26. (47).

Yedlik, Joe A. Wf. Mary; ch. Joe, Marie, Emma, Katie, Frank. Nichols, R. 1. R. 120 ac., sec. 28. (5).



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Harry Fox & Family 1916 In Nichols, Iowa

This is a picture of Harry M. Fox Sr. and his wife, Lenora Roberts Fox, and their four children. The children, from oldest to youngest as indicated by their height, who would each graduate from Nichols High School, are: Harry M. Fox Jr. (NHS 1924), Robert A. Fox (NHS 1926), Lillian E. Fox (NHS 1929) and Charles R. Fox (NHS 1931).

In 1915, the Fox family had moved from the Town of Morning Sun in Louisa County, Iowa, to the Town of Nichols in Muscatine County, Iowa, where Harry Sr. would be employed for 24 years (1915-1939) as Nichols Station Agent for the Rock Island Railroad. During that period Nichols was still very much a railroad town which made Harry Sr. a prominent member of the Nichols community. Trains were then still the primary transportation mode for both freight and passengers.

Photo Source: Jamie Fox, Granddaughter of Harry M. Fox, Jr.

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The Cabbage King

Article by Bill Witt

The Iowan Magazine
Spring 1979 Issue, Page 40



"J. W. Rummells (above) the 'Cabbage King' of Nichols, Iowa, plants a seed bed in his Horticultural 'kingdom' which, by 1917, included hothouses and seed frames covering 3,000 acres."

***Screenshot of text appearing on page 40 of "The Cabbage King,"
a 7-page article by Bill Witt published in The Iowan Magazine, Spring 1979 Issue***

A doctor's warning spurred a middle-aged undertaker-storekeeper to take up "outside" work — and subsequently to transform the quiet village of Nichols, Iowa, into an early twentieth-century American horticultural capital.

J. W. Rummells had worked for nearly 30 of his 42 years in the jack-of-all-trades business his father had founded in this Muscatine County community in the 1870s. Hotel keeper, merchant and mortician, the younger Rummells had learned that his determination, ingenuity and industry could never gain financial advantage in a town where three almost-identical establishments vied for the trade of just 350 people. Then, in the fall of 1911, Rummells developed a chronic cough. As it worsened during the winter, Rum-

mells' doctor advised him that "consumption" threatened unless he got more fresh air and exercise.

In later years, Rummells recalled the warning as being the excuse he needed to change his life. In the spring of 1912, Rummells rented five acres of land at the edge of Nichols. He had an idea of growing cabbages; it proved an inspiration.

His fledgling venture turned a tidy profit that first year, and the following spring Rummells closed up his store for good. In 1913 he planted 80 acres of cabbage. In 1914, 140 acres. By 1916, his 770 acres were supplying all the major produce markets of the Midwest.

The town of Nichols owed its existence to the railroads. Major north-south and east-west lines intersected there, and 30 or more trains

passed through daily. Oddly, until Rummells envisioned shipping cabbages to all points of the compass, no one had grasped the profitable implications of the town's strategic location.

In 1917, almost 10,000 tons of cabbage left southeast Iowa's moist, fertile fields at the direction of Rummells and his wife, Della. "Cabbage On Wheels" proclaimed ads. "Am shipping cabbage daily, July 1st to November 1st. . . can bill you out a car tonight or divert as many as you want."

Buyers in Minneapolis, Chicago, St. Louis and Omaha created a wave of new prosperity along Nichols' quiet streets. Rummells employed 60 workers in his fields and hothouses; the railroad built additional sidings and expanded yard facilities,



July 1916

Harvesting Oats in Pike Township With Thresher Powered by Steam Engine 1916

Photo Source: Randall Elder



Railway Carloads of Cabbage Going to Midwest Buyers in 1916

During the 1910s the Rock Island Railroad provided the Nichols community with an efficient system for transporting the local cabbage harvest to buyers throughout the Midwest states. The Nichols schoolhouse built in 1872 on the east side of the Nichols Christian Church is missing from the upper right corner of this picture as it was destroyed by fire on January 27, 1915. The date of this photo is August 8, 1916.

Photographer: William Crozier of Riverside, Iowa. **Photo Source: Mike Appleby**

ELECTRIC LIGHTS FOR NICHOLS NOW

Nichols, Ia., Aug. 5.—Electric lights and power before the winter sets in is assured this town. The "juice" will be supplied from a central station at Cedar Rapids by the Iowa Electric company.

At a special election held in the town of Hills this week this corporation was granted a franchise to furnish lights and power to that village. This completes a chain of towns along the M. & I. C. railway consisting of Hills, Wellman, Kalona, Riverside, Lone Tree and Nichols in which this concern holds the franchise.

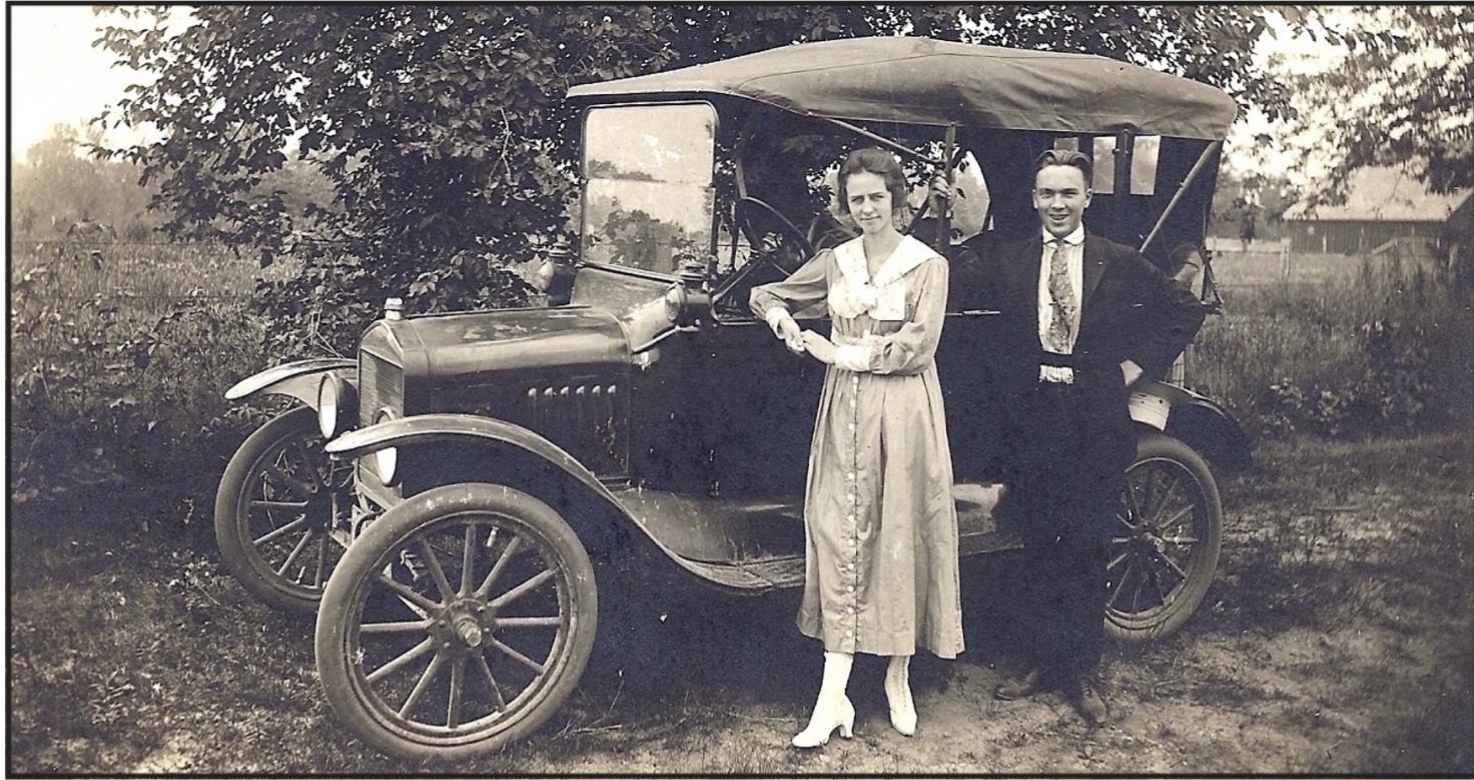
The franchise in Nichols which was granted the Nichols Auto Co., was taken over by this corporation early in July. The work of erecting the necessary poles, wires, etc., has been delayed until after the granting of the franchise at Hills. A representative of the company met with the town council of that village and completed the necessary details of acceptance, etc. This representative gives assurance that the affairs of the transactions had reached the stage where prompt action in the construction of lines and installation would be commenced at once, the material for the entire lines being ordered.

This company proposes to give a first-class service, both day and night, and at rates far cheaper than could an individual plant hope to do, for by supplying such a large number of towns they have the very best equipment necessary for the purpose.



Cabbage Under Cultivation Near The Town of Nichols in 1917

One of several fields of cabbage under cultivation by J. W. Rummells on June 5, 1917, near the Town of Nichols, Iowa. Photographer: William Crozier of Riverside, Iowa. **Photo Source: Mike Appleby**



A Family of 3: Harolde & Elsie Rummells and Their Ford Model T in 1917

In the 1914 school year, when Harolde Rummells was doing his Senior year at West Liberty High School for his 4-year diploma, he met Elsie Pratt of West Liberty, then a Sophomore. Elsie graduated in the Class of 1916 and then spent the next school year at Iowa State Normal in Cedar Falls, later known as Iowa State Teachers College and now as the University of Northern Iowa. Elsie and Harold were married on September 19, 1917.

