

Bristol

Wallace

I read it in the paper...

ALL ABOUT MORTON MILLS

Elaine C. Artlip

Morton's Mills

Mortons Mills

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Kimel's Mills

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1997

One Hundred Forty-three Years of Goings-on

In the Southern Part of Douglas Township

What *Was* The Name of That Place?

It would probably be hard to find a community which has had more uncertainty concerning its name. There wasn't a great lot of continuity even during the same time periods. I have used the name as it appeared in the news items gathered for this report.

When the post office was re-established in 1913, the name was given as "Morton Mills", and that has been the official name since that time. But not everyone conforms to that usage even after more than 80 years.

I like to read old newspapers. The county newspaper files have been my primary source of information for a number of projects. And as I looked through the papers I have saved interesting items on several subjects, including Morton Mills. Three years ago I started an intensive research for a Sesquicentennial project. One result of that endeavor was a greatly increased amount of material in my Morton Mills file.

But it is only after the material is assembled that you can see what is missing. So then there is a flurry of activity as you try to locate the needed information-- with varying degrees of success.

This account is primarily concerned with day-to-day life in the village of Morton Mills. I have recorded the events as they took place, and for the most part, in the words in which they were reported.

Like all small communities, there was an active social life. Very little professional entertainment made its way to Morton Mills, but the home-grown variety included dances, sports, cards and music. Church services and associated events were held weekly. There were many women's clubs which met frequently. School news was regularly reported.

All of this activity overwhelms the historian. For this report, only token notice is given to such events. Emphasis has been placed on the business establishments of the community. Therefore, relatively few names are mentioned. And some items are just for fun.

Notes have been added for clarification and to provide further information. A few items appear out of chronological order for the same reasons.

The *Villisca Review* files start in 1871, and the *Red Oak Express* in 1874. Other papers appeared at later dates. For 125 years the local papers have been faithfully reporting the news from Morton Mills. Well, more or less faithfully. For the most part the only community news printed in the early papers was what some local resident sent to them; such reporters were not paid. There is little to be found for some years, but likely it was a lack of reporting, not a dearth of activity. Other records have also been consulted in order to expand our knowledge of the early days.

As the years have passed there has been less and less business to report, and much of what there was has been unnoted. It is sad to see the gradual decline of these small communities, which have contributed so much to our history. Perhaps my efforts will help to preserve the fascinating story of Morton Mills for future generations.



I read it in the paper...

ALL ABOUT MORTON MILLS

1854

(10 January 1855; Council Bluffs *Chronotype*): Census of Iowa for the year 1854...total population of the state, 326,014...

Montgomery County; G.D. Connally, Assessor:
Billman, Henry

(Note: Henry and his family may have been the only residents in the Morton Mills area in 1854. His chief claim to fame was that he served on the first jury in Montgomery County, in November 1856.

(19 August 1854: The contract for mail route Number 9430 was awarded to Samuel Riggs. This route ran...by way of Queen City and Quincy in Adams County; Sciola, Frankfort and Oro in Montgomery county; and Indian Creek, White Cloud and Fayette in Mills County... - from National Archives.

(Sciola post office was the first one in Montgomery County. Residents of the Morton Mills area received their mail at Sciola for several years.)



1856

25 October; Iowa City *Daily Evening Reporter*: ...the taking of the Census of the State...will probably be completed in season to make public the grand Aggregate by the meeting of the Legislature in December...

(Note: 1856 Census, Washington Township; attested 30 July 1856, by Isaac Bolt, Assessor.

18-18 Lawrence, John A
Bean, Joel H.; been in state 1 year

(22 August 1884; Red Oak *Express*: Frank G. Bean says...that his brother J.H. Bean, sold the first goods in the township, in an old log cabin, now standing on section twenty-nine and hauled them all the way from St. Joe, Mo., by ox team...

(In the *History of Montgomery County*, 1906; page 55, Merritt says of the dead town of Bristol, "near the Christian church"..."the site is now used as a cemetery". Apparently the little settlement was on the ground now occupied by the Morton Mills cemetery.

(That was probably where Joel Bean kept his store. It was still open in the fall of 1859 when Bean refused credit for a pair of boots to J.T. Hughes, the new ME preacher who had walked from Muscatine. [1906 *History*, page 56]

(31 December 1856; District Court Records: To the sheriff of Montgomery county, greetings. You are hereby commanded to arrest the body of Joel H. Bean on a charge of selling whiskey...recognizance for \$300...or convey his body to jail...



(1906 History; page 324; 1857: A. Milner appointed to locate a county road, beginning at the town site of Bristol in Douglas Township; thence east crossing the bridge near W.T. Reed's; thence east to the county line...)

1857

17 September; Fairfield Ledger: ...The majority of the voters were for the new constitution...Montgomery County; for, 17; against, 81...

(Note: *History of Montgomery County*; 1881; page 467: 20 March 1857; Ordered...a new township by the name of Douglas...and the first election for township officers to be held at the house of Benj. Archer...A.G. Lowe, County Judge.

(10 June 1910; *Red Oak Sun*; Milford: "...I thought it might be interesting to recall an early election held in Douglas Township which was on August 3, 1857...", writes 'Squire Geo. T. Cary. The election was held at the house of James L. White...There were 22 voters, namely: A. White, A.S. Donoho, J.W. Haag, A. Patterson, B. Archer, F.L. White, J.A. Terry, S. Manieley, D. Stipe, Wm. Stipe, H. Stipe, Owen Bancroft, A.W. Reid, T. Whitney, F. Shoemaker, S.W. White. J.L. White, Tom M. Christopher, I. Coon, H. Billman, W.T. Reid, Sam Corrale...

(County officials were on the ballot but no township trustees or clerk were elected; they had been selected at an earlier election.)

1858

(6 November 1908; Red Oak Express; Elliott): Just 50 years ago last Saturday, October 24, 1858...occurred the marriage of James Madison Smith to Mary Bancroft, Col. Zacariah Lawrence ...officiating. Col. Lawrence was a

soldier of the War of 1812 and an elder in the Christian church...

(Note: Lawrence settled in western Adams County in 1855. He was probably the one who established a Disciples of Christ church at an early date in the southern part of Douglas Township.

(The church was still active in 1875, according to the *Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa*; 1875; by A.T. Andreas; page 419. No meeting place was given but probably services were held in the first Number 5 school house from the time it was built.

(Apparently the church was discontinued at some point, but there were still Disciples in the area in 1896 when the Memorial Church of Christ was organized.)

1859

6 August; Clarinda Page County Herald: Meeting of the County Superintendents ...was held at Quincy the 17th inst...The Superintendents of...Montgomery...counties were present...The plan of building school houses by taxation was denounced...

1860

27 January; Page County Herald: ...the Federal census (will be) taken during the present year...

(Note: Montgomery County; Douglas Township:

7-7 David Stipes
George Silcott; Sawyer

(10 August, 1876; *Villisca Review*: From a talk given by H.G. Thurman on the Centennial Fourth of July: "David Silcott...built a saw mill on the Nodaway in 1859 now known as Morton's mill...")

1861

19 April; Page County Herald: By the telegraph news, it will be seen that the

terrible drama of the Civil War has been opened, and it remains to be seen whether the Government founded and established by the wisest patriots Earth ever knew, is to be preserved and perpetuated, or supplanted by one whose founders are traitors, animated by a desire to promote their own individual interests.

(Note: A few men of the area enlisted for active duty:

William Redmon

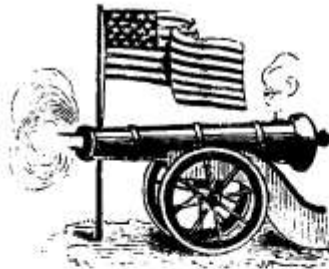
John T. Hobson; 14 November 1862; Co. E; 6th Cavalry

James N. Rogers; 14 November 1862; Co. E; 6th Cavalry

Manliff C. Prather; 14 November 1862; Co. E; 6th Cavalry

Leonard Lott; 29 August 1862; Co. F; 23 Iowa Infantry

(Tradition says that Lott drowned in the Gulf of Mexico during the war. In January 1862 Leonard and his brother Henry purchased the Silket mill. In April 1864 Henry sold his half to John and Silas Morton. Acting as administrator, Henry sold Leonard's half of the mill property to the Mortons in February 1866.)



5 July; **Page County Herald:**

The Military Encampment appointed at Clarinda on the 3rd...brought together an array

of gentlemen...The following is a list of the companies as they appear upon the roll:

Company H - Montgomery Tigers; Cap't Brown; no. of roll 45

Company E - Montgomery Rangers; Cap't. Smith; no. of roll 49.

(Note: 3 March 1915; Review; from the Grant Chief: Mrs. S.E. Smith came into this office one day this week and showed us an interesting document, reminiscent of the old Civil War days. The paper gives the

muster roll of the "Montgomery Rangers", a company which was organized in 1861 to offer their services to the union in case of need. The company was never mustered into active service. S.M. Smith was captain of the company; Wm. Focht and Wm. Dunn, first and second lieutenants; John Shafer, J.C. Patterson, A.W. Reed and J.M. Christopher, first, second, third and fourth orderly sergeants; A.W. Shoemaker, Thaddeus Strait, Robert Wallace and P. Archer, first, second, third and fourth corporals. There were 50 men in the company...Wm. Focht, S.M. Smith, David Wilson, John Archer, Benj. Archer, Wm. Walker, Wm. T. Atwood, Frederick Persons, Wm. Stipe, Harvey Newcomb, James Brenton, Tho. Donoho, David Hunt, Milton Smith, Orlando Caywood, J.H. Bean, C. Caywood, A.M. Shoemaker, A.M. Reed, Benton Reed, W.T. Reed, Robert Wallace, Isaac Coon, Joseph Gourley, Thomas Russel, F.M. Redmond, J.M. Christopher, Wm. Dunn, R.D. Sperry, Waldo Conner, H.C. Taylor, J.L. Shoemaker, J.W. Patterson, John Shafer, A.W. Bunnell, F.M. Wax, Wm. Gilmore. P. Martin. S. Berry, H. Miller, S.H. Miller, J.H. Nolon, L.C. Cook, Simeon Hunt, L. White and P. Archer.)



1862

24 January; **Page County Herald:** From state record on schools - ...Montgomery County:

Number of persons between 5 and 21;
352
Amount paid teachers during year;
\$733

1864

(17 December 1909; *Sun*; Obit of William Focht): ...veteran of the Mexican war...Toward the close of the civil war William Focht headed a company of volunteers from Douglas and Washington townships who went to Northern Missouri and did guard duty...

1865

(1940; *Omaha World-Herald*): John Focht and Sam Atwood remember...the happenings of 1865 as if they took place "only yesterday".

...The school teacher at that time was Jacob Focht, an uncle of John. In those days there were only trails, and the drifts of snow were deep. Neither were there any bridges. Both men said the District 5 schoolhouse stood in the middle of 160 acres of raw prairie in Douglas township. The school was made of native lumber. The desks and seats were of native walnut and benches were fastened to the wall around the room.

Mr. Focht recalled that they walked a quarter of a mile for drinking water, which they got from a spring. They studied spelling, arithmetic, reading and writing and several of their teachers read to them from the Bible.

They recalled the games they played. The boys played, "two old cat". Another game was called "town ball". The balls were homemade by the children or their parents.

The men told of the spelling bees and dancing and sleigh rides...

Mr. Atwood and Mr. Focht lived with their parents in log cabins.

(16 April 1926; *Review*: Obit of Wm. T. Atwood:) ...In 1860 he bought from the government at \$1.25 an acre the farm north of Villisca which is now owned by

Fletcher Gourley and there he built a log house and broke the prairie with ox teams ...he helped build the first school house in the district, constructed of native lumber, and there he taught several winters...when a new schoolhouse was built there Mr. Atwood purchased the old building and used the lumber in his first frame residence which he built on the present site of Morton Mills...There he and his family lived until 1891...

(Note: The first No. 5 was built in the early 1860s. It stood in the east half of the north section line, Section 27. According to the maps, there was no road to the school. No date has been found for the second schoolhouse, but it seems likely that it may have been built in the early 1870s.)

(1906 History; page 328: 1865-Bridge to be built at Mortons Mills across the West Nodaway... [The bridge still wasn't finished in 1868.]

1866

21 June; Council Bluffs Weekly Bugle: NOTICE TO VIGILANCE SOCIETY - The Vigilance Society for Montgomery County, for the prevention of horse stealing, will meet at Red Oak Junction on Saturday the 23rd of June, for the transaction of business.

D.N. COOK, Supt.

30 August; Des Moines Daily State Register: The Des Moines Conference of the M.E. church, lately in session in Boonesboro, made the following appointment: ...Council Bluffs District: ...Red Oak Junction, W.F. Laidley...

(Note: 1881 History; page 542: The Methodist Episcopal church was organized Jan. 22, 1866...)

(The church was probably established at the Hobson school house, and continued to meet there until Holmes Chapel was built in 1889.)

1868

15 August; Council Bluffs Weekly Nonpareil: A simoon passed over Montgomery County about a week ago, and so hot was the air that the corn tips were scorched. The mercury ran up to 113 degrees in the shade.

1871

29 December; Villisca Iowa Mercury: We learn from John Yergy that two hunters in the vicinity of Sciola have killed 23 deer this winter.

1872

27 June; Villisca Review: We are indebted to J.M. Hewitt, one of our county supervisors for the...statement of the condition of the road funds...

(Note: Supervisors' minutes; January 1872; Number 56, Mortons Mill road petition: Beginning at a point 80 rods East of quarter section corner between sections 4 and 9 twp. 72-36, running thence in a northerly direction...thence a quarter mile north to the quarter section line, thence West to the river thence north to Morton's Mill thence north to the bridge at center of sec. 33-73-36...)

20 December; Review: All the horses about Sciola and Milford are sick with the horse disease.

(Note: They called it the Epizootic.)

1874

23 July; Red Oak Express: MILITIA-Numbers of persons liable to military duty, and who are expected to defend the country in case of war or invasion: Douglas Township - 94.



1875

29 April; Review: Wallace Post office-We understand that a new post office has been established in this County, four miles north of Sciola, at or near Morton's Mill, by the above name; J.W. McClintoc, postmaster.

5 August; Review: Adv. - Mill and Farm For Sale - The undersigned, living 12 miles north of Villisca on the West Nodaway, will offer for sale, during the next 30 days, his mill and seat, known as "Morton's Mill." He will aslo (sic) sell his farm of 80 acres improved land. Terms will be made known by applying to me at the mill.

SILAS MORTON

1876

14 September; Review: ...The oldest inhabitants say the freshet was never equalled in the Nodaway Valley. The flood of 1857 is remembered by many as the largest that has occurred since the settlement of the country; the flood of last week exceeded it in height of water by from two to three feet...

1877

6 September; Express: ...S. Morton is building a mill 30x40 feet, with 18 feet posts, on the site of his old one...

1878

10 January; Review: Adv. - U.S. Mail & Hack Line - from Villisca to Atlantic, via Sciola, Wallace, Grant, Newlin's Grove and Cass Center. Leaves Villisca Mon. & Fri. at 7:00 a.m...Leaves Atlantic Tues. & Sat. at 7:30 a.m...Fare; to Grant, \$1.00; from Grant to Atlantic \$1.50. I have a good covered hack for passengers and drive fast teams.

Jas. Bunker

17 January; Review: The new grist mill of Silas Morton near Wallace has been

completed and now running on custom work. The old mill was entirely destroyed by the high waters in the Fall of '76. A site for the new building, some 30 rods below, was secured from Mr. Theodore Whitney and a race cut from the old dam which remains as before...

In making the excavation a large burr oak was found some 20 feet below the surface in such a state of preservation as to be used for pins about the frames and foundation piles for the building. A large elm, over four feet in diameter, was growing over this oak, showing that it must have been embedded for more than a century.

(Note: 1881 History; page 472: Morton's Mills - Mr. S. Morton built his first mill here in 1863-64, on sec. 33, in Douglas Township; but there had been a saw-mill here before. He put in one run of burs and the other necessary mill machinery, at a cost of \$1,800; and in Sept. 1875, there came a flood and washed it all out. In 1876 he put up a frame mill three stories above the basement, 30x40, one run of burs and all accompanying machinery, driven by Leffel's patent turbine wheel. The whole cost from \$5,000 to \$6,000.