How the Ford Model T came to be a member of their family is another story. Its earliest ancestor had come off the assembly line just nine years earlier in October, 1908. It would be the first affordable car for the common people of America. Harolde did pay extra to upgrade from solid rubber tires to tires with innertubes as revealed by the valve stems. But he would not pay for the available closed cabin. Harold and Elsie knew what it was to have only a horse and open air buggy for local transportation be it summer or winter. For them and millions of other Americans an open air horseless carriage was no problem. **Photo Source: Mike Appleby**



*Susan Jenkins Nichols (1847-1918)
Widow of Benjamin Franklin Nichols (1825-1893)
Grossheim Studio, Muscatine, Iowa, September 25, 1917
Provided Courtesy Musser Public Library*

Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company

The Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company was the first company to manufacture and sell gasoline powered farm tractors. Based in Waterloo, Iowa, the company was created by John Froelich and a group of Iowa businessmen in 1893, and was originally named the Waterloo Gasoline Traction Engine Company. In 1892, Froelich had invented the first practical gasoline powered tractor, and the new company was given the opportunity to manufacture and sell the tractor Froelich designed. Unfortunately, the tractor was not successful commercially, and of the four tractors built by the company only two were purchased, and these were later returned to the company by unsatisfied customers. In 1895, the company was sold to John W. Miller and renamed the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company. Miller decided to stop producing tractors and instead focus on building plain gasoline engines. .

Following several years of research and development, the company once again began to manufacture tractors in 1911, but none would sell well until 1913, when twenty "Waterloo" tractors were produced. In 1914 the company introduced the Model R Waterloo Boy. This tractor proved immensely popular, and over eight thousand were sold before the line was discontinued in 1918. The company also had great success with the Model N, which was introduced in late 1916. Despite the company's name, both the Model R and Model N burned kerosene for fuel. By this time, several other companies had begun to build and sell tractors, but the Waterloo Boy was easily one of most popular.

In 1918, Deere & Company, purchased the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company for \$2,200,000. Deere & Company had been anxious to enter the growing tractor market, but its own initial designs had proved unsuccessful. Executives at Deere & Company decided to purchase the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Co. because field tests indicated that the Waterloo Boy tractor had the best performance. After the sale was completed, the company became known as the John Deere Tractor Company, but tractors produced by the company continued to be sold under the Waterloo Boy name until 1923, when the John Deere D was introduced.

Source: <http://www.antiquefarming.com/waterlooboy.html> (2014.0226)



The mature oat stalks in the field were cut with a grain binder that automatically tied them into bundles with twine. The bundles were manually stacked into shocks in the field to air dry. The bundles were then hauled from the field to the location of the threshing machine. The bundles were pitched into the threshing machine which would separate the oats from the straw and chaff. In this case the oats are being discharged from the pipe (that can be seen just above the bundles) into the grain wagon on the left occupied by the farmer holding a scoop. The straw was blown from the threshing machine either to a stack on the ground or, as in this case, onto an elevator that lifts it to the barn loft. The straw was used for bedding livestock. Power to drive the threshing machine came through the drive belt (seen here between the two teams of horses) connected to the pulley wheel on a steam engine in the earlier years and later on a farm tractor. — Don Smith, Editor

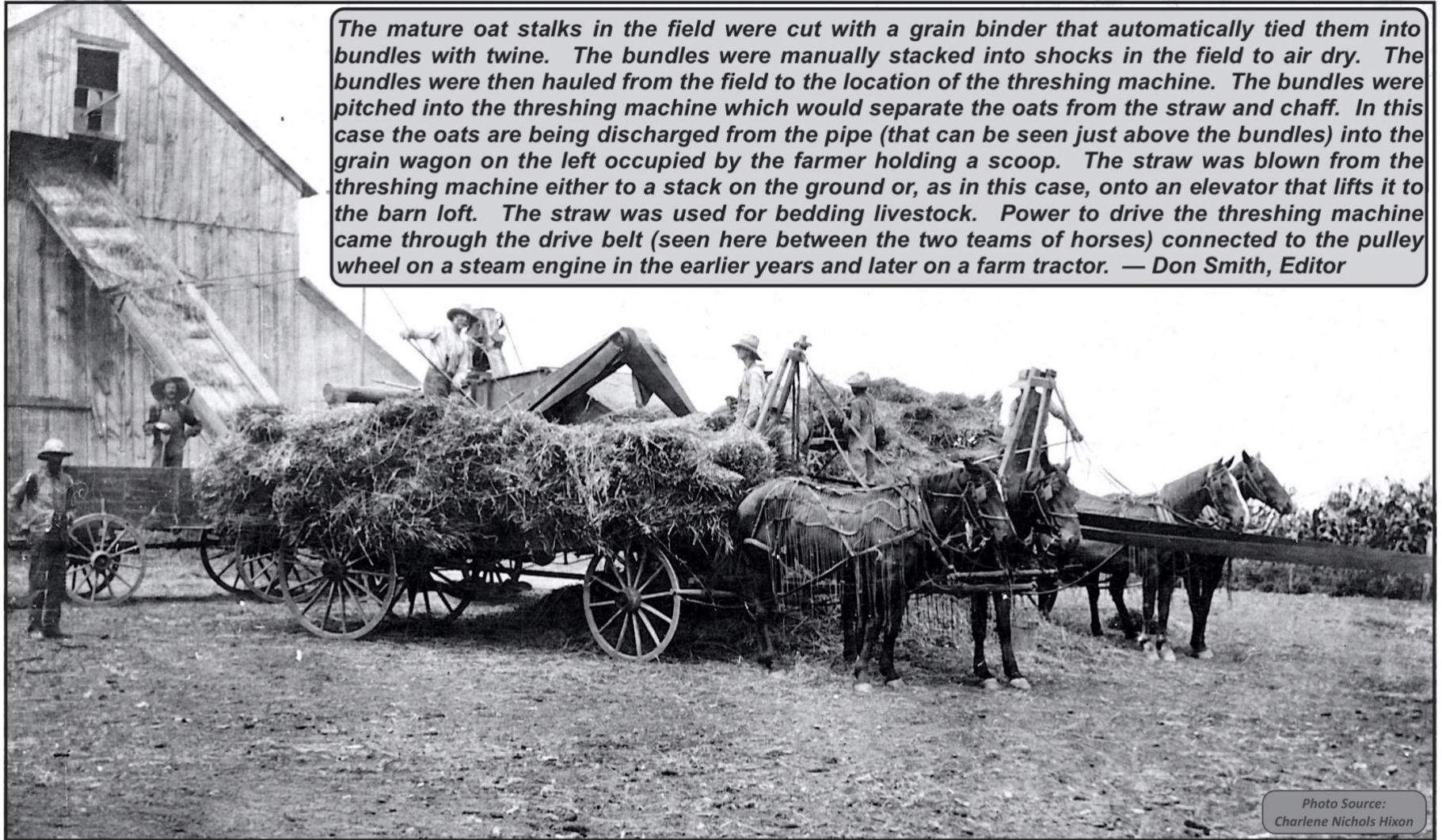


Photo Source:
Charlene Nichols Hixon

The July Oat Harvest in Pike Township circa 1920

Photo Source: Charlene Nichols Hixon

DEDICATE NEW NICHOLS CHURCH

**IMPRESSIVE SERVICES FOLLOW-
ED BY SOLEMN HIGH MASS**

**New Catholic Church Erected on Site
of Building Which Burned—Is
Elaborate Structure.**

Nichols, Ia., Sept. 6.—Impressive and appropriate services marked the dedication of the new Catholic church here today. The services opened at 10 o'clock with the dedicatory sermon by the Very Reverend Father Hannon, president of Saint Ambrose college at Davenport. Many Catholics from sur-

rounding towns in this section of the state were present.

Following the dedication, solemn high mass was conducted, with the Rev. Father F. J. Leonard of Muscatine as master of ceremonies. The Rev. Father M. Nolan of Missouri Valley acted as celebrant, the Rev. Father Jacobmeyer of Riverside as deacon and the Rev. Father E. Gaule of Fairfield as sub-deacon.

The new structure is one of the most elaborate in this section of Iowa and was erected on the site of the church which burned March 13. A portion of the outer walls of the old church were used in the new building. The style of architecture in the new building on the exterior follows closely the lines of the church which burned. The interior, however, is much more elaborate.

The building was erected at a cost of \$30,000, the use of the walls of the old structure being a large factor in reducing the expense of the construction.

The Muscatine Journal, Monday, 6 September 1920, page 1



— The Family of J. W. Rummells Jr. at the Rummells Family Home in Nichols, Iowa, on July 12, 1921 —
SEATED L-R: JW's son Harolde J. Rummells, Harolde's daughter Gwendolyn Elsie Rummells,
 Harolde's wife Elsie Pratt Rummells, J. W. Rummells Jr., JW's daughter Dorothea Irene Rummells
 JW's wife Della Coyner Rummells, JW's daughter Amanda Rummells Shannon, Amanda's infant
 daughter Virginia Norine Shannon. **STANDING L-R:** JW'S son Howard W. Rummells, JW's daughter Helen
 Marie Rummells, JW's daughter Edna Mae Rummells and Amanda's husband Harry E. Shannon.
 Photograph by William Crozier of Riverside, Iowa. Picture Source: Mike Appleby Collection.