7 March; Review: The Wallace-Douglas Township postoffice was suspended last week. Cause--want of patronage. We are sorry to hear of this, but if it is a useless expense let it drop. Still we think the people of that vicinity might sustain so useful a thing if all would unite in buying their stamps there. We learn that Robt. Tubbs has started up a private P.O. of his own, the same being a tin box fastened on a post at the side of the former office. Bunker drops in and takes out mail matter, and Robt. is happy.

21 November; Review: Morton's Mill: ...About one year ago Mr. Morton erected a new mill with all modern improvements, and the excellent flour he is turning out



has gained for him a large patronage. Mr. Blackburn the kind and obliging miller, is probably one of the best in southern Iowa.

Mr. E. Higley, who recently commenced in the grocery trade at this place, keeps a fair stock, and sells as low as else where. He takes in exchange for goods nearly all kinds of produce at Villisca prices, and is building up a good trade.

Mr. B.F. Campbell, of twelve years experience in blacksmithing, opened up a shop here last week, and is now prepared to do horseshoeing or anything in his line on short notice.

The establishment of a post-office at this place would greatly accommodate a large number of persons residing in this part of the county, and we are glad to learn that a petition will soon be circulated for that purpose.

There is good fishing at the mill...

12 December; Review; Morton's Mill: A shooting match is to take place here on Christmas day. There will be plenty of turkeys and chickens for the targets, and if the weather is fair the attendance will no doubt be large.

The increase of custom at the mill makes it quite lively for the miller. Large settlements of farmers living eight and ten miles north and northwest are coming here with their grists. Everybody wants good flour, and it seems that they are fast finding out that Blackburn is the man that can make it.

The store and blacksmith shop are both doing a fair amount of business. If the times will admit, Mr. Higley contemplates building a new store opposite the mill in the spring.

Our District school, numbering about 30 pupils, commenced one week ago...

1879

3 July; Express: ...The C.B. & Q. surveying corps finished a line yesterday

from Villisca to Brenton's farm near Milford...

10 July; Review: (The editor of the *Review* and Frank Waterman drove from Villisca up the West Nodaway valley to Milford.) ...We halted for a few minutes at the splendid farm of R.F. Tubbs, who had just set up one of the Buckeye Mowers, sold by Messrs. Baner & Waterman, and the work being so simple had got it together in good shape...

1880

29 January; Review: The Methodist meeting at the Hobson school house is now running with a full attendance.

25 March; Review; Morton's Mill: Silas Morton, known as "the honest old miller", settled in the year 1863, and commenced milling the following year. Uncle Jake McCully was for ten years employed at this mill. Native lumber was also quite extensively manufactured here. In 1875 the high waters so damaged the mill, that it became necessary to erect a new one, which was built the following year with all the modern improvements. Mr. Bryson Blackburn, who has had charge of the mill during the past year, will on account of ill health, return to Milford about May 1st, at which time Mr. Morton will assume his old position as miller.

J.A. Hills keeps a good supply of sewing machine fixtures...Miss Margaret Jarboe will fit you out with a number one carpet, at low prices, by leaving your orders with her at the above place.

A post office was established at this place last spring. It is kept at the residence of Mr. Morton, who also keeps a good selection of groceries. Mr. Morton has just completed a fine new residence.

13 May; Review; Morton's Mill: Byron Blackburn took his family to Milford. He went to Mt. Etna to run the mill there.

--- Morton's Mills: Mr. Levi Dean began the herding season the 5th inst., with

132 head the first day. Mr. Dean herded at this place last year with satisfaction to all parties.

1881

16 June; Review: ...At Mortons Mills, Mr. Silas Morton says some of the hail stones weighed 4 ounces and measured 11 inches in circumference.

20 October; Review; Morton's Mills: Mr. F. Camel is doing a thriving business in the blacksmithing line.

--- Mr. Si. Morton makes the boss flour in his mills and as a consequence is having a good trade...

10 November; Review: ...Mr. Silas Morton wants to rent his mill...

1882

23 February; Review; Morton's Mills: The coal mining company are getting along finely with their work...

--- The boys in the string band of this place had a call to Adams County to furnish music for a grand ball...

1883

15 February; Review; Morton's Mills Middlings: ...We understand that Mr. Silas Morton has sold his mill and land to Mr. J.W. Kimel, of Illinois.

--- Mr. B.F. Campbell is doing a thriving blacksmith business.

(Note: 13 January 1884; Deed; William T. Atwood to Frank Campbell; Lot 1; two acres, South west corner of northwest quarter southeast quarter; Section 33...

(The tract was just north of the mill; Campbell opened a blacksmith shop in 1878 but it is uncertain if it had always been in that location or if a new one was built.)

14 June; Review: ...Silas Morton built and ran the Morton's Mills on the West Nodaway and lived there for nearly 20 years. But like all of us he prefers Adams County to Montgomery or any other soil. At the present time he is keeping, in good shape, too, the popular Farmer's Hotel. - from Adams County Gazette

12 July; Review: B.F. Clayton has taken the contract for carrying the mails from Villisca to Milford, and will run a first class passenger hack.

1884

18 January; Express; Morton's Mill: Mr. J.W. Kimball has moved from his old home in Illinois to this place to take possession of the mill property that he bought of Mr. Morton last spring. He has had the mill repaired and new machinery put in it until he has a first-class mill. He is now putting up a store 18x26, to accommodate his customers ...

7 February; Review; Morton's Mills: J.W. Kimel has got his store almost completed and will have the goods in before long and is doing a thriving business with his mill with that lively Samuel Collins at the hopper.

--- H.S. Figgins is still traveling agent for the Red Oak Marble Works and is doing a thriving business.

1 August; Express: Kimel's Mill, in Washington township, (sic) (formerly known as Morton's mill), has been greatly improved under its new manager and proprietor. The latest improved machinery has been put in, and the building thoroughly overhauled and painted. It has a never failing water power and turns out an excellent brand of flour. In connection with this business, Mr. J.W. Kimel has established a general merchandise store in which can always be found a good selection of goods. Lara Kimel, a genial and accommodating gentleman, officiates as postmaster...

29 August; Express: About five years ago, Judge Emory Higley, of THE EXPRESS, circulated a petition for the establishment of a postoffice, for the convenience of the people of Washington township, this county, which was granted by the Postmaster-General and given the name of Morton's Mills, in honor of the old miller, Samuel Morton, on the Nodaway river. The business of the office is rapidly increasing, and since Mr. Kimel purchased the mill, quite a little berg has sprung up there, and is now more familiarly know as Kimel's mill, which would now be a more appropriate name for the postoffice, and a petition will soon be forwarded to Washington asking this change.

2 November; Express: M.R. Bird, carpenter and builder, has moved from Sciola to Mortons Mill.

14 November; Red Oak Sun; Kimel's Mills: Charlie Atwood's string band furnished music for an exhibition held in the Milford hall last Friday night...

28 November; Sun; Morton's Mill: Everybody watch your turkey roasts this week.

--- The debating society at Bean's school house is quite a success.

--- Uncle J. Henry McCue's corn crib gave way the other day and let its contents out all over the side hill. The corn crop is too heavy for weak cribs this year.

--- Mrs. W. Figgins was badly hurt last week by a cow being frightened and running over her.



19 December; Express; The County: M.R. Bird is prepared to do all kinds of wagon and buggy repairing.

--- J.W. Kimel...is putting in new machinery and overhauling the mill; also

a power corn sheller for the use of customers free of charge.

1885

9 January; Sun; Kimmel's Mills: Our sporting young men participated in a wolf hunt last Saturday. No wolves but sad havoc was made among the rabbits.

6 February; Express; Morton's Mills: Will Sprague and W. Judd made quite a large shipment of furs last week, to New York City.

--- A petition has been forwarded to the Postmaster-General to change the name of our postoffice to Kimmel Mills, as there are only twelve or fourteen Morton's Mills in the United States.

20 March; Express; Mortons Mills: M.R. Bird...will repair the schoolhouse. It needs it.

(Note: The 1881 map showed No. 5 on the original site, but an 1883 map placed it in the northwest corner of Sec. 34. That may have been an error; for many years the schoolhouse stood on the northwest corner of the southwest quarter, Sec. 27, where it was known as the Allard school. It may have been the one named Mt. Carmel.)

10 July; Express; Morton's Mills: John Focht, J.R. Barker, E.O. McCreight and M.J. Cross have bought self-binders.

--- The glorious Fourth was celebrated by a picnic dinner at J.W. Kimmel's.

24 July; Sun; Morton's Mills: There are more fiddlers in this locality to the square mile than anywhere else in the known world.

31 July; Sun; Morton's Mills: Lara Kimmel severs his connection with the store and post office this week. He will be succeeded by J.B. Kimmel.

28 August; Sun; Morton's Mills: O.W. Bean has bought the stock of goods of J.W. Kimmel. He will be the postmaster.

--- Last Sunday's rain was one of the heaviest ever known hereabout...The water was almost a foot deep in Kimmel's store. The Hobson bridge is off its foundation.

--- J.W. Kimmel's handsome residence is about done.



4 November; Review; Mortons Mills: Last Saturday there was a base ball game at Mortons Mills between the Wolf Ridge (Wallin) Red White and Blue nine and the West Nodaway Club.

3 December; Sun; Morton's Mills: There was a shooting match on Thanksgiving Day by the Kimmel shooting club, and a supper by the defeated side.

25 December; Sun; Morton's Mills: Some of the boys in this vicinity displayed their cowboy tendencies at the Bean school house a week or so ago by shooting several holes in the floor and ceiling, breaking the stove and stealing the water bucket.

1886

15 January; Sun; Morton's Mills: Atwood Brothers furnished the music for the masquerade at Stanton New Year's Eve.

--- W.A. Focht, teacher of the Mayflower school, taught on New Year's day. It would be a good idea if our other teachers would do likewise or make up the day lost by taking the holidays.

--- The West Nodaway gun club had a fine shoot here on New Year's day...with turkeys as prizes. There was some star shooting done.

28 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: Charley Atwood has given up hack driving...

--- The school board has passed a regulation requiring the people of each school district to build a good storm cave...

2 April; Sun; Mortons Mills: W.A. Atwood is now agent for Dr. Baker's pain relief, Mr. Dodge having resigned.

18 June; Sun; Morton's Mills: Hon. F.P. Greenlee, of Villisca, will be the orator for our Fourth of July celebration. After a basket dinner...then will come games, races, etc. The West Nodaway gun club are making arrangements to get Capt. Bogardus, the rifle glass ball breaker, here. At night there will be a fine display of fireworks...

20 August; Sun; Mortons Mills: R.M. Cooper and C.M. Miller own a threshing machine in partnership.

22 October; Sun; Morton's Mills: S.I. Atwood has bought out O.W. Bean and will hereafter attend strictly to business...

5 November; Sun; Morton's Mills: A.G. Burnet, the new miller, has arrived and is at work in Mr. Kimel's mills.

22 November; Sun: The Wolf Ridge nine gained glory at Mortons Mills Saturday by beating the West Nodaway nine at baseball, the score standing 45 to 23.

1887

14 January; Sun; Morton's Mills: S.I. Atwood is busy putting up ice for summer use. He intends running a butcher wagon next summer.

3 June; Sun: The new officers of the Douglass Farmers' Alliance No. 535 are W.H. Case president, L.D. Steinmetz vice-president, Melvin Focht secretary, Wm. McCue treasurer, P.S. Focht corresponding secretary...At the meeting last Saturday the question for debate was, "Resolved, That Horses are More Profitable to Raise Than Cattle"...

22 July; Sun; Morton's Mills: While John Warfield was out cutting oats last Saturday two of his fine spring colts fell in the spring well. Mr. W. found them pleading piteously for escape...The colts had evidently got scared at something and had jumped over the railing around the well. They were sitting on their haunches in about four feet of water. They were pulled out unhurt.

9 September; Sun; Morton's Mills: Last Saturday several of the young fellows who are interested in baseball met on the farm of Wm. Focht, had a good game and afterwards took steps toward permanent organization of a nine in this part of the county.

21 October; Sun; Morton's Mills: Our butchers have quit the business until next season, when they will begin again.

16 December; Sun; Morton's Mills: A horse will be the prize in a raffle at Morton's Mills, Dec. 24. There will be 100 tickets at \$1 per ticket, and when they are all sold the drawing will occur, the man holding the winning ticket getting the horse.

--- There has been a rifle team organized at Morton's Mills...None are allowed to shoot unless they are 50 years of age or over. Come and see the team shoot, the Saturday before Christmas.

1888

10 February; Sun; Mortons Mills: The Northeastern orchestra furnished the music for the military ball at Red Oak last Friday evening.

24 February; Sun; Morton's Mills: Morton's Mills is a thriving little place, with live business men. First is J.W. Kimel, who owns a flour and feed mill and has a fine run of business. Next is our post master and groceryman, S.E. Atwood, who besides being an accommodating official does a good

business in merchandising, having most of the trade for miles around. Next is the new blacksmith, Chas. Stohl, who is giving good satisfaction, and also the gunsmith who has been kept busy repairing guns for the boys and for the town gun club which is in good trim. Then there is a string band called the West Nodaway orchestra, and last but not least is the new brass band, organized Jan. 31. The boys immediately ordered their instruments, which came in just nine days. The boys expect to be able to play anything in a few months. The band meets twice each week at the Bean school house. No outsiders allowed.

11 May; Sun; Mortons Mills: J.W. Kime1 has put up a windmill.

25 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: The Nodaway Valley band has bought the Noble township band rack...Geo. Rosecrants, while riding home the other night, had his cart upset and it ran over his band instrument, mashing it in bad shape.

22 June; Sun; Morton's Mills: Mr. Kime1 is having a bad time with the dam at his mill. It is washing out on the lower part in the middle. He can do no grinding at present.

29 June; Sun; Mortons Mills: The timber for the frame of the new hay barn that J.M. Holmes has just built is of walnut from trees that were planted by himself since coming to Montgomery County 20 years ago.

6 July; Sun; Morton's Mills: The woods were full of people here yesterday and our celebration was a fine success. Milford was neighborly and sent down a good delegation. Moyer's Cornet band made good music. W.W. Merritt gave us a fine oration...and there was a good program with fireworks in the evening. The attendance was estimated at 3000.

13 July; Sun; Morton's Mills: The fireworks exploded on the Fourth. Luckily no

one was hurt...The band boys cleared \$140 off of their stand...The Democrat rally, as some of our Republican friends called our celebration, went off in fine shape. Because we had a speaker and president of

the same party some of the Republicans took great offense and insisted on going to other places...But to their sorrow we had a grand time anyhow.



--- Villisca, July 10 - The *Letter* tells of a suspension bridge across the West Nodaway river which J.W. Kime1 has erected as a private enterprise at his mill near Morton's Mills post office. The bridge is 100 feet in length, is supported by wire cable, and will bear up 2000 pounds weight with safety. It is patterned after the Niagara suspension bridge, and is a great convenience to the public as well as undoubtedly a profitable stroke of enterprise for Mr. Kime1.

10 August; Sun; Morton's Mills: H.E. Roach, from Dakota, is the new blacksmith of this place. He is an experienced smith...

(Note: In April 1887 Frank Campbell sold Lot 1 to J.W. Kime1. Kime1 sold it to E.L. Roach 22 May 1889.)



28 September; Sun; Morton's Mills: Moyer's Cornet Band is now neatly uniformed in Blue, with gold trimmings.



The caps are known as relief caps. The uniforms were made in Philly. (*Review*: ...lavishly trimmed with gold braid. The drum major's suit is especially stunning.)

12 October; Red Oak Independent: Granger Musicians - Few people in the county have not heard of Moyer's Cornet Band, but these boys haven't done much blowing, and few who have seen them in their bright, well-fitting uniforms and heard their music are acquainted with the circumstances of their organization and credit them with the enterprise they have really displayed. At first thought the organization of a band doesn't seem any considerable task among a lot of social, music-loving young men. This would be the case in town, but reflect that the members of Moyer's Cornet Band are all young farmers and living far apart; that practice means a ride of from one to four miles, and that every attainment in the way of instruments or uniforms is a matter of personal expense to each member, and you will have some idea of the difficulties they have overcome. They organized last March and have been practicing pretty steadily ever since. While they are not yet prepared to compete with Bruce Commandery, they can make music that adds greatly to the attraction of any occasion at which they are present...