Lacy #3 in Pike Township, A One-Room Rural Schoolhouse in 1921

Lacy #3, one of several rural schoolhouses in Pike Township, was located less than a mile due south of the Samuel Nichols brick home and the Nichols Cemetery. The three persons standing in this picture, left to right, are Della Rummells, her son, Harolde Rummells, and her daughter, Amanda Rummells Shannon. Each of them, during various school years, served as the solo teacher at Lacy. Photo Source: Mike Appleby

ANNOUNCE RURAL TEACHER ROSTER

RURAL SCHOOLS IN SESSION THROUGHOUT COUNTY

Some Opened This Week—Bradley
Announces Complete List of
Teachers.

School is now in session in all rural districts of the county, according to County Superintendent E. D. Bradley. Some of the schools opened regular sessions during the first week of September. Most of the schools however, did not open until this week.

The roster of teachers of all the rural schools in the county as given out by the county superintendent today follows:

Bloomington township—North Star, Millard K. Mills; Locust Grove, Henry M. Vore; Kalamazoo, Minnie Alice Goddard; Shiloh, Mildred Zimmerman; Fairview, Garnet McGrew; Oak Grove, Beulah Miller; Park Place, Mrs. Ella Taylor.

Cedar Township—Strawberry Hill, Verla Garrett; Sand Prairie, Mrs. Cora Brumwell; Cranston, primary, Mrs. Rose Shellabarger, Cranston upper, Mrs. Ida McCole.

Fruitland township—Lone Tree, Francis Cross; Corwin, Mrs. Maggie Hitchcock; Mittmann, Myrtle Rogers; Olive Branch, Ruth Scormann; Fruitland, Adelma Leesman.

Lake township—Lucas Grove, Eva Mayer; Fairview, Alexia Hopkins; Bayfield, Margaret Fiedler; Star, Gertrude Knight; Union, Faith M. Walter; Hope, Bertha Shultz; Prospect, Naomi Garrett.

Moscow township—Evergreen Nook, Sue McQuillen; Sand Hill, Zella Noble; White Prairie, Annie Yarbrough; North Prairie, Gladys Horn; Cedar Valley, Effie Bailey; Champion Hill, Mrs. Verne Miller.

Orono township—Brockway, Mrs. Myrtle Main; Conesville, Harold Brehme, Mrs. Arthur Ingraham, Ruby Skipton, and Cecil Bullis; Port Allen, Ruth Stone.

Pike township—Adams, Nina Quimby; Pike, Marie Babitt; Lacey, Theresa Ryan; Wild Rose, Mrs. Leonora Fox; Buffalo Bluffs, Hallie Lee; Poole, Margaret Schmitt; Willow Grove, Ethel Chown.

Moscow Independent, Margaret Busier.

Seventy-Six township—Walnut, Esther Parmelee; High Prairie, Hazel Thompson; Central, Mrs. Nellie Mahoney; Green Valley, Williamette Uhr; Burr Oak, Goldie Hathaway.

Wapsinonoc—Pleasant View, Helen Matthews; Hazel Dell, Edith Burkett; Federal Hill, Enze Beach; Plum Grove, Bessie Lindie; Union, Louetta Gibson; Athens, Myrtle Mills; Siloam, Grace Ridenour.

Wilton township—Yankee Hollow, Crystal Miller; Prospect, Viola Voss; Sunnyside, Thelma Thornton; Rainbow, Francis Boot; Osage, Cora Beard; Laurel Hill, Ella Kelly.

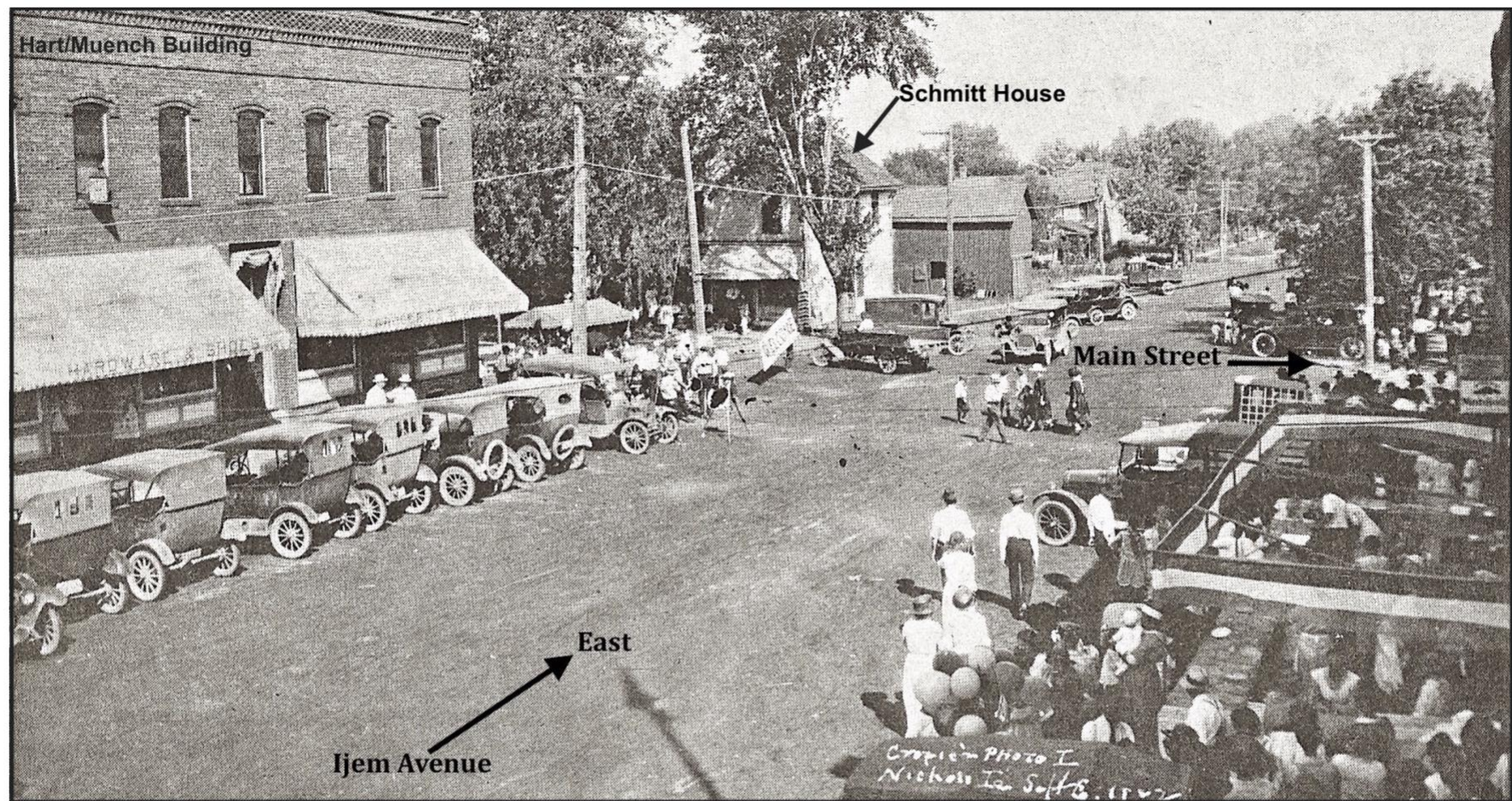
Goshen township, Dickerson, Luelia Gibson; Goshen Valley, Alice McAnulty; Penn Avenue, Mrs. Verne Oepping; Cedarville, Elsie Toyne; Independence, Helen Barrie; Union, Helen Simons; Swamp, Mattie Raver.

Montpelier township—Pine Mills, Mrs. Ingava Meeum; Glendale, Miss Nellie Ryan; Hazel Dell, Nellie Lee.

Sweetland township—Fairport, Annie O'Keefe and Gertrude Rock; Geneva, Beulah La Fever; Redwood, Mrs. Margaret Martin; Pine Bluffs, Nola Hanzie; Sweetland Center, Rena Atwell; Mount Grove, Venice Stelchster; Union, Fern Criger; Sweetland Valley, Edith Burns.

Pleasant Prairie consolidated—Pleasant Prairie, Grace Crocker; Maple Grove, Hazel Walters; Nolo, Rosy Derby; Nicholson, Seleste Cronin; Crab Apple, Inez Cross; Patterson, Irene Carl; Melpine, Mary Raub.

Stockton consolidated—Stockton, Melvin Toyne and Hazel Mudgett; Center Grove, Viola Frick; Prairie, Ella D. Paulson; Fairview, Elizabeth Fichtner.



Town Homecoming Day in Nichols, Iowa, on 6 September 1922

Peter Hart purchased the lot in 1906 and erected the two-story brick building. Dr. Virgil Muench purchased the building in 1916 and had his offices on the second floor where he died in 1948. The building was destroyed by fire on 14 January 1950. The office of The Nichols Gazette newspaper was in the Schmitt house for the duration of its publication in Nichols, 1898-1908. Note all of the Ford Model T cars. The photographer was William Crozier of Riverside IA. The picture was printed in the West Liberty Enterprise newspaper on 8 June 1978. The picture above (with black text added) was scanned from the newspaper clipping provided by Mike Appleby.