19 October; Sun; Morton's Mills: Rev. Walters has been holding meetings at the Bean school house for the past week. He was trying to organize a Christian denomination.

2 November; Sun; Morton's Mills: There is more politics in Douglas township to the square inch than any place in the state.

14 December; Review; Milford: Our township used to bear a very unsavory name, as respects its temperance character. It used to be a common saying that a jug of whiskey would carry Douglas Township...

21 March; Review: Our town was favored with a visit from Moyer's Cornet Band of Morton's Mills Saturday evening. The band of 17 members arrived about 6 p.m. and drove about the streets in their band wagon, drawn by two matched teams of grays, and discoursing fine music as they went...Later they visited the headquarters of the Southwestern band and both bands favored the town with a moonlight serenade...

11 July; Review; Morton's Mills: The celebration here was a complete success. All enjoyed the day to their heart's content...The stand conducted by the ladies for the benefit of the Holmes M.E. Chapel took in over \$50 cash. Everybody had a free dinner from well-filled baskets.

22 August; Review: Church Dedication-Holmes Chapel, situated nine miles north and one west of Villisca, was dedicated, on Sunday, the 18th inst...

The church is 28x40, 14 ft. corner-posts on brick foundation, surmounted by a spire and is furnished in good style. The pulpit is especially good. The entire cost, exclusive of stoves and bell, which are yet to be provided, has been something over \$1,500.

...Not more than one-third of those in attendance could be seated in the house. Everybody had plenty to eat when the hour to display chicken arrived...

6 September; Sun; Morton's Mill: W.A. Atwood has bought a new sorghum mill.

19 December; Review: The (Band) hall stands on the road running east and west past Mr. Atwood's and across the bridge directly north of the mill. It is a frame building 18x36, one story and has three windows on each side and fronts to the south. The cost was between \$300 and \$400. Mr. Atwood donated the grounds upon which it stands for the benefit of the boys.

27 December; Sun; Morton's Mills: The festival for the benefit of Moyer's band given at the opening of the new hall netted about \$28...The band was given a nice chandelier by F.H. Smith of Villisca.

1890

2 January; Review; Mortons Mills: Moyer's Cornet Band Boys gave an oyster supper and dance Thursday evening. There was about one hundred twenty people present and although the crowd was large every one seemed to enjoy themselves tip-top.

3 September; Review; Sciola: NOTICE: Persons who have been in the habit of shooting, hunting, fishing, etc., on the Sabbath day, in the vicinity of Sciola and Morton's Mills, are hereby referred to Sec. 4072 of the Code of Iowa, and notice is hereby given that the law in such cases made and provided, will be promptly enforced hereafter. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Law-abiding Citizens

23 October; Review; Sciola: Sam W. Baker began carrying mail on the Villisca and Milford route Tuesday. He expects to be well equipped for carrying passengers, parcels, etc. Leave orders at the post office.

7 November; Sun; Morton's Mills: The band wishes to say that those who bring liquor to their dances, either inside or out of them, that it would please the band if they would stay away.

14 November; Express; Mortons Mills: It is the fashion for the young ladies to carry guns now to protect their western relatives who come back to Iowa.

21 November; Express; Morton's Mills: Through the efforts of Hon. J.W. Yergey and Congressman Reed, a daily mail service has been provided from Villisca to Sciola and Morton's Mills instead of two a week as heretofore.

1891

2 July; Review: Luke Walker took charge of the mail route yesterday morning between Morton's Mill and Villisca.

27 August; Review; Sciola: Sam Light and family moved to Villisca last week. Mr. Light will carry the mail from Villisca to Morton's Mills.

23 October; Independent; Morton's Mills: W.T. Atwood is running the molasses works day and night.

6 November; Sun; Morton's Mills: A.S. Prather has sold 150 bbls. of apples to parties at Audubon.

27 November; Sun; Morton's Mills: Atwood and Upp's steam thresher is out in northern Nebraska.

25 December; Independent; Morton's Mills: R.C. Langdon is learning the blacksmith trade from Ed. Roach.

1892

1 January; Independent; Morton's Mills: We understand that J.P. Mayhew won one half of a beef at the shooting match Christmas.

--- A neighbor surely put a stick or two in the coffee Christmas as one person was seen coming home with his overcoat on wrong side out and another was seen trying to hook his horse up to his cart wrong end to. Come boys that is too bad.

8 January; Independent; Morton's Mills: Our mail carrier is earning his 90 cents a day over these rough roads.

15 January; Sun; Morton's Mills: Blacksmith Roach has been having a rush of work in horseshoeing.

4 February; Review; Morton's Mills: A shooting match, or anything resembling it, would be well attended in this

vicinity, if the participator's nearest neighbor lay a corpse.

15 February; Sun; Sciola: A dancing club has been organized and gives dancing parties at the band hall twice a month.

8 July; Sun; Mortons Mills: It took vigorous work all day last Sunday to stop a leak in the mill dam.

29 July; Express: EDITOR EXPRESS: - The Mortons Mills hounds are on the rampage again. Part of the ring killed a fine Polled-Angus heifer for me...and on Saturday night, the 17th, the whole pack got loose and got on a drunk, and in their drunken, low-lived meanness they lost their bottle of dandelion bitters, and thought they lost it in Old Kimmel's fish pond (which is private property) while in swimming. From the tracks I think they tried to seine it out, but failing that they done the most cowardly, mean trick imaginable, which was by taking spade and shovel and digging away the embankment of the pond and letting the water out, and after taking what fish they wanted, let the balance run out and perish on the ground. We took considerable pride in this fish pond, having went to work some two years ago and after spending considerable time and money in its construction, sent to Illinois and procured a stock of the German carp family of fish, which was just getting in shape to commence realizing some result from...

J.W. Kimmel

9 September; Independent; Morton's Mills: J.M. Reticker is now merchant and P.M. at the Mills.

--- Some shysters are making themselves quite useful by carrying off their neighbor's beehives and robbing them.

1893

20 January; Sun; Morton's Mills: J.M. Reticker has put up 30 tons of ice.

9 February; Review; Sciola: Monday was so cold that Sam Light failed to go out on the Morton's Mills and Sciola route. This is only the second trip he has missed since he began driving the USM.

17 February; Express; Mortons Mills: Shooting match at Mortons Mill every Saturday.

12 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: J.W. Reticker will put a wagon on the road to deliver goods from his store and bring in butter and eggs.

--- J.W. Kimmel has had the washout at the mill repaired. The water cut a channel about 10 feet wide around the water wheel.

29 June; Review: Mortons Mills Band will furnish the music for Elliott July 4th.

24 August; Review: Moyer's Cornet Band, of Mortons Mills, will give a festival and grand musical concert of band and orchestra music on the evening of August 26 at W.T. Atwoods.

--- Kimmel's mill hasn't turned a wheel for four months. The mill dam is still out.

1894

23 February; Sun; Morton's Mills: Sam'l Light who has been carrying the mail from Villisca to this place has retired and is succeeded by Elias Lewis.

20 March; Sun; Mortons Mills: J.M. Focht has sold his clover seed for five dollars a bushel.

22 June; Express; Sciola: Mortons Mills are going to celebrate the Fourth in grand old style...The celebration will be held one half mile east of Holmes Chapel and one mile south of Mortons Mills...

31 August; Sun: John Reticker, of Morton's Mills...is fitting himself for a

physician and completes the course this winter in the medical college connected with the state university at Iowa City.

12 October; Sun: MORTON'S MILLS - The biggest political meeting ever held here was the one of last Friday afternoon at which Gen. J.B. Weaver was the speaker. He had an audience of near 400 and spoke from in front of the band hall...He made the issues of tariff reform and free coinage of silver the prominent ones in his speech...

1895

22 March; Express; Milford: We are told that Mr. Frank, our old miller, has purchased the Kime1 mill property and will repair it for business.

(Note: Apparently this didn't come off. No further account of the mill has been found.)

5 April; Sun; Morton's Mills: Dr. John Reticker has been trying his hand at curing measles.

--- James Sprague tore down the old Morton house and rebuilt it on the farm of his brother Charles and will live in the house.

27 June; Review: This is the last week for Sam'l Light to carry the mail to Mortons Mills. On July 1, Mr. Kountz will take the route.

6 December; Sun; Morton's Mills: That old landmark, the Bean school house, has been moved from where it has stood for 25 years to a new site half a mile west of the old location.

--- Swanson Bros. have bought E.H. Roach's blacksmith shop, and have engaged a man to run it. They bought the two acres where the shop is and have begun the erection of a store building and will conduct a general store. Mr. Roach will move to Villisca.

(Note: The first store was in the miller's house. J.W. Kime1 erected a store building just east of the mill. Swanson's new store was north of the blacksmith shop on Lot 1.)

--- Alix: The school board of Douglas township have adopted a new system of school books, exchanging the new books for the old ones without charge.

1896

9 January; Review; No. 10: Cap't. Reticker has sold his store at Mortons Mills to Swanson Bros.

10 January; Sun; Morton's Mills: Swanson Bros. have moved into their new store. The building is 20x30 feet in size and makes a nice store room.

24 January; Sun; Alix: Last Friday evening the band boys of Morton's Mills gave a masquerade ball at the band hall. There was a large crowd invited...The maskers began to arrive early and wore every conceivable garb. Some didn't know their own better halves until they unmasked. The dance went merrily on till midnight when the manager had the gentlemen get partners for a grand march.

7 February; Sun; Morton's Mills: The addition to the hall built on the east by the band boys, which is large enough for the musicians, gives much more room in the hall for the dancers.

15 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: Geo. Beckwith & Son are having a good run of business in their blacksmith shop.

(Note: In March 1897 Swansons sold to Beckwith the south 95 feet of Lot 1, where the blacksmith shop stood.)

12 June; Review: All persons interested in cleaning the Douglas Cemetery of brush and weeds and straightening tombs of the dead are requested to meet there early

Friday morning, June 12th, with hoes, axes and spades for the purpose.

16 July; Review: Disciples of Christ-Dedicate a New Church building at Mortons Mills - About the last of March Rev. J.K. Hester, pastor of the Christian Church of Villisca, went out to hold a short meeting in the Allard school house. The meeting lasted about ten days, and during that meeting there were some conversions with whom, and those disciples already living in the community, about 30 in all, organized a church and interested Uncle Jack Petty and his family members of the church at Elliott and others, in building a church house at Douglas cemetery on the ground where the Bean school house stood. Subscriptions were very liberal and the first load of material was put on the ground May 13th. The building committee ...let the contract to Rush Hale, who employed Joe Dayhuff to begin work at once. The building was ready July 1, but was not dedicated until last Lord's Day, July 12.

The church called A.M. Haggard, Secretary of the Iowa Christian convention, whose business it is to dedicate new churches in the state, to raise the remaining amount necessary to pay for the building and dedicate it to the service of God. The services began on Saturday evening with a sermon from Sec. Haggard. Early Lord's Day morning teams, footmen and horseback riders began to throng the roads until more than 250 teams were counted. The crowd being estimated as numbering from one thousand to fifteen hundred.

Sec. Haggard preached again at 11:00 to those who entered the house and could stand near enough to hear. The crowd then retired to the Kimel woods by the old mill and ate their dinner and returned to church again at 3:30 p.m...The building is a neat structure, 30x40, corner entrance, with artistically arranged gables on the south and east, capable of seating about 200. Everybody praises the design, workmanship and artistic beauty of the building...The organization is

very grateful to all persons who have aided in any way to start this good work.

30 July; Review: There will be three immersions at Morton's Mills next Lords Day afternoon at 4 o'clock.

14 August; Sun: Morton's Mills: Several parties attending church have had portions of their harness stolen within the past few weeks.

26 October; Express; Alix: This week ends the Milford and Mortons Mill peddling wagon. Mr. Duff of Milford, having bought the Mills stock of goods. There will still be two wagons on this route every week.

(Note: We are not told where the Duff store was; he didn't own land at Morton Mills. Perhaps he purchased or rented the building on Lot 1. Duff was also the postmaster.)

17 November; Express: Mr. J.W. Kimel of Morton Mills sent to the *Express* office last week the remains of a flag which he flung to the breeze four years ago to fly till a Republican President was elected. He took it down after the returns showed that McKinley was winner. It was a fortunate thing that the Republicans prevailed this time for...we fear Mr. Kimel's flag would hardly have stood another four years of sun and storm.

25 December; Sun: Morton's Mills: There will be a Christmas tree and a program of appropriate exercises at the Memorial Christian church on Christmas Eve. Ten cents admission will be charged adults to defray expenses.



--- E.L. Duff is our new postmaster.

1897

18 March; Review: The patrons of the Morton's Mills and Sciola Post Offices have petitioned the postal authorities at

Washington to change the route of the mail carrier from Morton's Mills to Villisca, instead of Villisca to Morton's Mills... This will give the patrons at Morton's Mills and Sciola much better service, as their mail will be delivered the same day it arrives.



30 April; Sun; Morton's Mills: Miss Bertha Buffington is the proud possessor of a fine new bicycle.

--- The mail carrier has moved here from Villisca,

and occupies the rooms over Mr. Kimel's store.

6 August; Sun; Morton's Mills: Heber Powers and Will Stearns have bought a threshing machine.

31 December; Sun; Morton's Mills: There was a shooting match here Christmas day.

1898

25 February; Sun: The Post Office at Alix, Douglas township, has been abolished for the reason that no one would consent to act as postmaster, the salary amounting to only about \$22 a year. There are half a dozen post offices within a radius of eight miles of Alix. Mail for patrons of the Alix office will go to Grant.

18 March; Sun; Morton's Mills: Sam'l Wallace gave a stereoptican and ventriloquist entertainment here, in a tent, Friday and Saturday evenings.

--- Robert and John Taylor have gone with Nathaniel Gallup to the Klondike gold fields. Mr. Gallup furnishes the outfits.

29 April; Express; Mortons Mills: The saw mill men built a barn near their mill.

5 May; Review: I.F. Kunce has sold his team and wagon to C.V. Thompson of Mortons Mills, and on Monday turned over the Star Mail Route from Mortons Mills to Villisca.

13 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: All who are interested are requested to meet at the Memorial Christian church Saturday August 15, for the purpose of cleaning up the Robertson cemetery. The Ladies' Aid society will be on the grounds, ready to serve a good 10 cent dinner.

10 June; Express; Morton Mills: Burning off the cemetery isn't giving very good satisfaction, as it destroyed a good many flowers and shrubbery. Some are talking of moving their dead to Milford.

15 September; Sun; Morton's Mills: Mr. Lewis, the new blacksmith, has moved here...from Strand.

1899

17 February; Express; Mortons Mill: E.L. Duff has a force of men putting up ice...

7 April; Sun; Morton's Mills: J.R. Purdy has purchased a new folding saw machine for sawing wood.

27 April; Review; Tenville: J.W. Mullen entered upon his duties as "Hog Cholera Inspector" last Friday. Douglas, Jackson and Washington Townships will be under his supervision. Anyone whose herd is affected by swine plague or cholera are requested to notify Dr. J.W. Mullen of Sciola.



5 May; Express; Mortons Mill: W.A. Hale...will organize a camp of the Modern Woodmen of America at the band hall on Friday evening next.

(Note: The Modern Woodmen was an insurance order. It was popular, widespread and long-lived.)

19 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: The contract for carrying the mail after June 30 between Mortons Mills and Villisca has been let to Daniel Sprague of Mortons Mills at \$265 per year.

4 August; Express; Mortons Mill: The feather cleaners have gone. They left their machine here and will be back again in the fall...

1900

9 February; Express; Mortons Mill: Mrs. Joe McCully is kept busy weaving carpet.

15 March; Review: The Elgin Co. is preparing to put up a cream separator plant one mile east of Mortons Mills on A.D. Barker's farm. Milk from over 600 cows has been contracted for. The cream will be taken to Elliott to be churned. Fred Barker will have charge...

23 March; Sun; Morton's Mills: Eight teams hauled material for the new creamery Monday.

--- John Hinton has moved his cheese factory from Milford to P.S. Focht's farm, near Morton's Mills.

6 April; Sun; Mortons Mills: Thomas Mossman has the job of painting five of the school houses in Douglas Township at \$2 per day.

20 April; Sun; Morton's Mills: The foreman of the creamery company came this week and work will begin on the creamery building immediately.

14 June; Review: Rufus Rhue is building a new blacksmith shop east of Mortons Mill.

22 June; Sun; Morton's Mills: H.F. Porter of Milford will be the proprietor of a new store here and will be postmaster.

13 July; Sun; Morton's Mills: Bert Porter has had the store building moved out to the corner near Joseph McCully's.

(Note: 6 October 1900; Agreement of Lease...P.S. Focht...has rented to H.F. Porter...premises...commencing at the S.E. corner of the N.E. quarter of Sec. 33 ... and the store building and Blacksmith shop owned by H.F. Porter and located on these premises are not subject to the lease...rent \$50 per year...Four Dollars and 17 cents to be paid each month...use for no other purpose than for a Residence, Store and Blacksmith Shop...)

(Another item said that Porter had purchased the Ed Duff property at Morton's Mills. Probably Duff had been located on Lot 1; he didn't own the land but he may have owned the buildings.)

(It isn't known if Porter moved the blacksmith shop from Lot 1, or if it was already on the corner.)

31 August; Sun; Morton's Mills: The cheese factory is offered for sale as the owner can't give it proper attention.

14 September; Sun; Morton's Mills: Chas. Lafferty of Milford is the new mail carrier.

1901

4 January; Express; Douglas Township: M.I. Cross has one of the most solidly constructed frame barns in the county. He purchased the old Kimmel mill building and used it in the construction of a barn, the dimensions of which are: main building, 30x40 with 18 foot posts, and there is 86 feet of shed or stable room surrounding the main building. From the ground to the cone of the roof is 35 feet. He used about \$165 worth of new lumber and shingles in the barn.

(Note: It is said that the lean-to sheds were removed, and the top taken off; otherwise the whole mill was moved to the farm where Duane Bergren lives. New wings were built on the east and west. The interior still retained the heavy timber

construction necessary to support the weight of mill machinery. The building served for many years as a barn, and then the dilapidated structure was burned about 1990.

25 January; Sun; Morton's Mills: The Modern Woodmen camp here have bought the band hall and will fix it up for occupancy for a lodge room.

20 February; Review; Tenville: The mail route between Morton's Mills and Villisca changed hands last week, Mr. Lafferty having the misfortune to lose all his horses.

8 March; Sun; Milford: Mortons Mill is now connected with Milford by telephone line.

19 April; Express; Morton Mills: Powers & Johnson are doing a great work sawing wood this season. They sawed 40 big loads for W.T. Atwood one day last week.

10 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: The Memorial church here was struck by lightning during a storm Sunday morning and was badly damaged.

17 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: Mr. Pratt the blacksmith is building a new house here.

31 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: There were 7400 pounds of milk brought to the creamery Monday. It is the greatest quantity ever received here in one day.

16 August; Express; Morton Mills: Wm. T. Atwood has purchased a steam engine to run his sorghum factory with.

6 September; Sun; Morton's Mills: C.C. Mayhew has leased the creamery on the Barker farm and will take charge of the creamery.

13 September; Sun; Morton's Mills: Ernest Dunn, from near Des Moines, came Sunday to take charge of the creamery.

1 January; Review; Tenville: On account of the Seven Mile Telephone Company's line being overloaded the company was made two separate lines...



7 February; Sun; Morton's Mills: The Ladies' Aid society of Holmes Chapel met...Thanks are due Walter Prather for the pleasure afforded by his phonograph entertainment during the afternoon...

18 April; Express; Morton's Mills: Morton's Mills has recently organized a shooting club. It meets every Saturday afternoon. The boys do good work for amateurs at trap shooting.

--- We wonder what has become of our new Electric Railroad. We fear that it took on too heavy a charge of electricity and exploded...

18 April; Sun; Mortons Mills: Hal Damuth has a new bicycle.

2 May; Express; Mortons Mill: The wind of last night did considerable damage...The creamery was moved on its foundation...The damage was repaired.

23 May; Sun; Morton's Mills: New gasoline lamps now light the Woodmen hall here.



9 July; Review; Morton's Mills: An automobile passed through here the afternoon of the 4th. From

the appearance of the machine and the driver they had met with plenty of muddy roads, but they were able to travel up the road with locomotive speed.

25 July; Sun; Morton's Mills: Charles Johnson has bought H.F. Porter's stock of goods. Mr. Porter will move to Milford...

22 August; Sun: Elgin Creamery Co. Broke - The Elgin Creamery Co...the biggest butter making concern in the country, has gone into the hand of a receiver...There is a creamery of the company at Elliott, and three skimming stations of the company in the county, at Villisca, Mortons Mills and Stanton...It is said that only a few patrons of the Mortons Mills station stopped bringing milk, the receipts there on Tuesday being about 4000 pounds...

27 August; Review; Mortons Mill: Looks as though Mortons Mill was going to be a railroad town. The surveyor ran a line through here last Saturday.

19 September; Sun; Mortons Mills: Ernest Dunn, who has been running the creamery here for the past year, has a position as manager of the Elliott creamery now. Mack Damuth has charge of the creamery here.

2 October; Express; Mortons Mill: The Atwood steam sorghum factory is running full blast. They had 15 acres of cane.

--- Our new merchant, Chas. Johnson, has purchased a fine delivery wagon and expects to do most of his hauling.

22 October; Review; Mortons Mill: Chas. Johnson has been grading Main street and First Ave. near his store.

1903

17 April; Express; Douglas: The Mortons Mills and Grant telephone lines will be completed next week.

3 July; Elliott Graphic: John Damuth of Mortons Mills was a caller Monday. He says the water has been so high in his valley this spring that every democrat and populist was washed away and that he has to kick the catfish away from his door every morning.

28 August; Review: ...At Morton's Mill the water is six inches above the floor

of the store and the store keeper's residence, while the bridge just west is under water one foot...

28 August; Express; Mortons Mill: J.W. Atwood attended the Fair at Red Oak last week, where he had the Sharpless Cream Separator on exhibition. He reports good success.

2 October; Sun; Mortons Mills: John Prather and Allan Bryson have purchased the store and residence of Charles Johnson here, and have taken possession of the store...

20 November; Sun; Mortons Mills: John Prather has bought the interest of Allen Bryson, in the store here, and the firm of Prather & Bryson is no more.

1904

26 February; Sun: John M. Prather has been appointed postmaster of Mortons Mills to succeed C.W. Johnson, resigned.

17 June; Sun; Mortons Mill: The trustees of Memorial cemetery have decided to buy two acres of land adjoining the cemetery on the east and to vacate 1 1/2 acres of the western part of the cemetery on account of the 1 1/2 acres being seepy. There are some 20 graves in the territory to be vacated and the bodies therein will be removed to another part of the cemetery.

(Note: 23 March 1882; Alfred Hebard to Douglas Township Trustees ...three acres from North side East half NWSE, Section 32...)

1905

23 June; Sun; Mortons Mills: The Mortons Mills post office will be discontinued on June 30.

13 July; Review; Morton's Mill: Hurrah for Mortons Mill! It sports a fine new flag pole.

22 December; Sun; Mortons Mills: F.W. Jarboe has closed a contract to act as traveling salesman for the Closson Medicine Co. for another year.

1906

17 May; Review; Mortons Mills: M.C. Prathers are the owners of a fine new two-seated carriage.

31 May; Review; Tenville: ...Morton's Mill Cummins nine, 23; Hacklebarney Jack Oaks 6.

(Note: This baseball team seems to have a political flavor to it; Albert B. Cummins was governor of Iowa at the time.)

7 September; Sun; Morton's Mills: There will be an elocutionary entertainment at Holmes Chapel Friday evening...

1907

26 April; Sun; Mortons Mills: Mrs. M.C. Prather was bitten by a horse last Sunday and in consequence has a very sore arm...

9 August; Sun; Mortons Mills: Miss Mary Ervin is acting as mail carrier on route 2 out of Villisca while her father, N.H. Ervin, is enjoying a vacation.

13 September; Sun; Mortons Mills: A great many from here attended Barnum & Baileys's show at Red Oak on Thursday.

20 September; Sun; Mortons Mills: J.M. Prather, who recently sold the Mortons Mills store to his brother, Walter, is remaining at the store for a few weeks. He has not decided as to his future vocation or location.

11 October; Sun; Mortons Mills: W.B. Prather is building an addition to his store.

13 December; Sun; Mortons Mills: Hal Damuth and John Cunningham started on a

trapping tour last Friday morning. They have a house built on their wagon and are quite well fixed for their outing.

1908

17 April; Sun; Mortons Mills: Fletcher Gourley has bought the Allard 35 acres near the store.

18 June; Review; Grant: H.S. Rattenborg, vice-president, and C.B. Judd, chief engineer of the AN & S R'way Co., are in this vicinity this week in the interests of the new proposed railroad, between Atlantic and Villisca. They have so far sold 150 shares at \$150 the share...The amount asked is \$50,000...

14 August; Sun; Mortons Mill: Hal Damuth killed two rattlesnakes and another large snake while working in the Memorial cemetery one day last week.

20 November; Sun; Morton Mills: Fletcher Gourley has bought the old buildings which stand on the site of the old mill and will move them to his farm.

1909

28 May; Sun; Mortons Mills: Copies of the *Methodist Gleaner* were distributed Sunday at Holmes Chapel. This is a newsy and helpful little paper conducted by Rev. J.S. Young, the pastor of Holmes Chapel and at Milford, and gives news that every member of the church and resident of the neighborhood will be glad to know.

16 July; Sun; Mortons Mills: The flood last week did a great deal of damage in this vicinity, drowning livestock and destroying many acres of grain...Woodmen hall was washed from its foundation and lodged against a tree on the opposite side of the road...The bridge just north of W.B. Prather's store was washed out...also (many others).

5 November; Sun; Mortons Mills: W.B. Prather has a new automobile.

1910

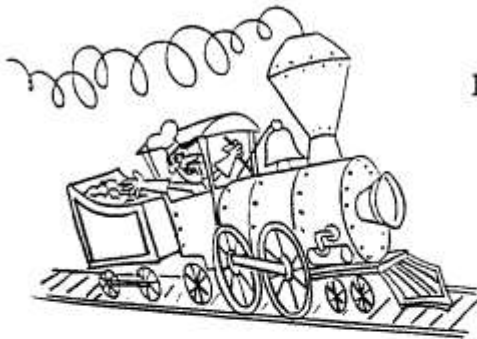
28 April; Review; Tenville: The Woodmen boys had their hall moved near the Mortons Mill store the first of the week.

(Note: The hall was placed north of the store. A later item said that it was located at No. 108 North Main Street.)

20 May; Express: ...According to astronomers we passed through the tail of Haley's Comet Wednesday evening; nothing of an unusual sensation was perceptible to the average being...there were perhaps a few of the more superstitious who were alarmed over the prospect for the annihilation of the world...

21 June; Review; Grant: ...The graders are working on the A.N. & S. north of Grant.

16 December; Sun; Grant: Most all those that could get away and had teams have gone to Villisca to haul ties and rails for the A.N. & S. railroad in order to help them get through by Dec. 31...



1911

5 January; Review: Silver Spike Driven Opening A.N. & S.R.R. - The driving of the silver spike...took place Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 27, 1910, at a point nearly one and one-half miles south of the town of Grant...

...The north end crew operating the mammoth Hurley track laying machine reached Grant on Christmas day...The south end crew which had been running north end men a close race, did all its track laying by hand...

20 January; Sun; Mortons Mills: The A.N. & S. officials were in Morton's Mills last Friday afternoon locating a siding yard and depot. The siding yard will be put in immediately. Morton's Mills people have organized a Boosters' club, and have a nice sum raised for a new depot.

26 January; Review: The only passenger coach in the service of the AN & S was burned to the trucks at Atlantic last Friday evening...

21 April; Express; Atlantic: The trainmen of the Atlantic North & South are out on strike again. They refuse to take out the trains until they are paid.

10 August; Review: The section men are working on a siding at Mortons Mill. Stock yards will soon be erected there and then will be ready for business.

15 September; Sun; Mortons Mills: The new depot, a building 18 by 34 feet, is about ready for occupancy.

21 September; Review; Mortons Mills: Uncle Billy Atwood is making molasses full force now. He expects to keep 12 men employed.

--- Mr. Jim Umphress and a force of men were up last week and moved W.B. Prather's store from the corner down next to the railroad track which will make it more convenient for handling freight. Mr. Prather is also going to build an addition of 20 feet on the front end of his store.

28 September; Review; Mortons Mill: Mr. Allen has a carload of coal on the railroad track for sale here...

21 October; Christian Standard; page 39: Tabernacle Meeting Near Villisca, Ia.- We closed a big tabernacle meeting in the country, fourteen miles north of Villisca, Ia., last Sunday. The visible results of this meeting were forty additions, thirty-five of these by baptism, one from the Baptist and four by statement. This country church is very weak as far as

numbers and finances are concerned but they are full of faith and are willing to undertake great things in the service of the Lord. They had enough faith in the meeting that they built a tabernacle, seating six hundred people, and planted it half way between the country church and the little town of Grant, four miles to the north ...we doubt if there have been any meetings in which the church has shown more loyalty and right-down earnestness and consecration than this little congregation of disciples showed in this meeting. It is simply an example of what a weak country church can do if they have sufficient faith to plan for great things...

26 October; Review; Mortons Mill: Turner Bros. employed John Rhue to help in the starting of their elevator.

--- E.E. Lehnan of Corning was here Monday and picked out a location for his elevator. It will be built just south of the stock yards, he having bought land of Fletcher Gourley. He will commence work this week...Mr. Lehnan also will build a big coal shed...

3 November; Sun; Mortons Mills: Mortons Mills will soon have two elevators. Turners of Red Oak, and E.E. Lehnan, of Corning, are each of them beginning work on their elevators.

(Note: No Turner elevator was built. They had erected one at Sciola earlier in the year.)

23 November; Review; Mortons Mill: It is rumored that a meeting was held at Mortons Mill, Ia., Thursday night, Nov. 16, and the city was incorporated...John Sprague, Mayor...

21 December; Review; Mortons Mill: Scott Wilson...is expected to start a building at once. In one part he will buy produce and in the front part he will run an eating house. He also expects to put up a feed barn as soon as possible.

16 February; Sun; Mortons Mills: Carl Figgins, from Villisca, has opened a blacksmith shop here.

--- Jasper Langdon has given up his employment as a clerk in the W.B. Prather store and will take up carpenter work.

8 March; Sun; Mortons Mills: The S.H. Wilson store building, 24 by 30 feet in size, with a lean-to 16 by 24, is nearing completion.

28 March; Review; Mortons Mill: B.C. Mulholland's goods arrived here Tuesday for Wilson's store.

29 March; Sun; Mortons Mills: Gas lighting plants have been installed in the stores of W.B. Prather and Scott Wilson.

11 April; Review; Mortons Mill: A car load of lumber arrived for the Fullerton Lumber Co...The company has a tract of land from E.S. Harlan that lays next to the side track. Their shed will be 30x100 feet and will handle everything in the lumber line.

23 August; Sun; Mortons Mills: Fletcher Gourley has sold a lot to parties who will build an implement store here.

--- Mortons Mills is to have a bank, a number of Villisca capitalists having formed an organization for carrying on the business. They have bought a lot just east of the Prather store and will build a bank there.

6 September; Sun; Mortons Mills: Geo. Harrell, from Villisca, was here lately to assist in the rush at the blacksmith shop:

--- R.S. Posten, from Villisca, has the contract for erecting the new bank building. The building will be completed in about two weeks.

19 September; Review; Mortons Mill: Carl Williams living east of Hayes, has purchased a 55 foot lot in Mortons Mill of S.H. Wilson and will erect a building 20x36 feet, two stories, which will be used for a meat market and a restaurant which will be conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Williams.