— NICHOLS TOWN BAND PERFORMING IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL ON IJEM AVENUE ON 6 SEPTEMBER 1922 —
 Band Members L to R: Grant Nichols — Willard Rice — Harold Rummells — Tom Carney
 Raymond Borgstadt — John Oostendorp — Ben Nichols — Fred Hummel — Wig Wagner
 Amos Borgstadt — Bernard Kirchner — Harry Shannon — Albert Quimby
 Photograph by William N. Crozier, Riverside IA — Source: Keith Mills Collection



***Benjamin F. Nichols (1898-1975, son of Townsend and
Dora Nichols) and his wife, Ora Ecky Nichols (1902-1984)
Wedding picture by Grossheim Studio on December 14, 1922
Photo provided courtesy Musser Public Library***



*Townsend B. Nichols (1874-1942, son of Benjamin and Susan Nichols) and his wife, Dora Sutton Nichols (1880-1958)
Grossheim Studio, Muscatine, Iowa, October 3, 1926
Photo provided courtesy of Musser Public Library*



Nichols Savings Bank, Nichols, Iowa, 1928/

Leonard B. Smith, who had been Cashier of Nichols Savings Bank for 20 years, died May 2, 1928. His son, Benjamin N. Smith, was Assistant Cashier. Following Leonard's death the bank directors hired a new staff of R. A. (Rudy) Daedlow as Cashier and Anna Nichols as Assistant Cashier. Benjamin Smith would assist with the transition.

Left to Right: Rudy Daedlow – Anna Nichols – Benjamin Smith



Group of Nichols Business People Assembled North Side Ijem Avenue ca. 1929

Back Row L-R: Anna Nichols (Nichols Savings Bank) – Clarence Miller (CC Miller Trucking) – Unknown – Unknown – Frank Mills (Mills Motor Co.) – Floyd Kirchner & his father, Henry Kirchner (Kirchner General Store).

Middle Row L-R: Joseph Borgstadt (Blacksmith shop) – Helen Mackey Rice (Rice Restaurant) – William Cone (Barber) – Neva Rice Borgstadt (Rice Restaurant) – Emma Rice (Rice Restaurant) – Unknown.

Front Row L-R: Amos Borgstadt (Blacksmith shop) – Willard Rice (Rice Restaurant) – Unknown man & boy – Unknown – Benjamin Nichols, great-grandson of Samuel Nichols – Lloyd Kile, grocery store clerk – Unknown.

Photo Source: William Newton



Photo Source:
Charlene Nichols Hixon

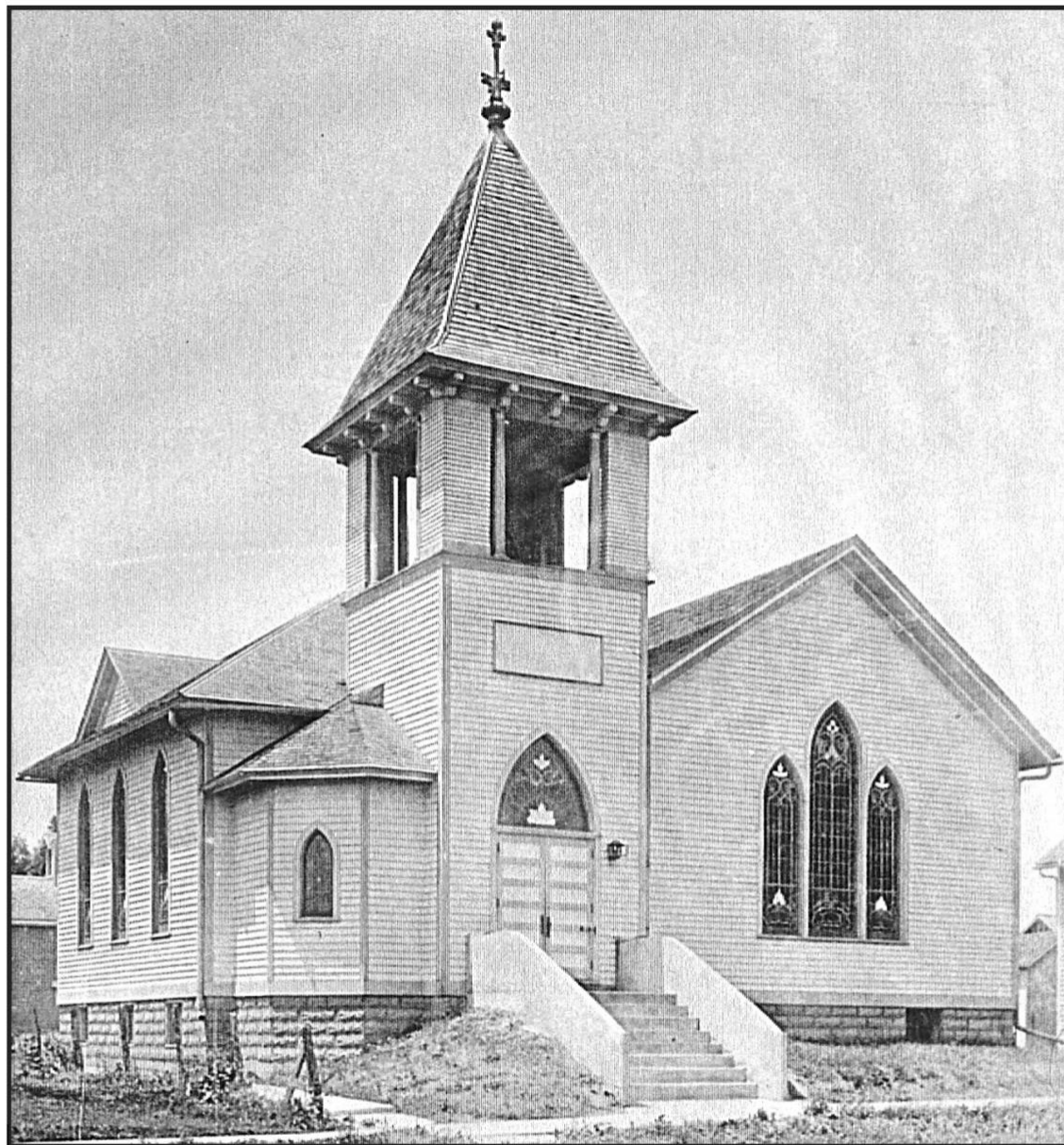
Nichols Christian Church 1929

This image was scanned from a print glued to the 1930 calendar published by the Nichols Christian Church. The church was erected on this site in 1875. The Nichols Public School was located to the right of the church from 1872 until it was destroyed by fire on 27 January 1915.



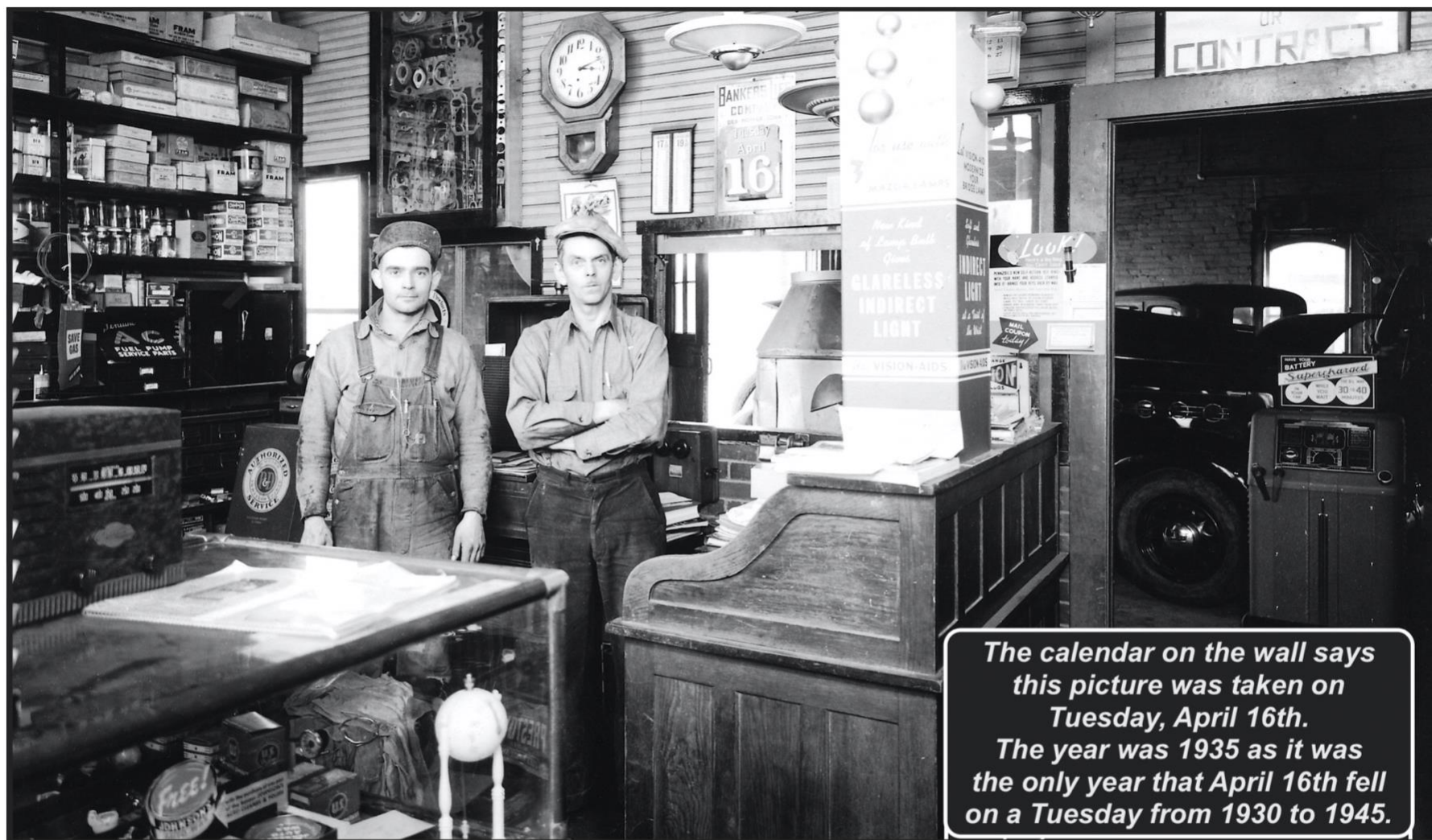
Picture of 56 Members of the Nichols Christian Church circa 1932