10 October; Review; Mortons Mill: W.B. Prather is busy building a new blacksmith shop north of his store...

11 October; Sun; Mortons Mills: Furniture and fixtures for the new bank have arrived. They were bought in Stanton, where they were formerly used.

31 October; Review; Mortons Mill: Work began on a new switch here. As soon as the switch is completed the lumber company will build their coal sheds.

1 November; Sun; Mortons Mills: The new bank of Mortons Mills is open for business. John Taylor, of Villisca, is cashier.

--- Carl Figgins, the blacksmith, is in his new shop now. He says it is quite different than being in the old one, which was clear out of the town in the old addition.

--- The doors and windows arrived Friday for the new restaurant which has been held back for some time on account of their being delayed. Mr. Williams will soon be ready for business at the first door west of Wilson on First-st.

14 November; Review: There is pretty good reason to believe that Mortons Mill the new town on the A.N. & S. 13 miles north of Villisca will soon have a post office. W.B. Prather, the store keeper there made application to the government recently for a commission as postmaster and the necessary papers were promptly returned to him to be filled out...

--- The restaurant and meat market opened for business.

15 November; Sun; Mortons Mills: The Fullerton Lumber Co. has added a line of hardware.

--- Mortons Mills has a new meat market and a new barber shop.

--- Several farmers in this neighborhood have bought grain elevators.

12 December; Review; Mortons Mill: The fine new sign painted by Theo. Mosman was put upon the depot last Wednesday. The traveler can now see that he is in "Morton Mills" instead of "Morton's Mill".

1913

3 January; Sun; Mortons Mills: Geo. Cunningham had two ribs broken and his face badly bruised in a fall from his motorcycle ...

--- The people of this locality are planning to have a public sale at the stock yards every two weeks, beginning Jan. 4. For the first sale 65 head of horses and cattle are listed, as well as a lot of implements.

--- The new coal shed at the lumber yard is completed.

9 January; Review; Morton Mills: Carl Williams is getting material on the ground to build an ice house.

24 January; Sun; Villisca: A number of people who have been getting their mail on rural route No. 2 out of Villisca ever since the post office at Morton Mills was discontinued with the advent of rural free delivery, now get their mail at the post office in Morton Mills, the office there having been re-established. W.B. Prather is the new postmaster, he having installed post office fixtures in his store in that thriving town. Until some arrangement can be made for hauling mail on the A.N. & S. railroad, the mail will be carried to Morton Mills by a rural carrier out of here, but it will be addressed with the name of the post

office instead of to the Villisca route. Application for rural routes out of the new office has been made.

20 February; Review; Morton Mills: The foundation for the new stock yard scales is being put in and the Fairbanks scales arrived Tuesday and will be put in immediately.

20 March; Review: Church Burned - The Memorial Christian Church one and one half miles west of Morton Mills was burned to the ground early Monday morning of this week. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is thought to have caught on fire from the stove. There were services held in the church Sunday, both morning and evening. The fire was made in the stove in the morning and coal put on to keep fire until evening when the coal was stirred up but no fresh coal was added. It is thought to have caught fire. There was not a big fire in the stove in the evening and it is thought that the stove was well shut up when left. The fire was noticed by Mr. Scott Wilson, in whose home Rev. O.W. Winter, pastor of the church, was spending the night, about 6 o'clock in the morning. Soon after he arose in the morning he noticed light in the vicinity of the church and called his wife's attention to same. They decided the fire was in the church and called Rev. Winter. They went to the church as fast as possible, but found upon their arrival that the interior of the building was all ablaze and impossible to enter, and nothing was saved...The question of rebuilding is still open.

4 April; Sun; Mortons Mills: The M.W.A. Hall will be used by the Christian Church for services now.

--- B.C. Mulholand is closing out his stock of goods here and S.H. Wilson will open a store in the same building.

13 April; Review; Morton Mills: The Jones Store began the erection of a large implement building here Thursday.

6 June; Express; Morton Mills: ...Morton Mills, 4; Sciola, 25. The game was in Damuth's pasture, south of here...

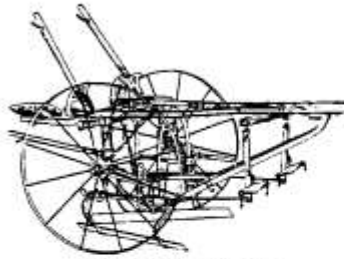
--- A tool house has been built at the cemetery.

13 June; Sun; Mortons Mills: An election was held here last Saturday to decide on the question of consolidating a number of districts in this locality. The proposed consolidation was defeated by four votes.

20 June; Sun; Mortons Mills: Another petition for a special election on the question of consolidating several school districts is now being circulated. The proposition was defeated at a recent election, but a change has been made in the districts to be consolidated.

--- The committee lately appointed to see about the rebuilding of the church which was burned some time ago, met Monday night and decided to erect the new church in town.

26 June; Review; Morton Mills: ADV.- Coming! In the Big Tent! At Morton Mills June 3 - Billy Price Vaudeville; 15 & 25 cents.



Colman's Surface Cultivator.

--- The Jones Implement Co. received a car of implements last week.

3 July; Review; The Norton Mills Review: Morton

Mills is a hustling young city...Situated nearly one-half way between Villisca and Atlantic on the A.N. & S. railroad it has become in one year the principal trading post between those two towns...There is soon to be built a \$3,000 Christian Church. Also there is an effort being made for a consolidated school which will give all the educational advantages of the graded school and be a great improvement over the old district schools with their

four separate buildings and four separate managements.

There are now two general stores. In connection with the Villisca National bank, the bank of Morton Mills makes the banking facilities unsurpassed. The Fullerton Lumber Co. has a yard that is complete and can furnish anything in the building line carried by any city yard, their yard covering almost one-half block of ground. The Figgins blacksmith shop is equipped for any kind of work in its line, has engine power and is a good roomy building. The Jones Store of Villisca maintains a delivery station at Morton Mills to accommodate the large trade they had enjoyed from Morton Mills people for many years and sell Jones Store goods at Villisca prices...An elevator in town big enough to handle the grain business insures highest market prices. At the restaurant and meat market one can get a good meal in a neat up-to-date place.

T. M. Scott handles the livestock brought to the Morton Mills market, which insures top prices for all marketable stock.

17 July; Review; Morton Mills: Four teams made the trip to Red Oak Monday to get the seats for the new Christian Church that is to be erected in Morton Mills soon. The Christian Church of Red Oak gave the seats as a donation.

24 July; Review: The proposed new Christian church edifice at Morton Mills is a certainty...The plan of the building is the same as the old Memorial Chapel that burned only it will be larger.

5 September; Sun; Mortons Mills: According to the new time card which went into effect on the Atlantic Southern Sunday southbound trains arrive here at 7:30 a.m. and 2:25 p.m. The northbound trains arrive at 8:50 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. These are the daily trains. On Sunday there is one train each way reaching here at 10:50 a.m. on the trip to Villisca and at 4:45 on the return in the afternoon.

30 October; Review; Sciola: The A.S. train got off the track north of Morton Mills and was unable to make the trip until Tuesday p.m....No. 3 failed to make the trip last Monday when the whole train except the front wheels of the engine left the track. No one was hurt but the track was pretty badly torn up.

28 November; Sun; Mortons Mills: The carpenters are finishing the inside of the new church and the furnace has been installed. The fresco men are expected this week.

1914

22 January; Review; Morton Mills: The bell for the new church came Saturday and was hung in the belfry Monday.

5 February; Review; Morton Mills: Carl Figgins, our village blacksmith, has installed a fine new large 6 h.p. engine in his shop, his old engine being too small for his business.

12 February; Review: Never before has Morton Mills seen such a great day in its history as last Sunday, February 8, 1914. The occasion was the dedication of the splendid new Christian Church. The event has been in the minds of the people of the community for months, and a large delegation of visitors were present from all parts of the county. Special train service was provided by Atlantic Southern railroad...The day was an ideal winter day and the people packed the building to its fullest capacity, many chairs having to be placed in the aisles.

...the church is now free from all debt. The total cost of the building was \$3,500 and it is one of the finest country Churches in Iowa. Its dimensions are 32 x 46 feet, complete with belfry, furnace heat, gasoline lights, seats, carpet, pulpit, baptistry and other necessary conveniences for Church worship. The window are of stained glass, and the building, both on the outside and in, presents a very attractive and cozy

appearance. The congregation numbers eighty. A rich toned bell was installed in the belfry...

Meals that day were served at the school house...

13 February; Sun; Mortons Mills: Carl Williams, Oscar Focht and Fletcher Gourley have been filling their ice houses this week. They have been buying the ice in Grant, where it is cut from the mill pond, and shipped it here. The ice is 12 inches thick and of good quality.

--- S.H. Wilson, who has been conducting a general store here for some time, has sold it Curtis Holland and possession will be given next Monday. Mr. Holland...has lately been a traveling salesman.

27 February; Sun; Mortons Mills: The new railroad siding at the Gardner ranch has been completed.

--- Mail now comes to Mortons Mills by way of the railroad instead of by rural mail carrier. The mail comes quicker...

--- C.B. Holland now owns the store building and ground, he buying it for \$2300.

13 March; Sun; Mortons Mills: Scott & Still had a lot of hogs on the Ottumwa market a few days ago. They shipped from here.

9 April; Review; Morton Mills: Supt. R.M. Roberts of the S.L. Collins Oil Co. of Knoxville, Ia., has located an oil warehouse on a lot north of the stock yards here, which they leased for a term of years from Fletcher Gourley.

16 April; Review; Morton Mills: Carl Williams has his foundation completed and will commence his addition to his restaurant at once.

--- Robert Ruth (sic) came from Corning Friday to open up a barber shop. He is

now located in the elevator office until Mr. Williams gets his building finished, then he will occupy a room there.

30 April; Review; Morton Mills: Carl Williams received his fine large two hundred dollar cooler...and installed it in his new building Wednesday.

7 May; Review: Undertaker A.B. Wolfe removed seven bodies from the old part of the Memorial cemetery west of Morton Mills yesterday to the new part. The bodies are those of the Tompkins child, Thos. Inman and his mother, an infant of Geo. Campbell, two infants of Frank Campbell and an infant of a Mr. Johnson.

--- Morton Mills: The Fullerton Lumber Co. put in the foundation for a 60 foot addition to their already large lumber shed here.

4 June; Review; Morton Mills: Carl Williams has his new restaurant and meat market almost completed. The barber, Robert Routh, has also moved in his shop.

25 June; Review: The Chautauqua at Morton Mills will be held in a tent on the vacant lot east of the A.S. Prather home under the auspices of the Jones Chautauqua System of Perry, Ia.

(Note: Usually the chautauqua tent was pitched north of the bank and Prather's store.)

23 July; Review; Morton Mills: ...Another big business institution is the Jones store with S.H. Wilson in charge. Right across the street south is...the Fullerton Lumber Co.

13 August; Review; Morton Mills: Morton Mills had a bad fire early Wednesday morning. As a result the W.B. Prather store and the F.F. Jones store are both a total loss...When the fire was discovered Mr. Prather succeeded in saving his post office records which were kept in his store, and friends saved his big Maxwell

touring car. Before anything more could be done, however, the fire caught in his gasoline and oil tanks, which were kept in an addition on the west side of the store and the resulting explosion made further fighting impossible.

It took the combined efforts of all those present to keep the elevator, the blacksmith shop and the A.S. Prather home from catching and volunteer bucket brigades were kept busy until daylight...Mr. Prather will make his post office headquarters at the bank...The two stores were on the north side of Main street, and were about five feet apart...

--- There was a bad wind storm and rain here Sunday night which caused the closing number of the chautauqua to be held in the church...All were well pleased with the week's entertainment and are looking forward to a bigger and better chautauqua next year.

--- Vernon Shipper is erecting a building 18x24 with a 12 foot shed at the back to be used as a produce house. He bought the lot of S.H. Wilson which is located between Holland's store and Williams' restaurant.

4 September; Sun; Mortons Mills: Arrangements are being made to replace the buildings that were lost in the recent fire. W.B. Prather has his plans for a brick tile building to be 30x50 feet in size and to cost in the neighborhood of \$2500. The other building will be put up soon, but the plans are not yet complete.

24 October; Review; Morton Mills: Work on the erection of the new Jones implement house was started last week...The building will be 30x48 feet, metal covered and fireproof.

C.B. Holland conducts a general merchandise business first door west of the A.S. depot. With the building of an addition 24x24 the room will now have the spacious dimensions of 24x60 feet. A fine concrete basement 24x24 has been built

under the new addition. An ell on the west will provide two rooms which will be used as a kitchen and dining room...

...Carl Williams runs a restaurant, a hotel, a butcher shop, a barber shop, an ice cream and soda parlor, a pool hall and keeps up on the latest baseball dope. He is building a new smoke house and wash shed and expects soon to start work on a big ice house, which will be 24x24 feet and 16 feet high. Mr. Wm. Washburn is the barber and in charge of the pool hall.

Another recent improvement is the egg and produce house of V.F. Shipper. The building is brand new. Mr. Shipper is assisted by Ernest Bryson and the two young men have their bachelor quarters upstairs. Their place of business is on the south side of Main Street between the Holland store and Carl Williams' restaurant.

5 November; Chief: A.S. RAILROAD TO QUIT JAN. 1 -

6 November; Sun; Mortons Mills: The formal opening of the W.B. Prather store was held Wednesday of this week, at which time the gentlemen were treated to cigars and cut flowers were given to the ladies. A large number of people attended the opening and were very well pleased with Mr. Prather's up-to-date store.



7 November; Review; Morton Mills: When the residents of our little village arose Sunday morning...there were tanks on top of the depot chimney, one in the railroad crossing and scattered in various places. There was lumber on top of the elevator, bricks piled in the street, and various other capers...

--- The school board of Douglas twp. held a meeting Friday and located the spot for moving the schoolhouse that

stands one mile north of here. The ground was donated by Fletcher Gourley and will stand right north of the Woodman hall. The seats were moved Saturday. School will be in the hall until they get the schoolhouse moved.

14 November; Review; Morton Mills: The Morton Mills Bachelor Club met at the Lumber office Monday night and enjoyed a 6 o'clock dinner prepared by themselves.

21 November; Review; Morton Mills: C.B. Holland's opening of his improved store at Morton Mills last Saturday was a success. The new store which has lately been remodeled was visited by a large crowd...A new plate glass front, a complete heating and acetylene lighting system make the place as well improved as one can find in a larger city.

...A three-piece orchestra furnished delightful music...The store room had been filled with seats and every seat was occupied all the time. Over 450 cigars were distributed. Hot coffee was served. The Iten Biscuit Co. also furnished their famous line of cakes and crackers...It was a day never to be forgotten...

27 November; Sun; Mortons Mills: E.E. Lehnen recently shipped a car of wheat to Chicago and a car of oats to the St. Louis Market.

1915

10 April; Review; Morton Mills: Scott & Still drove 200 head of hogs from here to Villisca.

--- W.B. Prather is adding a porch to his store building.

24 April; Review; Morton Mills: John Cooper started his auto trucks Tuesday morning, making two trips to Villisca for freight the first day.

1 May; Review; Morton Mills: What promises to be one of the stellar attractions in baseballdom this season

will be staged at Damuth's Park, south of Morton Mills on Sunday...Morton Mills Neutrals vs. Snow's Tigers.

(Note: The Damuths provided the closest thing to a park there was in the Morton Mills area. They kept a race track as well as a ball diamond.)

29 May; Review: ...A veritable wall of water poured into Morton Mills and boats could have been navigated on Main street if there had been any. The restaurant of Carl Williams was flooded, the water covering his porch, and there were nearly three feet of water in the cellar of W.B. Prather's store. The Jones store was also inundated...

The biggest damage was done to the Fullerton Lumber yard, when the small branch overflowed and sent a torrent of water right through the yard. Large quantities of lumber were washed away...

The A.S. railroad bridge at Morton Mills was washed out as was also the road bridge leading to Grant...

5 June; Review; Morton Mills: The Morton Mills boys built a boat Friday and had some great times riding on the high water...