- 4th ROW:** 1.Rev. Christian J. Sias 2. Mrs. Dottie Sias 3. Loretta Borgstadt 4. Ferne Harshbarger 5.Ruth Seaman
6. Christine Metcalf 7. Marie Ryan Borgstadt 8.Doris Poole 9. Pearle Metcalf 10.Hazel Poole 11.Ora Nichols
12. Neva Borgstadt 13.Floyd Kirchner 14. Walter Morris 15. Arley Coffey 16. _____
- 3rd ROW:** 1. ____ 2. ____ 3. ____ 4. Oda Morris 5. Marguerite Kirchner 6. Alvina Kirchner 7.Edna Kirchner 8. Alyce
Peterson 9.Olive Meese 10.Abiah Hesser 11.B. L. Metcalf 12.Ray Swickard 13.Ralph Borgstadt 14. ____ 15. ____
- 2nd ROW:** 1. W. R. Schmitt 2.Mary Adams 3.Ann Jones 4. Emma Kirchner 5. Anna Reynolds 6. Stella Metcalf
7. Sarah Shafer 8. Hester Ryan 9. _____ 10. _____ 11. Harley Ryan 12. Lila Adams 13. Ray Swickard 14. _____
- 1st ROW:** 1.Ben F. Nichols 2.Robert Borgstadt 3.Willard Borgstadt 4.Rose Marie Goldsberry 5.Jean Swickard
6. Charlene Nichols 7.Lorna Nichols 8.Keith Nichols 9.Margaret Swickard 10.Betty Poole 11.Joyce Borgstadt



Nichols Methodist Church on Main Street circa 1931

Photo Source: William Newton



The calendar on the wall says
this picture was taken on
Tuesday, April 16th.
The year was 1935 as it was
the only year that April 16th fell
on a Tuesday from 1930 to 1945.

Office of Mills Motor Co., Nichols, Iowa, on April 16, 1935

In September, 1928, Frank E. Mills (1899-1956) and his wife, Wilma (Kirchner) Mills (1909-1993) purchased the existing business of Nichols Auto Co. on the southwest corner of Main Street and Ijem Avenue and changed the name to Mills Motor Co. Standing in the picture are Frank Mills (on the right) and his auto mechanic employee, Frank W. Yedlik. Photo source: Keith Mills



Students at Lacy #3 Rural School in Pike Township, May, 1938

Front Row L-R: Helene Porter (NHS 1949) – Mervin Mills (NHS 1945) – Robert Oostendorp (NHS 1945) – _____ Vandermont – Kenton Mills (Memorial #197708551 Findagrave). **Middle Row L-R:** Jeanne Porter (NHS 1945) – Ethel Lavon Bonebrake (Memorial #186136104 Findagrave) – Mary Jane Porter (NHS 1944) – Belva June Mills (NHS 1943) – Warren Porter (NHS 1945). **Back Row L-R:** Marian Wilkerson (NHS 1941) – Raymond Porter (NHS 1942) – John Porter – Frances Bonebrake (Memorial #135630650 Findagrave). [NHS 0000 is Nichols High School graduation year] Photo Source: Renetta Salemink Burlage.

Officers Named By Bereans of Nichols Church

(Readers of Scripture)

Nichols — The Berean class of the Methodist church held their regular meeting and Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Frances Elder, Thursday, with 26 members and 15 visitors present. After the business meeting a program was presented by the committee, song by group, reading by Mrs. Elsie Kopp, duet, Johanna Knoll and Myrtle Stephens, instrumental music, Vera Elder, poem, Mrs. Ireland, song by the class and the class benediction.

The class presented their Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Anna Halleck, with a gift, after which a 10c gift exchange was enjoyed. Refreshments were served by the hostess, Mrs. Frances Elder. Mrs. Nettie Nichols, Mrs. Amelia Quimby, Mrs. Lillie Richter, and Mrs. Myrtle Stephens, to the following Mrs. Vera Elders, Mrs. Merle Brown, Mrs. Johanna Knoll and

Jane, Mrs. Cecelia Braun and Carol Jean, Mrs. Clair Fridley, Mrs. Grace Heizer, Mrs. Anna Halleck, Mrs. Florence Nutler, Mrs. Esther Woolever, Mrs. Anna Borgstadt, Mrs. Lucy Brown, Mrs. Verda Metcalf, Mrs. Edna Poole, Mrs. Marie Kirchner, Mrs. Margaret Fry, Mrs. Lorraine Kirchner, Miss Gertie Kirchner, Mrs. Pearl Schmitt, Mrs. Rhoda Hanson, Mrs. Minnie Dedrick, Mrs. Elsie Kopp, Mrs. Anna Mapes, Mrs. Olive Kile, Mrs. Ada Brown, Mrs. Emma Kirchner, Mrs. Lottie Porter, Mrs. Grace Neff, Mrs. Mae Elder and Sandra Billick, Mrs. Wanda Elder and Jerry, Mrs. Mollie Bottomly, Jeane Elder, Anna Allenstein, Mrs. Myrtle Stephens and Glenda and Mrs. Nettie Hankins of Stamford, S. D.

The following officers and committees were elected at the meeting for the coming year. Treasurer, Mrs. Marie Kirchner; secretary, Esther Woolever; reporter, Ada Brown. President for January, Myrtle Stephens, committee, Beulah James, Grace Heizer and Mae Elder. President for February, Mrs. Mae Elder, committee, Lottie Porter, Nettie Fox and Edna Poole. President for March, Mrs. Marie Kirchner,

for March, Mrs. Marie Kirchner, committee Lorraine Kirchner and Francis Buser. President for April, Mrs. Elsie Kopp, committee Grace Neff, Cecelia Braun, Elda Abbott. President for May, Mrs. Ada Brown, committee, Anna Halleck, Bess James, Nell Carney. President for June, Kathryn Hummel, committee Rena Renshaw, Clara Barnhart, Verda Metcalf. President for July, Mrs. Grace Heizer, committee Elsie Kopp, Margaret Fry and Bertha Nash. President for August, Margaret Fry, committee, Mrs. Ireland, Johanna Knoll, Ada Brown. President for September, Mrs. Verda Metcalf, committee Florence Miller, Marie Kirchner, Kathryn Hummel. President for October, Lottie Porter, committee Olive Kile, Mollie Bottomly, Clair Fridley. President for November, Clair Fridley, committee Frances Elder, Lillie Richter, Nettie Nichols, Anna Mapes. December, Christmas party, Merle Brown, Rhoda Hanson, Ann Pike, Mrs. Woolever and Ida Heizer.

The Muscatine Journal
Monday, 8 December 1941
Page 17

A Listing of Members of the Berean Class at the Nichols Methodist Church in 1941



Two Well Known & Respected Men in the Nichols Community - 1943

On the left, Dr. Virgil Muench, with his car at the Sinclair gas station, practiced medicine in Nichols from 1910 until his death in 1948. He was so revered by the Nichols community that his funeral services were conducted in the Nichols High School gymnasium jointly by ministers of the Methodist and Christian churches.

The Sinclair station, operated as Chown Motor Co. by Robert Chown (on the right) with his brother, Louis, was sold around 1948. Robert Chown had earlier established a successful second business, Chown Appliance Co., which would become his full-time occupation until he retired. **Source of Photos: Randall Elder.**

Nichols, located 14 miles west of Muscatine in Muscatine county, will probably be the first town in eastern Iowa to have a permanent monument honoring the men who are serving in World War II if present plans are carried out. According to members of the park board of that community it is planned to have the monument erected by the latter part of May so that dedication can be made during Memorial day observances.

The erection of the monument is part of a project being carried out by the park board in which a community park will be established on a vacant lot in the downtown district.

Members of the park board, who are in charge of the project include Mrs. Emma Rice, chairman, Edna Hesser, Walter Morris, Mrs. Dora Nichols and Robert Lewis.

STARTED IN 1943.

The plan for the community park and the erection of a monument honoring the service men started about two years ago when a vacant lot was willed to the town by T. B. Nichols, a long time resident of the community and a member of the family after which the town was named. Upon getting possession of the tract of land, the town council appointed a park board to take complete charge for establishment of the park. Mrs. Nichols, widow of the donor of the land, is one of the members of the board.