7 August; Review; Morton Mills: ...a business man of our town challenged a man and his partner from a neighboring town to a game of horseshoes...So next day up came the Sciolans, shoes in hand. A hot and wicked series of games followed...The Sciola pitchers started their series with ringers and leaners and never did stop. At last the Morton Mills pitchers decided the visitors had them out-classed...



20 August; Sun; Mortons Mills: The Mortons Mills Chautauqua started Thursday, this being the second annual assembly at this place. Mortons Mills lays claim to being the smallest town in the United States to support a six-day

Chautauqua successfully. Last year the Chautauqua had a small sum left over after all the expenses of the assembly had been paid.

23 October; Review; Morton Mills: Last week the produce business of this place, owned and operated by V.E. Shipper for the past year, was sold to C.M. Orr of Villisca who took possession Monday morning with Roy Raney as manager...

27 November; Review: C.Y. Taylor has launched another substitute for the A.S. railroad service. He has had a special truck made whereby he can haul at least 4800 pounds of freight. It is a Republic two ton truck. Mr. Taylor plans to haul hogs from Morton Mills and Sciola to Villisca. He will also haul freight the other way.

CHAUTAUQUA
MORTON MILLS
AUGUST 26-29, 1916

5 February; Review: Carl Figgins sold his blacksmith shop at Morton Mills to Howard Bloodgood...

10 August; Chief: The Grant Eat'em Ups, the junior team lost 16 to 14 to the Morton Mills Sluggers.

15 September; Sun; Grant: Freeman Pritchell has resigned his position at the Bryant barber shop and will open up a shop at Morton Mills.

19 October; Chief; Morton Mills: The new school house which is being built here is going up fast.

21 October; Review: The prosperous little city of Morton Mills is not to be outdone by cities even larger than herself. For two seasons now they have ably supported a Chautauqua system and have contracted to attempt the same another year. Only recently they have agreed to try another scheme to bring an elevating institution--a Lyceum Course--to their city. All the

arrangements have been made with the Midlands people of Des Moines...

1 November; Review: The Orr produce house at Morton Mills...is the frame structure that stands between the Holland store and the Williams restaurant...

29 November; Review; Morton Mills: The Morton Mills bridge will be completed this week.

1917

6 January; Review: Curtis Holland recently traded his store and business at Morton Mills to Mr. Falky Westerlund...

10 January; Review; Morton Mills: Saturday, Jan. 13th, 1917, the Morton Mills school house will be sold at auction to the highest bidder.

12 January; Express; Morton Mills: Fire, which is thought to have originated in an upstairs room in the Carl Williams restaurant in Morton Mills Friday night of last week, destroyed the restaurant building and also the poultry house of C. M. Orr of Villisca. The restaurant building contained also a barber shop and a pool hall and was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Williams as living quarters. The fire was discovered about 10:00 o'clock but both buildings, and their contents were soon consumed. Many of the residents of the community hurried to the scene of the fire and by hard work saved the nearby buildings from burning. Mr. Williams carried \$3600 insurance on his building and its contents, and Mr. Orr carried \$800 insurance on his building...

13 January; Review; Morton Mills: School started Monday in the new school house.

7 March; Review; Morton Mills: John Rush is moving the old school house purchased at auction to his lot...

--- L.C. Rasmussen, blacksmith, Morton Mills.

21 March; Review; Morton Mills: A. Jarboe bought the F. Gourley lots. He is building a new house on the lot east of Prathers (house) and is renting the corner house to Rasmussen.

24 March; Review; Morton Mills: C.M. Orr of Villisca has a branch house in Morton Mills again...He is located in the Jones building.

25 April; Review; Morton Mills: Fletch Gourley bought the MWA Hall...the high bid being \$50.

(Note: The lodge met in the new school house.)

10 May; Chief; Morton Mills: The wrecking crew of the A.S. came up from Villisca Tuesday morning and started to repair the bridge at Morton Mills so the outfit can cross and tear up the track between here and Grant.

16 May; Review: The lively little city of Morton Mills Sunday was the scene of a patriotic ceremony...The raising of the Stars and Stripes to the top of the 65 foot tower constructed in a lot adjacent to the south side of the street...drew a crowd of between 400 and 500 people.

30 May; Review; Morton Mills: Harrison Nelson is conducting a tonsorial parlor in Morton Mills. He will work on Wednesday and Saturday.

20 June; Review: Citizens of Morton Mills are elated over the fact that the swamp on their main street which must be crossed to get to the stock yards and blacksmith shop is being drained. - *Chief*

26 July; Chief; Morton Mills Mirror: Johnny Cunningham has the depot fixed up into a first class dining hall and will serve meals and short orders...

4 August; Review: After six days of most extraordinary programs the Morton Mills Chautauqua closed...the results were

sufficiently good to justify the officers in contracting for the 1918 program...

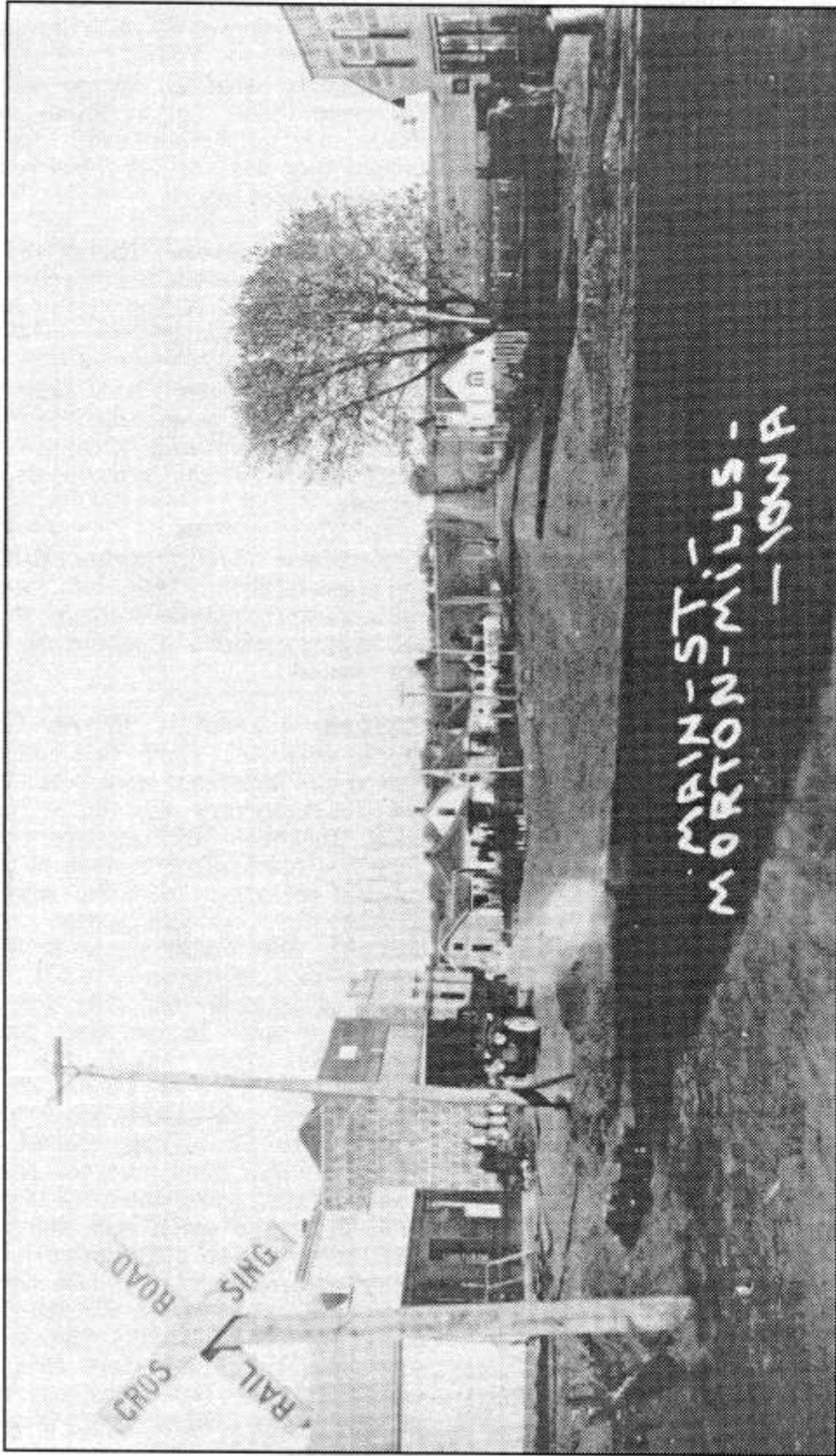
29 August; Review; Morton Mills: The Fullerton Lumber Co. at Grant and Morton Mills are possessors of a new Jeffrys truck. They will do their own hauling for the two places now.

8 September; Review; Morton Mills: W.J. Langdon moved to the A.C. Jarboe property on the corner at Morton Mills. He expects to start a restaurant.

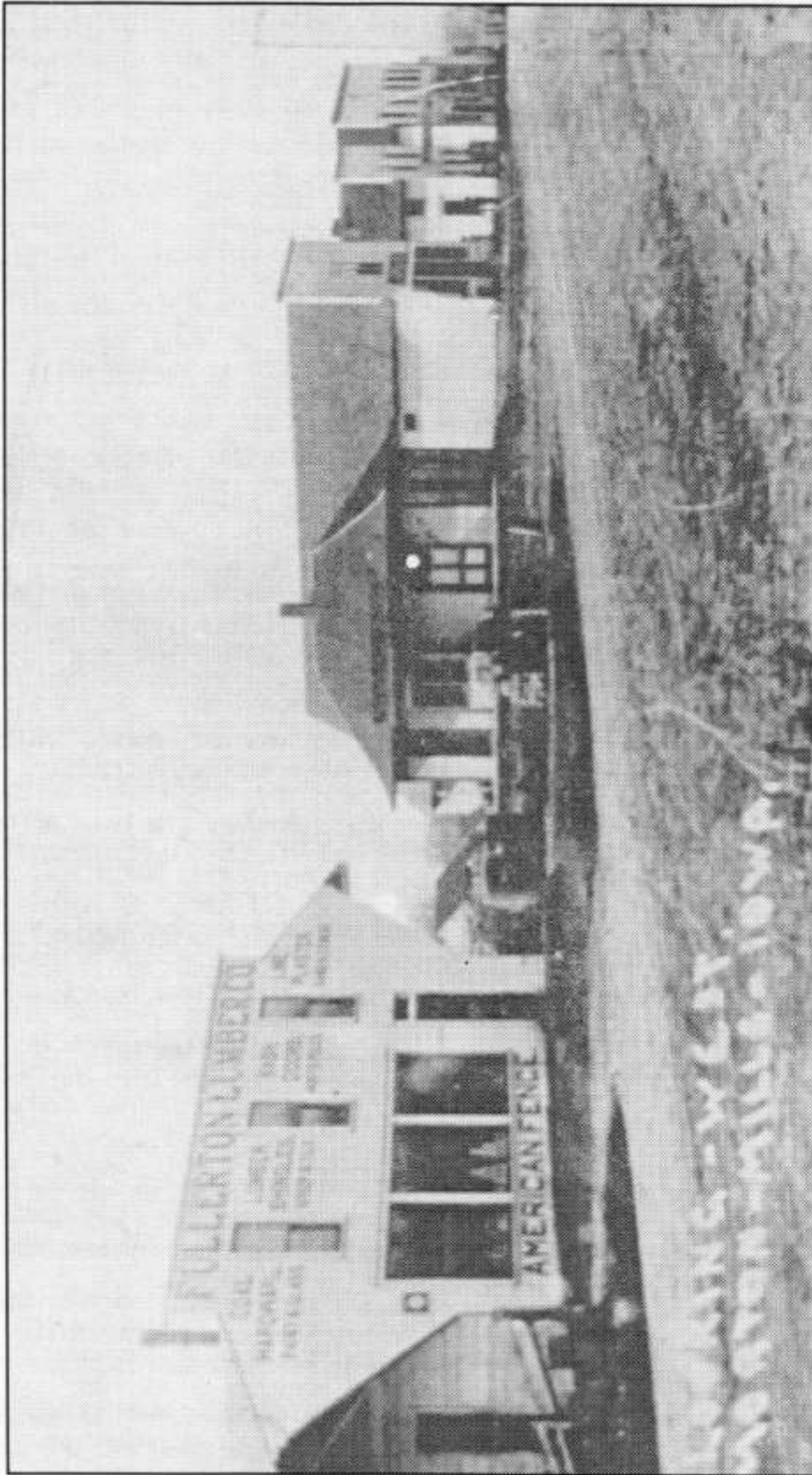
13 September; Chief: Mrs. Jasper Langdon is feeding the people now. She opened a boarding house Monday morning--the first house south of the schoolhouse, on the corner.

4 October; Chief; Morton Mills: Carl Williams...sold the lot where the restaurant stood to Reuben Westerlund, who expects to build an eating house and meat market...

11 October; Chief: ...If you don't know it I will tell you that Uncle Billy Atwood has sweetened more people than any man in Montgomery county. He came here about the year 1855 and there has been very few years since that he has not made sorghum molasses. The first mill was one of the old fashioned wooden ones. They went to the timber, cut an oak tree, turned out the rollers, built the frame work, attached a long pole for a sweep, hitched a horse to the sweep and started operations. They caught the juice in buckets and carried it to the boiling pan, a home made concern which would hold from 30 to 50 gallons. Rather a crude affair to what they have now down at the Atwood farm. Under the shed they have an 8 horse engine which runs the cane mill consisting of two big iron rollers, which squeeze those stalks of cane harder than a fellow would dare squeeze his best girl. The cane juice is pumped from the mill up into a tank where it is allowed to settle. Then it is run out through a strainer into a lower tank. This process



Main Street in Morton Mills - Looking east on the north side of the street; about 1915: Jones Implement store, Prather general store, Bank of Morton Mills.



Main Street in Morton Mills - Looking west on the south side of the street; about 1915. Fullerton Lumber Co., depot, Holland general store; produce house, Williams restaurant.

is repeated three times before the juice gets to the boiling vat. This vat has several compartments. There is a steady stream of juice coming into one end of the vat under which is the fire. When the juice is boiled enough that the scum has risen and been skimmed off, it is allowed to run into the next compartment where the boiling is finished. Dampers are so arranged that any desired degree of heat may be maintained. The best way to learn about the process which sorghum goes through, is to go and see, and get a pail of as fine sorghum as can be manufactured...

17 October; Review; Morton Mills: Fay Still, stock buyer at Grant and Morton Mills, is erecting a new office building just south of his scales at Morton Mills.

7 November; Review; Morton Mills: Johnson Bros. wood saw is in full swing.

14 November; Review; Morton Mills: W.M. Flood purchased the property of A.C. Jarboe, now occupied by W.J. Langdon. He will take possession about January 1.

(Note: South 200 feet of Lot 1. Flood ran a hotel on the corner.)

20 December; Chief; Morton Mills: B.F. Moyer moved his house-hold goods from the old school house into the depot last week. He froze out of the school house as it was too much space to heat at 20 below zero.

1918

9 January; Review; Morton Mills: Men from the Jones store in Villisca installed the furnace in the restaurant building last week. The carpenters are waiting for the light men to wire the building now.

30 January; Review; Morton Mills: The stores of Morton Mills are obeying the order of the state fuel administrator by not opening up in the morning until 8:30 and by closing in the evening at 5:30.

20 February; Review; Morton Mills: Reuben Westerlund opened the poolroom Thursday and the proceeds were turned over to the Red Cross.

13 March; Review; Morton Mills: L.C. Rasmussen completed the deal last Wednesday with Bert Cusher (sic) of Griswold whereby Cusher became the owner of the stock and tools of the blacksmith shop here...

--- Adv. - A good opening in the blacksmith shop at Morton Mills. Inquire of W.B. Prather.

5 April; Review; Morton Mills: W.B. Prather has installed a new Playerphone. Come in and hear it.

--- Harry Mayhew has taken a position as assistant in the bank on account of the cashier, J.F. Taylor, is taking on the business of buying stock for Scott & Still.

12 April; Review; Morton Mills: The restaurant is to open April 15.

17 May; Review; Morton Mills: Roy Westerlund was the first man drafted from Morton Mills.

31 May; Review; Morton Mills: ...A ball diamond was donated by Fletch Gourley just north of the Focht branch...

5 July; Review; Morton Mills: S.I. Atwood has...been making and selling that celebrated "Atwood's Red Hot Taffy".

--- Sometime during Sunday night a thief strolled into town and deliberately stole a perfectly good Ford car of Fletch Gourley and about \$10 in cash out of the store of W.B. Prather.

9 August; Review; Morton Mills: ...the Morton Mills chautauqua is on...

1 November; Review: C.R. Westerlund last week traded his restaurant and pool hall

at Morton Mills to a couple of Atlantic parties. Last Friday the Atlantic parties sold the Westerlund property in Morton Mills to Wm. Wheeler of near Sciola. He will take possession about the first of December.

15 November; Review; Morton Mills: Monday evening the entire community for miles around gathered at the Jones store at Morton Mills and enjoyed an oyster supper, the occasion being the end of the Great World War. Firing of guns and building a bon-fire were also in connection with the merriment and everyone enjoyed a good time...

29 November; Review: The schools at Morton Mills were closed all week on account of the "Flu".

13 December; Review; Morton Mills: John L. Bryant, formerly a barber of Grant, will conduct a barber shop in the east half of the Wm. Wheeler restaurant. He will be here on Wednesday possibly and Saturday sure.

1919

28 March; Review; Morton Mills: George and Joe Cunningham have opened a garage in the Jones building, the first door west of W.B. Prather's store...they will do overhauling and general repair work.

25 April; Review; Morton Mills: Frank Lenhart of Villisca was in Morton Mills Wednesday and Thursday and installed an electric light plant in the Cunningham Bros. garage.

23 May; Review; Morton Mills: The Morton Mills stock yards are now located on the south side of Main street near the depot.

30 May; Review; Morton Mills: N.F. Westerlund has bought the depot and is making it into a garage for his own use.

(Note: Some time later Fletcher Gourley bought the depot and moved it

to his property north of the church where it was used as a garage.)

4 July; Review; Morton Mills: Fay Still commenced buying hogs at Morton Mills July first. Everyone is glad to see an overseas soldier get his old job back.

1 August; Review; Morton Mills: The Cunningham Bros. are planning to light the chautauqua tent with their electric light plant...

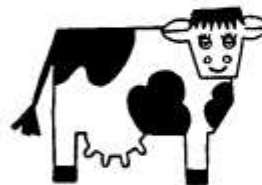
--- Douglas twp. held a special meeting of the school board Saturday afternoon in order to make arrangements for more room to take care of the pupils that will be enrolled here the coming year...They voted to build another room 20x20 and will have two teachers. There will be 50 or more pupils...

8 September; Express: It is estimated there were 1,500 people attended the Montgomery County picnic which was held Saturday at the H.H. Pierson farm north of Villisca under the management of the Montgomery County Farm bureau.

A big picnic dinner was served at noon, and music for the day was furnished by the Elliott band...

A ball game between Grant and Stanton drew the attention of many of the younger people at the picnic, while the horse shoe pitching contest, foot races, sack races and various other forms of athletic events were hotly contested.

The stock judging was done before the noon hour...The herd of Hereford cattle



on the Pierson farm was used for the judging classes...For the ladies...there was a pressure cooker demonstration...

(Note: The Pierson farm was near Morton Mills. The picnic became an annual event, and was held at various sites around the county. In 1956 the program became the Montgomery County Fair.)

12 September; Review; Morton Mills: The new school room (24x24) was ready and school began Monday morning with 22 scholars in each room.

19 December; Review: A Petition has been filed for a consolidation, to include sections 25 through 36 in Douglas Township and sections 3 through 10 in Washington Township...

1920

1 January; Express: A consolidated school district has been proposed for the Mortons Mill neighborhood, and a vote on the proposition will be taken about the middle of January. The district as proposed comprises twenty sections of land, which includes five school districts. If the election carries, the new building for the district will be located in Mortons Mill.

27 February; Review: Thursday of last week W.L. Davie...purchased the rooming house, restaurant and pool hall of Wm. Wheeler at Morton Mills...

7 May; Sun: Township Farm Bureaus were organized...There were 64 members present at the Douglas township meeting...Co-operators were chosen for each school district...

21 May; Review; Morton Mills: The building of two additional rooms at the Morton Mills school was voted on and carried in favor of the school. There was an increased attendance here last term making it absolutely necessary to provide more room, or that the children attend the school in their respective districts, which to a great extent had been closed the last half of the school year.

27 August; Review; Morton Mills: A.C. Jarboe is having the old school remodeled into a modern bungalow.

3 December; Review: Frank Bates Jr., teacher in the Morton Mills school who

was discharged some time ago by the Douglas twp. school board was reinstated Monday morning at the trial in Red Oak heard by County Superintendent Hattie E. Hough.

Bates was discharged on the grounds that he would not obey the board's orders to refuse to teach children who came to the Morton Mills school from districts outside of the district in which Morton Mills is located...Bates was reinstated on his agreement to abide by the decision of the board as to what pupils he should teach.

1921

18 March; Chief: Seventy-nine voters of Douglas township at the annual meeting on Monday marked "Yes" to the question "Shall \$8500 of the school house fund, levied per special meeting of May 1920 be transferred to the general fund?" while only four dissented. The large contingent expected from Morton Mills did not put in an appearance.

The special meeting last May was called to vote for or against levying money to build an addition to the Morton Mills school-house, it being represented that the district would have 86 pupils. The Morton Mills crowd, being organized, put it over by a margin of seven votes. Plan was, in effect, a consolidated district, taking in districts 4, 5, 6 and 7, with pupils to be transported to the school at Morton Mills.

(Two lines unreadable) ...Morton Mills started a row involving hearings before the county superintendent, discharge and reinstatement of the Morton Mills teacher, a bout or two at law with injunctions against parents who persisted in sending their children to the Morton Mills school, and much ill-feeling throughout the township. At length a more or less solemn referendum (?) was invoked, and the Morton Mills people...said, "What's the use?" and let it go at that...at bottom the Morton Millsians are true sports and will accept defeat gracefully.

29 July; Review; Morton Mills: The business men of Morton Mills will give a five-reel moving picture show Saturday evening, July 23, free.

(Note: Free movies were shown at different times at least through 1925. Plank seats were set up at the back of the vacant lot just west of the driveway to the old Kimel-Focht house.)

29 September; Chief: The Township School Board held a meeting in Grant Thursday evening. (They discussed)...the crowded condition in the Mortons Mill school. It seems to be a case of not enough work for two teachers and a little to (sic) much for one and in view of the financial conditions the board decided to try and get through the fall term without adding another teacher.

(Note: In November a second teacher was added.)

30 September; Review; Morton Mills: In the base ball tournament which was held here Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the Mill Grove team won first place...

1922

50th Anniversary Edition; Review: (two page ad for Morton Mills):

Cunningham Bros. - garage
W.B. Prather's Place - general merchandise
Seaburg and Johnson Store - general merchandise
Restaurant--Rooms--Barber Shop--Pool Hall - J.A. Darnold
Meat Market - R.R. Smith
Fullerton Lumber Company

3 November; Review; Sciola: Joe and George Cunningham installed a radio set at their home in Morton Mills.

--- W.B. Prather is improving his store and his parents' home by installing new Delco lights.

10 November; Review; Morton Mills: Several enjoyed the election news Tuesday evening over the radio set at Cunningham's garage, while others enjoyed the movies at the school house.

17 November; Sun: John L. Bryant of Morton Mills made a request for license to operate three pool tables at his place of business and the county board... granted him the license...on his payment of \$72 per year license fee.

24 November; Review; Morton Mills: John Bryant has installed Delco lights.

22 December; Review; Morton Mills: Russell Flood got the contract for hauling the school children from the little red school down to our school for the remainder of the school year. The red school house burned recently so the board decided to send the children down here.

1923

5 January; Review; Morton Mills: The community club meeting held Dec. 22 was attended by a very large crowd, many having to leave on account of a full house. Pupils from the Mayflower and Hobson schools took part in the program...P.S. Focht won a cake as the first prize in the fiddlers contest...



20 April; Review; Morton Mills: Morton Mills has ordered base ball suits.

1 June; Review; Morton Mills: There is a picture show in town. The first show was given last Tuesday night.

8 June; Review; Morton Mills: A.S. Prather has...installed an iceless refrigerator.

20 July; Review; ...the ditch which straightens the West Nodaway river...is now under construction...

17 August; Review; Morton Mills: Ellis McCracken and son were measuring ground on the J.M. Focht farm at the northeast corner Friday, where they will build a new garage soon. The lumber was being hauled Monday...

28 September; Review; Morton Mills: The new garage being built by Ellis McCracken is going up fast. It is to be two stories high and the dimensions are 32x40...

12 October; Review; Morton Mills: Cunningham Bros. are improving their garage by putting a big porch over the filling station.

26 October; Review; Morton Mills: The lumber company is building a house, 16x28 feet in size, which will be used for a produce house. S.I. Atwood is to be manager.

9 November; Review; Morton Mills: The men from Griswold have been here the past week putting the cobblestone on the new garage.

21 December; Review; Morton Mills: The business men and farmers of this vicinity have been busy sanding the road from the corner to the west end of our city.

1924

18 January; Review; Morton Mills: The regular community meeting of the Morton Mills vicinity was held last Wednesday evening, and...there was not enough seating room. A good literary program had been prepared...One of the striking features of the evening was a mock trial in which John Damuth was tried for having hung a ground hog on the front of S.I. Atwood's produce house with intent to injure Mr. Atwood's business...Mr. Damuth was found guilty and was sentenced to 99 years of hard labor.

7 March; Review; Morton Mills: Joe Cunningham installed a radio in the Seaburg & Johnson store last week.

(Note: Seaberg & Johnson purchased the N.F. Westerlund store in January 1920.)

11 July; Review; Morton Mills: Thieves entered the W.B. Prather store July 1st for the second time within a week and robbed the store of several sweaters, coats and other merchandise, also about \$5 in cash. The thieves entered the post office and took all the cash from the cash drawer...

28 November; Review; Morton Mills: Last Thursday there was a deal closed in which John Bryant purchased the restaurant at a consideration of \$2,250.



20 March; Review; Morton Mills: Saturday night was a very important night with the radio fans here when the talent from Morton Mills and near vicinity put on a very fine program at Henry Fields' KFNF broadcasting station.

3 April; Review: Officials of the Fullerton Lumber Co. have decided to close their lumber yard in Morton Mills since they already have a yard in Villisca and one in Grant. An effort is being made by the people of Morton Mills to induce the company to keep the yard in their town...

--- Merritt Resh built a porch over the door for the little school room Monday, which has been a much needed improvement ever since the room was built.

5 June; Review; Morton Mills: The Bean school house was sold at auction Saturday p.m...for \$125...

12 June; Review; Morton Mills: John Bryant has installed a fine up-to-date refrigerator in his restaurant.

3 July; Review; Morton Mills: Some from this vicinity have their reservations for the trip to Niagara Falls that the Kiwanis club of Shenandoah is putting on.

28 August; Review; Morton Mills: The Karley picture show was in town...

--- ...There will be a well put down on the school ground this week.

4 September; Review; Morton Mills: Work of tearing down the lumber office and shed began Monday morning. It will be rebuilt south of the McCracken garage and will be 40 by 90 feet in size with a restaurant in the front and hall at the rear.

(Note: From an interview with Ernest Danielson: "Ellis McCracken, Vest Patterson, Joe Larson and Cris Danielson were partners in the dance hall venture. Ben Sprague of Carbon was the chief carpenter. The main hall was 48x88 with 8 foot aisles along the east and south sides. There was a ladies rest room at the west end of the south aisle. The dance floor was laid with one and a quarter inch boards. Laying them was very hard on knees."



("The north half of the lumber shed was moved intact, pulled by a tractor. It was added to the main building and was used as a lunch room."

(20 August 1987; Review: contributed by Chester Larson, Griswold: "...Admission for men was a dollar, and ladies free...The lunch room did well with good hamburgers only a quarter then

and cold sodas ten or fifteen cents. The sodas made good mixers as most men carried a pocket flask in those days...A large stock tank filled with ice cooled the sodas...")

6 November; Review; Morton Mills: The first dance was given in the new hall Tuesday night. A good crowd attended in spite of the snow storm and cold weather.

11 December; Review; Morton Mills: The people from this vicinity listened in December 2 at the various places to the Sciola-Morton Mills artists who broadcast a splendid program from the Berry Seed Co. station at Clarinda...

--- The first number of the lyceum course at the church was given Friday evening.

1926



1 January; Review; Morton Mills: A housefull of visitors listened to a fine program put on by the school December 18...A Christmas tree loaded with presents and a real Santa Claus to hand them out were the main attractions for the little ones...

14 May; Review; Morton Mills: Ellis McCracken has been wiring and putting in lights at the Christian Church here, to be run from his lighting plant at the garage.

21 June; Express; Douglas: Howard Penwell had the misfortune to have his car get on fire in some unknown way while parked in the yard at his home and destroyed the top and all the upholstery...

9 September; Express: Montgomery county roads will soon be equipped with new Federal road markers...State highway number 18, running north and south through Villisca, Grant and Morton Mills will become federal highway number 71...

6 December; Express; Grant: The colored Jubilee Singers entertained at Morton Mills' Amusement hall Tuesday night.

1927

11 March; Review; Morton Mills: Morton Mills is supporting a new truck, owned by Geo. Westerlund who moved to town last week.

11 April; Express; Grant: The cement gang have moved to Morton Mills to put in culverts on the federal aid road as the graders are at work there...

27 May; Review: The Memorial day program at the Morton Mills cemetery will be given there Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock following which the soldiers' graves will be decorated.

18 July; Express; Douglas: The Dance Hall at Mortons Mill was struck by lightning during the Tuesday evening storm, while the dancing party was on. Fortunately no one was injured, but the dancers received a good fright and do not care to experience it again.



27 July; Review; Grant: More than one thousand chickens have been stolen in Douglas Township.

12 August; Review: ...That part of primary No. 71 between Morton Mills and Grant which has been under course of construction for the last several months, will be open to traffic next Friday...

9 September; Review; Morton Mills: The road people who were camped in the school yard have moved farther south.

4 November; Review; Sciola: John Zuber and wife won the five dollar prize at the masquerade ball at Morton Mills Friday night and Roy Robb and sister, Miss Hattie, won the second prize which was two dollars and a half.

1928

27 April; Review; Morton Mills: The church has been raised to a fair height during the past week and the workmen are still raising it.

4 May; Review; Morton Mills: The basement work on the church is going on rapidly and the workmen expect to have it ready so services can be held next Sunday...

24 May; Express: Political aspirants rubbed elbows on the same platform at the Ellis McCracken hall in Morton Mills Tuesday night...Every candidate was in favor of his own election but presented his argument in words of modesty...About fifty men and one woman composed the audience...Witty Ellis McCracken directed the meeting and presented the list of speakers...

27 July; Review; Adv: The Fort-Peck Rodeo Co. will show at the Damuth farm on highway No. 71 on July 29, at 2:30 p.m. 35 head of horses, steers and mules; bronco riding, steer riding, bull dogging. Adm. Adults 50 cents - Free parking

21 September; Review; Morton Mills: The church was struck by lightning on Monday afternoon. It did some damage to the roof and burned out the lights.

28 September; Review; Morton Mills: The church basement will be dedicated on Wednesday evening October 3. A good program will be given, talks being given by several neighboring ministers. The ladies will also have a 6:30 p.m. dinner. Price 35 cents.

2 November; Review; Morton Mills: On Wednesday evening November 14, the Ladies Aid Society will hold a bazaar and donation sale with a free lunch. Any donation will be gladly received, including blind mules and lame cows. The proceeds are to pay on the ladies' pledge for the basement.

25 January; Review: Walter Prather last week sold his stock of merchandise at Morton Mills to Frank Dewees and Jarvis & Son of Grant. The new firm of Dewees-Jarvis Co. took possession Thursday morning with F.A. Jarvis as manager.