The park board immediately set to work on plans for the park, and last fall the actual work of beautifying the site was started. Farmers from the surrounding community brought their tractors and other equipment to town and spent three days in assisting with the job of filling in and leveling off the lot. After this work was completed, the lot was landscaped, and a number of trees and shrubs planted, and the sidewalks laid out.

STUDYING DESIGNS.

At the present time the board is considering several designs for the monument to be erected in one corner of the park. Included in the design is one which calls for a large concrete platform with the erection of a stone at the back on which the names of the men in service would be carved. The platform would also serve as a bandstand. Designs for the monument itself include a large "V," an open book, or a large archway. However, the board has not made

a decision as to what design will be adopted.

Funds for carrying out the project were raised in a recent campaign in charge of Mrs. Alberta Kelly. Citizens of the town were solicited, and more than \$1,000

(Continued on Page 20).

(Continued from Preceding Page)

was raised which will be used for the erection of the monument.

Members of the park board will have charge of the maintenance of the park for one year after its establishment, after which it will be turned over to the town council.

RAILROAD AIDS.

In addition to the lot willed to the town by the late T. B. Nichols, the Rock Island railroad has granted the use of an adjoining lot for park purposes, and this tract is included in the plans being made by the park board. The lot owned by the railroad company has a tree and a marker honoring Fred P. Washburn, a native of Nichols,

who served as an employe of the company for many years, and the town will take over the responsibility of maintaining this memorial.

* * *

*The Davenport Democrat & Leader
Sunday, 25 Feb 1945, p.19*

History of Nichols Memorial Park (1945) on Site of Former Rummells Store Built in 1896



A Veterans Memorial For Service in WWII 1941-1945

In 1943 the Nichols Park Board decided to create a stone monument listing all members of the "Nichols Community" who served in the US armed forces during WWII. The memorial was placed in the newly established park at the southwest corner of Ijem Avenue and Short Street near the railway depot. One hundred names are listed on the monument, ninety-nine men and one woman. Jeanne A. Elder, daughter of Charles and Frances Elder, was a Lieutenant in the US Navy serving as a nurse. Photo by Don Smith 2016.0329.



Rice's Café A Social Gathering Point in the Town of Nichols in 1949

The Rice Café staff in the picture above are, left to right: Willard Rice, his wife, Helen Rice, his mother, "Grandma" Emma Rice and Loretta Christofferson. Rice's Café was a focal point in the center of the Nichols business district from around 1925 until it closed in 1966. For all of those years Grandma Rice was in charge of the kitchen and when she and Willard and Helen all retired in 1966 she was 90 years old. She died in 1967.

Photo Source: Nichols 1984 Centennial Book, page 126.



REV. CARLIN CURTIS AND HIS WIFE, EDNA CURTIS

From July, 1947, to July, 1950,

Rev. Curtis was Minister at the Nichols United Methodist Church.

Two of their children graduated from Nichols High School:

Marjorie Curtis (Class of 1949) and Dean Curtis (Class of 1950)

Photograph taken in 1968. Photo source is Marjorie Curtis Marine

NICHOLS GUN CLUB

1950

Membership		Membership	
1. Ady, Dr. E.A. ---	West Liberty	31. Kaalberg, Frank ---	West Liberty
2. Anderson, Martin	Muscataine #3	32. Kelch, Ray -----	West Liberty
3. Arp, Ted -----	West Liberty	33. Kirkpatrick, Harry	Nichols
4. Billick, Ray ----	West Liberty	34. McCollum, Kenneth	Letts
5. Braun, Harry ----	Nichols	35. Meechum, Maynard	Nichols
6. Brugman, Gene ---	Nichols	36. Mills, Don -----	Nichols
7. Brugman, Stephen	West Liberty	37. Nichols, Ben ----	Nichols
8. Call, William ---	West Liberty	38. Nichols, Dan ----	Muscataine
9. Carey, Doc Jr. --	West Liberty	39. Oestendorp, Bernard	Nichols
10. Carter, Vernon --	Nichols	40. Oestendorp, Charles	Nichols
11. Chown, Louis ---	Nichols	41. Oren, Carl -----	Lone Tree
12. Chown, Robert ---	Nichols	42. Pike, Albert -----	Nichols
13. Cline, Hubert --	West Liberty	43. Polmar, Albert ---	Lone Tree
14. Coder, Francis --	Nichols	44. Poeltler, George	Nichols
15. Coon, William --	Nichols	45. Reynolds, Russell	Nichols
16. Elder, Charles Jr.	Nichols	46. Rice, Willard ---	Nichols
17. Elder, Waldo ----	Nichols	47. Rudman, Lee ----	Nichols
18. Elder, Walter ---	Nichols	48. Ruess, Donald ---	West Liberty
19. Foley, John ----	Nichols	49. Sarver, George --	Nichols
20. Hadley, James ---	Nichols	50. Stephens, George	Nichols
21. Hahn, Arthur ---	Nichols	51. Swanson, Fred ---	Nichols
22. Hawker, Earl ---	West Liberty	52. Sutton, George --	Nichols
23. Hillyer, Bob ---	Nichols	53. Swickard, Ray ---	Muscataine
24. Hillyer, Clarence	Nichols	54. Umscheid, Ernest	Nichols
25. Hillyer, Jan ---	Nichols	55. Ulich, Lee -----	Nichols
26. Hillyer, Lester --	Nichols	56. Vogel, Rev. L.J. -	Nichols
27. Hotz, William ---	West Liberty	57. Temple, Ira ----	Muscataine
28. Hummel, Lloyd --	Nichols	58. Walker, Ed -----	Nichols
29. Juels, Walter ---	Nichols	59. Zybarth, Ed ----	Atlissa
30. Johnson, John H --	West Liberty	60. Zaloudek, R. F. -	West Liberty

"In Memory"

Kelch, Herman		Woollever, Earl
Muench, Dr. V. O.	Renshaw, Ira	Umscheid, Louis

1950 Financial Statement 1950

Receipts:	Expenses
\$343.52 Deposits	\$753.87
988.25 Bal from 1949	Bank ----- 587.25
\$1,331.77	Cash Box ----- 10.65
	\$1,331.77

We have the following Mdse
on hand 1/19/51
62 cases of birds
24 boxes & 19 shells (20 gague)
14 boxes & 13 shells (16 gague)
no shells ----- (12 gague)

Summary of expenses:
Labor, & material on
grounds (shed) ----- \$252.44
birds ----- 163.20
shells ----- 129.07
labor on trap ----- 75.25
tax, printing etc --- 33.91
Total expenses --- \$753.87

Albert Pike, - Sect & Treas 1950

Nichols Gun Club - 1950 Annual Report



Prairie Landers L-R: Melvin Grim - Sheldon Tappen - Keith Crawford - Von Crawford - Clyde Lenz - Don Grim

4-H BENEFIT DANCE

AT MILLS HALL

NICHOLS, IOWA

FRIDAY, FEB. 2, 1951

Music By Prairie Landers

Sponsored By Pike Plucky Pikers

DONATION TICKET

Photo Source: Keith Crawford – Ticket Source: Barbara Elder

The Muscatine Journal
Wednesday, 6 April 1955, p.14

Open House at New Nichols Fire Station Slated

Nichols — Open house for the new Nichols fire station will be held Friday from 2 until 8 p.m. The public is invited to visit the station and inspect the new truck. Doughnuts and coffee or a soft drink will be served.

The committee in charge of arrangements for the open house includes W. A. Rice, chairman; Robert Chown, Jess Newton, Robert Hillyer and Bernard Oostendorp. Assisting with the serving will be the women's auxiliary.

Benefit Ball Set

Arrangements have also been completed for the 17th annual Firemen's benefit ball which will be held Friday evening, April 15, at Mills hall from 9 until 1. Music will be by the Leonard Reyman orchestra.

Committees for the dance are: Orchestra, Leon Rudman and Max Hanft; hall, Clarence Hillyer; door stamping, Lawrence Whitlock, George Grable, Herbert Schmitt and William Hollenbeck; ticket sales at door, Clarence Hillyer and Max Hanft; law enforcement, George Sutton and Lester Hillyer.

The next regular meeting of the Volunteer firemen will be held April 25, with the annual election of officers scheduled. Ralph Schmitt and Max Hanft have been serving as chief and assistant chief, respectively, with John Loeb acting as appointive secretary and treasurer.

The Nichols Volunteer Fire department has answered eight fire

calls during the past year.

For the past three years, the fire department has sponsored the boy scout troop in Nichols. In addition, they have built and maintained the ice skating pond located behind the new fire station for the past two winters.

In 1938, the department was reorganized after the purchase of the town and country truck. Only two men who were members of the reorganized department at that time are still active members at the present time. They are Willard Rice and Robert Chown.

Other active members of the department are Ralph Schmitt, Max Hanft, Leon Rudman, Clarence Hillyer, Robert Hillyer, Lester Hillyer, Floyd Waltman, John Lewis, Hubert Brugman, Bernard Oostendorp, Everett Johnston, Leroy Marine, William Hollenbeck, Herb Schmitt, Vic Mills, George Grable, Lawrence Whitlock, Jess Newton, Nigel Abbott and Al Hazen.



Band Shell Dedication Nichols, Iowa, 15 June 1955

"Nichols – When the new band shell in the Nichols park is dedicated Wednesday evening, June 15 [1955], it will become a part of a long tradition of interest in band music in this community. First Nichols band was organized in May of 1893. Pictures of this old band are still in existence. Mr. Paudett was the organizer. Members of this first band were August Kern, John Kirchner, Fred Martin, B. L. Metcalf, John Fullmer, Allie Quinby, B. A. Kirchner, Dick Walker, William Wagner, William Kern, Clell Reynolds, Will Schmitt, Ward Reynolds and Ernest Wagner.

"About 1912 the band was reorganized with the following members: Allie Quinby, Clell Reynolds, B. A. Kirchner, William Wagner and Ward Reynolds, all members of the original band; and Harry Shannon, John Nash, Fred Hummel, Polly Cone, Tom Carney, John Oostendorp, Amos Borgstadt, Raymond Borgstadt, Ben Nichols, Ernest Kirchner, Harold Rummells, Willard Rice and Lloyd Shannon. Director of this band was Grant Nichols.

"In more recent years, the Nichols school band has been the main musical organization of the town. School records show a band was organized at the Nichols school in 1934. During the summer the school band played concerts with several members from the old community band joining younger musicians. *** " Muscatine Journal, 15 June 1955.

The band directors in the Nichols school system for the years ending in 1934 to 1961 were as follows:

Loraine Balzer (1936-1938)
 Martin Crabtree (1939-1952 except military service)
 Russell Kephart (1953)
 Gilbert Lehman (1954-1955)
 Delbert Hardy (1956-1959)
 William Fabritz (1960-1961)

The funds for building the Nichols Band Shell came from a bequest to the town for that purpose in the will of Mrs. Jessie Swickard who died on 5 April 1952.



Six Nichols High School Alumni in the Charles W. Elder Family 1961

Five Elder family children standing left to right: Betty Elder Bieri (NHS 1941) – Kathryn Elder Vaupel (NHS 1936) – Charles R. Elder (NHS 1938 – Jeanne Elder Poeltler (NHS 1937) – Alice Elder Grable (NHS 1941). Parents seated L to R: Frances Kirchner Elder (St. Katharine's School, Davenport, 1916) – Charles W. Elder (NHS 1909). The event was the 70th birthday of Charles W. Elder on July 30, 1961. Photo Source: Barbara Elder

*ST. MARY
— Nichols —*

**Pictorial Directory
1982**



Janet Windus



Alberta Bekker



Margaret Kaalberg



Phil, Jill & Crissy Kaalberg



Gerrie & Bob A. Kaalberg



Marguerite & Ray Wieskamp



Dorothy & Eugene Brugman



James P. Brugman



Thomas Brugman



Tillie Lorber



Dean, Anita & Jeff Milder



Bill, Martha, Mary, Laura & Sean Peterson



Jane & Scott Vetter



Gertrude Carroll



Mary E. Carter



Dan, Pat, Sandi, John & Josh Christofferson



Lenore & Albert Pike



Gladys & Leon Rudman



Bessie & Kenneth Ruess



Ron, Ann, Kevin & Scott Wieskamp



Cathy & Dennis Cox



Mildred & Bob DeRiemacker



Margaret Gabel



Helene & Jack Salemink



Jack, Connie, Jennifer & Jason Simmonds



Mary & Wes Steinocher



David, Linda & Andrew White



Mary Heffron



Mrs. F. J. (Marie W.) Kaalberg



Gayle, Carol, Kory, Kyle & Katina Kaalberg



John, Cindi, Galo, Joe & Sparky Stoppel



Mary, LeRoy, Leo & Dennis Truesdale



Greg, Judy & Brian Wieskamp



Marie & Leo Van Aken

Pictorial Directory, Saint Mary Catholic Church, Nichols, Iowa, 1982

Directory Source: Carol Kaalberg – One Page Composite by Editor, NHS Digital Archives



New City Hall Erected in Nichols, Iowa, in 1983

This was previously the site of the St. Nichols Hotel erected in 1872. It is directly across Ijem Ave. from the first "Town Hall" erected in 1907. Photo: Editor, NHS Digital Archives 2016.0329

Nichols boasts 'new' and 'old' institutions

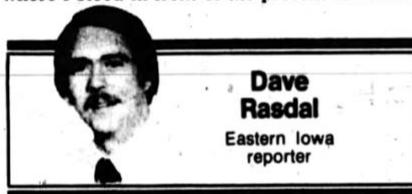
NICHOLS — A new town hall and an old town clerk.

Here you could easily call them two for (a) Nichols. Both are institutions and a bargain at the price.

The only real difference is that the town hall isn't done yet and the town clerk is, if people would only let him hang up his pencil.

Nichols is like any other small Iowa community on a hot summer day — it looks empty. But the 375 residents are there and they can be seen strolling around town when the temperature drops.

Whitey Hillyer, 73, however, braved a recent 90-degree day and sauntered down the street to where I stood in front of the present town hall.



Dave Rasdal

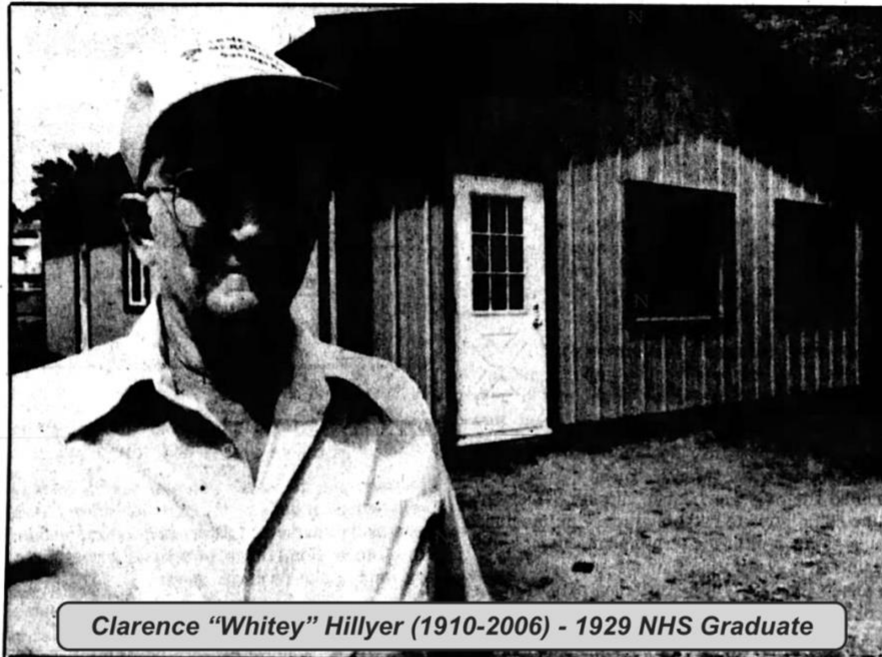
Eastern Iowa reporter

A yellow baseball-style cap was pulled down over his face, dark tinted shades tucked inside his glasses covered his eyes and he didn't seem to be in a hurry. Neither was I. The humidity was enough to slow down a turtle.

Whitey offered to show me the new town hall. We walked at a pace that allows you to catch your breath. Refreshing.

"We had to do one or the other — put up a new building for the ambulance or put up a new town hall," Whitey said. "We decided we needed a new town hall."

The white building behind us, with a recently installed garage door, is now the home of the First Responders, a 14-member volunteer organization that uses a rescue-type van for emergency situations. Since the fire department is in the same building, this arrangement is logical.



Clarence "Whitey" Hillyer (1910-2006) - 1929 NHS Graduate

Whitey Hillyer, city clerk of Nichols for the past 45 years, stands in front of the new town hall.

Published in The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 20 June 1983, page 5

The brown building in front of us is the new town hall. The pre-fabricated 24-by-48-foot shell was set up in a couple of days. Electricians and plumbers are putting in their finishing touches and a 4-inch concrete floor soon will be poured. The finished building will be used for community activities as well as council meetings on the first Wednesday of every month.

The building is being financed through

\$25,000 in general obligation bonds, purchased by the local bank, the Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank. The finish work will be completed with volunteer labor to keep the price down.

"There used to be a hotel here, but the bank tore it down," Whitey said. "That was about three years ago. It had been used for a parking lot by the bank. They're the one's that

purchased the bonds too, so it really is a town project."

THIS WILL be the third town hall Nichols has had in the past 50 years — the third town hall during Whitey's nearly 45 years as town clerk.

^[1907] In 1934, the town hall with jail was built across the street from the new town hall. The town offices were moved to an addition to the fire station in 1968. The next move should take place at the end of this summer.

Whitey has been through them all, living in Nichols for the past 67 years. He was born north of town, spent a year in South Dakota, moved back to Nichols, spent a couple of years in Minnesota and moved back to Nichols. He's been here since 1918.

Whitey worked at Kent Feeds for 31 years and was a security guard at Louis Rich Co. in West Liberty from 1972 to retirement in 1982. Now, he's spending time remodeling his house and stopping here and there in town to see friends.

Whitey is looking forward to the fun and games of Nichols Day on June 25. Next year Nichols will celebrate its 150th birthday, but Whitey feels he'd like to retire from his \$50 per month job as town clerk by then. He's been in it so long he can remember when he got less than than \$50 per year.

"I'd like to get out of being town clerk, but people around here don't want me to quit," Whitey said, as we stood in the shade of Victor Mills' service station and garage.

"They don't know if they could find somebody else. But I'm 73 years old. And there might be sometime on a Wednesday night, on a first Wednesday night, I want to go someplace.

"But it's a good town, a really good town," he said, removing the dark tinted shades from inside his glasses. "It's been good to me," he added, a twinkle in his eye.

Legal Notices



NOTICE OF ELECTION

The annual election of Drainage District #2, Pike & Orono Townships will be held to elect 1 Trustee for a 3-year term at the New Nichols City Hall, January 10, 1984 from 1 - 3 PM.


Marion Barnhart, Sec.
Drainage District #2

Clara Frances Kirchner Elder was a Great Great Granddaughter of Samuel and Mary Nichols through her maternal lineage. Her mother was Nannie Black Kirchner, her grandmother was Mary Johns Black and her great grandmother was Elizabeth Nichols Johns, the second born child of Samuel and Mary Nichols.

Her mother died of what was then called complications of childbirth when Frances was not quite two years old and her only sibling, Robert, died when she was three. Frances and her father thereafter lived in the large Nichols home of her mother's parents, Mary and Robert Black, at their request. Her father, Bernard A. Kirchner, never remarried.


Frances attended grades 1-6 in the Nichols Public School followed by six years at two private schools in Davenport. She graduated in 1916 from Saint Katharine's School. In 1917 she married Charles W. Elder. Her husband and their five children all graduated from Nichols High School.

During her lifetime Frances assemble and preserved a great historical collection of Nichols town and school photographs. Two of her grandchildren, Barbara Elder and Randall Elder, made that entire collection available for digital scanning and building the Nichols High School Digital Archives.




Frances Kirchner (Elder) - 1916 Graduate Saint Katharine's School Davenport, Iowa
Photo added by DonSmithIA

[Add Photos](#) [Request Photo](#)



Added by DonSmithIA



Added by Nancy Burr

[See 2 more](#)

Clara Frances Kirchner Elder

BIRTH 25 Apr 1899
Nichols, Muscatine County, Iowa, USA

DEATH 22 Jun 1999 (aged 100)
Bettendorf, Scott County, Iowa, USA

BURIAL Nichols Cemetery
Nichols, Muscatine County, Iowa, USA [Add to Map](#)

MEMORIAL ID 11171688 · [View Source](#)

[SHARE](#) [SAVE TO](#) [SUGGEST EDITS](#)



[MEMORIAL](#) [PHOTOS 5](#) [FLOWERS 1](#)

Clara Frances Kirchner Elder 100


Mrs. Elder died Tuesday, June 22, 1999, at the home of her daughter in Bettendorf. Frances Kirchner was born April 25, 1899, in Nichols. She was the daughter of Bernard A. Kirchner and Nannie Elizabeth Black. She married Charles Elder on Oct 9, 1917 at First Methodist Parsonage, Muscatine, IA . They farmed in Letts and Nichols until 1943. He died in 1967. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Clara Elder Memorial Fund or Nichols United Methodist Church. Survivors include daughters, Betty Bieri, Nichols, and Alice Grable, Bettendorf; 15 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Family Members


Parents

-  **Bernard A Kirchner**
1873–1929
-  **Nannie Elizabeth Black Kirchner**
1879–1901






Spouse

-  **Charles Wesley Elder**
1891–1967 (m. 1917)

Siblings

-  **Robert Bernard Kirchner**
1901–1902

Children

-  **Kathryn C ElderVaupel**
1918–1982
-  **Jeanne Anne ElderPoeltler**
1920–1996
-  **Charles R. Elder**
1921–1965
-  **Betty Irene Elder Bieri**
1923–2000
-  **Alice Mary Elder Grable**
1924–2018

Screenshot
Captured on 22 Sept 2020
of Memorial on findagrave.com



Charlene Nichols Hixon — Margaret Fox Oostendorp — Helen Miller Wiese
1941 Graduate NHS — 1939 Graduate NHS — 1941 Graduate NHS
Nichols High School Alumni Association Banquet, June 11, 2016
West Liberty Country Club, West Liberty, Iowa



All Attendees at Nichols High School Alumni Dinner

West Liberty Country Club, 8 June 2019 – Year of Graduation After All Alumni Names

Standing L-R: Randall Elder – Thelma (Blount) Rife – John Rife – Gayle Kaalberg (1958) – Carol (Sieren) Kaalberg – Dennis Wieskamp (1961) – Rose (Krueger) Newton – William Newton (1956) – Jean (Lienemann) Hillyer – David Hillyer (1961) – Virgil Oostendorp (1958) – Diane (Forsek) Oostendorp – Roger Wieskamp (1959) – Linda (Daly) Wieskamp – Larry Green (1959) – Lavonne “Bonnie” (Paulson) Green (1959) **Sitting L-R:** Donald Smith (1950) – karleene (Wade) Smith – Sally Sutton (1958) – Phyllis (Salemink) Elder (1954) – Naomi Wieskamp (1954) – Jacqueline (Renshaw) Bell (1955) – Willard Salemink (1951) – Judith (Mills) Bender (1961)



Charlene Nichols
1941 Graduate Nichols High School

Obituary of Char Hixon 1923 - 2020

Charlene Ann Nichols Hixon, 96, passed away Sunday April 26, 2020 at Windmill Manor in Coralville.

A private family graveside service will be held 1 P.M. Monday, May 4, 2020 at the Nichols Cemetery, Nichols, Iowa. The service is being shared via live stream on the Henderson-Barker Funeral Home Facebook page. The Henderson-Barker Funeral Home in West Liberty is caring for Charlene's family.

Charlene was born September 12, 1923 in Nichols, Iowa the daughter of Benjamin Franklin and Ora Elizabeth (Eckey) Nichols. She was a graduate of Nichols High School and received her B.A. in Journalism from the University of Iowa. In 1956 she moved her family to Albuquerque, New Mexico where she worked with the Oil News, later moving to Iowa City in 1959 to make her home. On February 21, 1963 she was united in marriage to Jack Hixon in Nichols, he passed away in 2014.

She was involved with Nichols family farm dating back to 1838 and was the last family member to carry on the Nichols name. She had been employed with the VA Hospital in Iowa City working as a payroll officer in the accounting department, and Hoover Library in West Branch. Since 1980, she had worked part time as a secretary for the State of Iowa Elderhostel, and taught and worked as a genealogist in Iowa City. She was a lifelong member of the Nichols Christian Church, enjoyed knitting, genealogy, reading books and was an Iowa Hawkeye and Chicago Cubs fan. Char was a volunteer at the Iowa State Historical Society for many years.

She is survived by three sons: Keith Maynard Meacham of Muscatine, Christopher Ben Meacham and wife Diane (Dee Dee) of Nichols, Craig Allen Meacham of Iowa City. Grandchildren: Sepal Anne Meacham and her husband Josh Johnson of Portland, Or, Amanda Jayne Meacham of Iowa City, Andre Townsend Meacham and wife Jennifer of Iowa City, two great grandchildren: Seraphina Siying Meacham of Chicago, Illinois and Gibsen Edward Johnson of Portland, OR. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Jack, grandson Craig Benjamin Meacham, 2 sisters and a brother.

Source: Web Site of Henderson Barker Funeral Homes, 30 April 2020



Nichols Christian Church, Nichols, Iowa, 21 August 2020

The red brick sanctuary, constructed and dedicated in 1875, is still serving an active congregation 145 years later. It is today the oldest surviving historic structure in the Town of Nichols. The white wood frame structure on the east side of the sanctuary was added in 1951 to provide space for Sunday School classrooms and a church library. Photo source: Editor, NHS Digital Archives



Nichols Methodist Church, Nichols, Iowa, 21 August 2020

This church, on Main Street, was dedicated on 9 May 1910. Photo: Editor NHS Digital Archives



Council Members Church of Saint Mary Nichols 2020

Standing L-R: Kory Kaalberg, President Pastoral Council – William Lenz, Member Pastoral Council – Thomas Brugman, Member Finance Council – Stephen Brugman, Sexton St. Mary Cemetery – Marvin Wilson, Member Finance Council – Gayle Kaalberg, Treasurer Finance Council. **Sitting L-R :** Margaret Matt, Member Pastoral Council – Rev. Michael Spiekermeier, Administrator – Carol Kaalberg, Parish Cluster Coordinator – Cindy Massey, Parish Lay Director. **Missing :** Dennis Truesdale, Member Pastoral Council – Adam Gauger, Parish Lay Director.

Photo Source: Carol kaalberg



Roman Catholic Church of Saint Mary, Nichols, Iowa, 21 August 2020

In 1874 the Catholic congregation was the first to construct a church in what was then the village of Nichols Station. That sanctuary was replaced with a new structure in 1904 that was destroyed by fire in 1920. Using the foundations of the second church, a third church was built that appears in the picture above. Photo: Editor, NHS Digital Archives.



Yesterday (1890) & Today (2020)

The photo on the right was taken circa 1890 of the three-story St. Nichols Hotel erected in 1872 and Dr. Carl's two-story drug store erected in 1889. The photo above was taken by Don Smith on September 14, 2020, of the current City Hall erected on the hotel site in 1983 and Dr. Carl's building still standing after 130 years. Contrast horses and 4-wheel horsepower.



***Last Page of
Nichols Community History 1908 – 2020***