Mr. Prather retires after having conducted this business for more than twenty-one years. He purchased it of his brother John in September of 1907 and seven years later built the new brick structure in which the store is now conducted and which Mr. Prather still owns. He will continue to act as post master of Morton Mills until he receives notice that his resignation has been accepted...

22 February; Review; Morton Mills: A pinochle tournament between Grant and Morton Mills was played in the Morton Mills hall Friday night, Grant winning. Oysters were served.

29 March; Review; Morton Mills: Willard McCracken is busy delivering farm machinery, a load of which they received Monday.

12 April; Review; Morton Mills: The play "Ducks" will be given Friday night, April 12, at the Morton Mills hall.



19 April; Review; Morton Mills: Quite a number attended the tractor demonstration at Thad Focht's Saturday afternoon.

31 May; Review; Morton Mills: Will all those who owe a pledge to the Morton Mills Union Church pay a part or all of the pledge at the Morton Mills bank at the earliest convenience?

28 June; Review; Morton Mills: Morton Mills was well represented at the airplane circus at Grant Sunday and some enjoyed the thrill of an airplane ride.



--- Prather & Porter received their first load of merchandise Monday and will be ready to receive customers June 28.

5 July; Review; Morton Mills: John Bryant is remodeling his barber shop this week for the accommodation of his customers.

23 August; Review; Morton Mills: The Atwood bros. sent ninety cases of honey to Council Bluffs last week. From there it was sent to Medina, Ohio.

4 October; Review; Morton Mills: The Atwood Produce business is moving to the building formerly occupied by the Cunningham garage.

(Note: East 50 feet of Lot 15. In August 1928 the Cunninghams bought the south 200 feet of Lot 1. They tore down the Flood hotel, and built two cabins from salvaged lumber. The cabins were north of the new building erected for a garage. It isn't known just when gas pumps were installed.)

8 November; Review: ...53 of the members of the Villisca Chamber of Commerce drove to Morton Mills to a Monday evening dinner...in the church basement.

--- Highway No. 71 will be paved next spring from highway No. 34 north to Grant, according to H.A. Darting, member of the Iowa highway commission...

1930

10 March; Express; Morton Mills: The "Farmer's Union" held a meeting in the church basement Wednesday evening with Charles Rogers of Des Moines as speaker.

13 March; Express; Morton Mills: Election was held in Grant Monday in regard to a new school house in...what was formerly known as the Bean sub-district. There were forty-four votes for the new school and thirty-six against it.

(Note: Douglas Township schools were renumbered in 1930. The new school house was No. 9; Morton Mills became No. 8.)

27 March; Express; Morton Mills: About fifty young people of this community enjoyed a party at the hall Saturday night...the evening was spent in skating and playing games.



20 June; Review: ...No. 71 has been opened from the Stinematos corner south of Grant...to a point a little more than a mile south of Morton Mills.

1 August; Review: A nine-run lead registered by Co. "F" in the first inning was not enough to put the Morton Mills nine out of the running, the boys up the road...winning 18 to 15 in overtime.

1931

3 April; Review: Some of the members of the Morton Mills Church will broadcast a special Easter service from 4 to 5 p.m. Sunday over radio Station KFNF at Shenandoah.

17 July; Review: John Prather of Red Oak, administrator of the estate of his brother, the late Walter Prather, now has charge of the store at Morton Mills which was owned and conducted by the latter for a period of 25 years.

The present manager took charge of the business Tuesday morning when the work of invoicing was commenced. For the present he will continue to reside in Red Oak and make daily trips to his work in Morton Mills where for a few years he conducted this same store which he sold to his brother a quarter of a century ago.

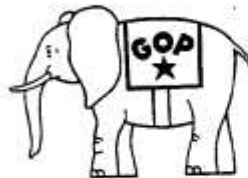
Bert Porter, who has been manager of the store the last two years, expects to remain in Morton Mills but is as yet undecided as to his future work.

16 October; Review; Morton Mills: Farm Bureau co-operators and their districts met Thursday in the church basement for the first lesson of this year's work. The lesson was on basket weaving.

13 November; Review; Morton Mills: The farmers union will hold a debate on the money and tax question and also have a musical program in the church basement Tuesday evening.

20 November; Review: Sheriff John Conkel and Deputy Sheriff Walter Johnson stopped at the Morton Mills dance hall Friday night and confiscated a slot machine which they said was doing a thriving business...

1932



27 May; Review: Gov. Dan W. Turner spoke Monday night at a republican rally in Morton Mills...

Approximately 250 persons attended the rally. Many candidates for state and county offices appeared on the program ...C.C. Anderson presided as chairman over the meeting and musical numbers were furnished by the Villisca male quartet.



12 August; Review: The bank of Morton Mills at Morton Mills was closed Monday by an order issued by Judge Earl Peters ...the affairs of the bank will be closed as rapidly as possible. All depositors will be paid in full...

The bank of Morton Mills was started in November 1912 by Mr. F.M. Dirrim and Mr. Hal Hausen, with a capital stock of \$10,000...

1933

14 July; Review: The sixth annual unison Sunday School group meeting of the Grub Ridge, Highland, Sciola and Morton Mills Sunday Schools will held in the Morton Mills church next Sunday, July 16.

7 August; Express: A county-wide schedule of uniform opening and closing hours was recommended Friday night by the Montgomery County NRA committee...There wasn't a dissenting vote to the question of opening at 8 a.m. and closing at 5:30 p.m. on all week days except Saturday when retailers will...close at 10 p.m...It was agreed that there should be no Sunday openings.

--- The nucleus of the county NRA unit is an advisory committee composed of representatives of each city, town and community...Morton Mills: John Prather, J.R. Bryant and L.R. Johnson.

27 October; Review; Morton Mills: The Bryant restaurant was threatened by fire Wednesday morning when the light plant in the basement of the building caught fire. The plant was destroyed and the floor joists above were badly charred...

1934

16 March; Review: A fourth dividend payment of 10 percent is being issued this week by...the Morton Mills bank.

6 July; Review: The Morton Mills team will play Braddyville Sunday at Morton Mills.

(Note: It is said that the ball diamond was across the road north of the church in 1934.)

27 July; Review: On Monday Montgomery county was designated as one of 24 southwest Iowa counties in the emergency drouth area...

1935

4 January; Review: (Obit of Joe Cunningham) ...in 1919 he moved to Morton Mills where he was engaged in operating a garage with his brother George. For nine years they were located near the Prather store and six years ago they moved to the present location on the highway...

(Note: George Cunningham sold the garage-gas station to Gerald and Howard Perwell. They didn't do much garage work, but did fix a lot of tires.

(In March 1937 Howard sold his interest in the garage to Gerald. Hazel Perwell tells that Howard started hauling things for neighbors when he was 18 or 19, "with a little old Ford truck with no brakes." After he left the station Howard continued in the trucking business.

(It is uncertain just when Gerald added a grocery store to his business.)

20 September; Review: The Morton Mills vicinity is to have a fine road improvement with the grading and graveling of the road from highway No. 71 at Morton Mills west one and one quarter miles to the Morton Mills cemetery...

1936

7 February; Review: 21 Days Below Zero Break All Time Cold Record -

27 March; Review: ...The bank of Morton Mills, making a 100 percent dividend began payment...Tuesday morning at the Villisca bank.

The bank building, furniture and fixtures of the bank at Morton Mills...are owned by H.E. Hausen. They were purchased last December by Mr. Hausen from the receiver.

5 June; Review; Morton Mills: The home talent play given at the school house Wednesday and Thursday was well attended.

4 September; Review; Morton Mills: Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Penwell moved Friday...to their house at the Penwell oil station.

1937

19 February; Review; Morton Mills: Mrs. John Bryant is the new postmistress at Morton Mills. The post office was moved from the Leslie Johnson store to the Bryant restaurant.

8 October; Review; Morton Mills: Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Smith moved Wednesday from the building formerly occupied by the Seaburg & Johnson store to Grant. The old store has been sold and is to be torn down.

29 November; Review; Morton Mills: Workmen are busy wrecking the Morton Mills amusement hall. The owners are planning to use the lumber for other buildings.

1938

13 January; Review: Fire Friday afternoon burned to the ground the large 8-room residence occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Prather...

23 June; Review; Morton Mills: The ladies' kittenball team of Morton Mills went to Grant last Tuesday afternoon and played with the ladies there. The score was 6 to 4 in favor of Grant.

15 September; Review; Sciola: Earl Findley is driving a school bus with which he is hauling the rural high school students to Villisca. School opened Monday and he had nearly 30 students.

29 September; Review; Morton Mills: A kittenball tournament was held here Sunday...Morton Mills won first...

1939

2 March; Review: Just 67 years ago, back in 1872, John Focht used a yoke of oxen and a wagon to haul a load of lumber from Villisca to Morton Mills in 12 hours. The 13-mile trip was made at the rate of a little over a mile an hour.

John, now 82, was 16 then and the lumber was for the first frame house the family had lived in since moving to this territory from Ohio in 1857.

13 July; Review; Morton Mills: The Memorial Cemetery west of Morton Mills has been improved by a new ornamental fence, which was completed the past week.

27 July; Review; Morton Mills: Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Penwell...left Thursday on a motor trip...Mrs. D.C. Penwell and son Joe are in charge of the oil station and post office while they are gone.

10 August; Review: The Villisca board of education has purchased a 42-passenger school bus for use on the Morton Mills route north of Villisca on No. 71...

7 September; Review: Fire at Morton Mills Friday afternoon destroyed the John Bryant restaurant and home and practically all the contents...the Fletcher Gourley residence (is) just across the road north.

The Bryants lived upstairs over the restaurant...Mr. Bryant had operated the restaurant for 19 years.

28 December; Express: The mid-winter Bible conference and young people's rally, conducted by the King's Business Gospel team, will be held at the Morton Mills church from Friday evening until midnight Sunday night...



1940

2 May; Review; Morton Mills: Approximately 100 Villisca and Morton Mills residents got together Friday night at a good will dinner, sponsored by the Villisca Chamber of Commerce, at the Morton Mills church...

7 November; Review: Douglas Township voters Tuesday approved...the question of levying a tax...for the purpose of maintaining a fire truck in Grant, to be used in Douglas Township.

1941

7 August; Review; Morton Mills: The Morton Mills softball team has lost three games.

19 June; Review: The motion picture, in technicolor, of Co. "F" boys and others of the troops at Camp Claiborne, LA., will be shown at the Rialto theatre. The pictures taken by Lt. Darwin Dunn of Co. "F" will show the soldiers at drill and in camp.

1942

2 July; Review: A novel idea was conceived this week by Harry Tyler and Bill Moore when they laid plans for taking motion pictures of some of the home folks and sending the reels to the Co. "F" boys in Ireland...

16 July; Review; Morton Mills: Over 3,000 pounds of scrap rubber was turned in at the Penwell oil station here during the rubber salvage drive.

--- A service flag honoring the boys of this community who are in the army and navy was dedicated Sunday evening at the church.

30 July; Review: ...will show local movies of local people at the Rialto before the reels are sent to the boys overseas...

27 August; Review; Morton Mills: Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Penwell have rented their oil station and store to...Mr. and Mrs. John Bryant and son of Dickeyville...

5 November; Review: Mr. and Mrs. John Prather of Morton Mills are leaving today for Indianapolis where they will make their home...Mr. Prather closed out his general merchandise store in Morton Mills and sold the building to W.H. McCracken, implement dealer there. Mr. Prather and his brother Walter, now deceased, owned the store 40 years.

10 December; Review; Morton Mills: The white elephant sale held during "Women at War Week" at the Morton Mills church and sponsored by the commercial clubs sold war bonds and stamps totaling \$663.30

1945

17 July; Review; Morton Mills: The church basement which has had water in it for over two months was cleaned Wednesday by members of the ladies aid.

1 November; Review: The U.S. Civil Service commission has announced an examination to fill the position of 4th class postmaster at Morton Mills, Iowa...

(Note: Donald Norcross took charge of the post office in March 1946. At that time the office was in the bank building. Norcross moved it into the McCracken implement store, which was in the old Prather building.)

1946

17 January; Review; Morton Mills: Howard Campbell...and Floyd Campbell have purchased the McCracken garage here.

11 April; Review: W.H. McCracken will operate implement stores in both Villisca and Morton Mills.

19 December; Review; Morton Mills: Mr. and Mrs. John Bryant and son moved the

first of the week from the Gerald Penwell oil station and store to their residence just west of the station. Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Penwell...who are operating the store will move soon to their property here.

1947

22 May; Review; Morton Mills: Two trailers were stolen Tuesday night from Donald Norcross, who operates an implement store here.

11 September; Review; Morton Mills: Mrs. Donald Norcross was able to be back to her duties as post mistress...

1948

18 March; Review: The post office at Morton Mills, with 17 patrons, was closed Monday, March 15, by order of the post master general, following the resignation of Donald Norcross, post master for the last 18 months...Attempts to find somebody to take Mr. Norcross' place in the post office have been unsuccessful...Route No. 2 from Villisca started serving the patrons of the Morton Mills office.



9 September; Review; Morton Mills: The Morton Mills school, which ceased operating as a two-room school in the spring of 1928 opened again Monday with two teachers in charge...

1949

14 July; Express: Sixty trucks are now hauling gravel from a pit opened last week on the Fletcher Gourley farm on highway 71 a quarter-mile north of Morton Mills.

Operations are being conducted by the Missouri Valley Limestone company, with 75 men employed...in operation is a rock crusher valued at \$65,000...The pit covers a 20-acre area...

1950

25 May; Review: Harry Olson and Howard Campbell purchased of Earl Spiker of Grant his International Harvester Company dealership contract and stock of machinery and parts, taking immediate possession. They will close out their implement stock in Morton Mills.

Mr. Campbell, who has been in charge of the Olson & Campbell business in Morton Mills, will manage the implement store in Grant.

1951

15 November; Review: A formal dedication of the Morton Mills Union church will be held at 2:45 p.m. Sunday, November 18...This past summer the church property was purchased by...the Morton Mills Union church.

13 December; Review: ...Morton Mills has a deer that goes to school each day. Her name is Bamby, she's...a friend of all the 21 children in the school...They play with her at recess and noon, and at dinner time they share their lunches with her...How long she has been there, nobody seems quite certain...

1952

6 November; Review; Morton Mills: Approximately \$90 was made at the Morton Mills school carnival Friday evening.

1953

1 October; Sun; Donna Penwell, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Penwell, Morton Mills, was the lucky winner of the Shetland pony, Freckles, which was given away Friday p.m., the first of Red Oak's Free Parking days for September...

1954

11 February; Review: At a special election of the voters of Douglas

Township held February 3 at the city hall in Grant, a vote of 68 to 16 was cast in favor of a 1.5 additional township levy for the purchase of a new fire truck...

6 May; Review; Grant: The new fire truck purchased by the town of Grant and Douglas township was received Thursday.

2 September; Review: The bridge over the Nodaway river, one-half mile west of Morton Mills collapsed Monday just after a truck load of grain...had crossed over. The truck was in the clear.

This is the bridge for which a contract was recently awarded by the county board of supervisors, "and none too soon", Supervisor McAlpin said... The bridge will be 200 feet long...

9 December; Review; Morton Mills: ...Nu-wood squares and panels are being put on the ceiling and walls of the Morton Mills Church.

1955

5 May; Review: Five schools competed in the annual play day held Tuesday in Morton Mills...

27 May; Review; Morton Mills: ...Mrs. John Bryant and son moved from their home to a cabin owned by Gerald Penwell...

13 October; Review; Morton Mills: A sheet iron covered building in Morton Mills owned by H.H. Lemley of California, burned to the ground about 2 a.m. Wednesday.

Stored in the building were 30 bluegrass strippers belonging to Mr. Lemley and a combine owned by A.T. Bergren...

1956

13 August; Express; Morton Mills: Fire...destroyed a shed owned by Harry Olson here with some machinery owned by the former Olson & Campbell firm lost in the blaze...

1957

28 February; Express; Morton Mills: The ladies aid annual covered-dish dinner was held Wednesday noon in the church basement, honoring families leaving and moving into the community...

21 March; Express; Morton Mills: The Morton Mills and Tenville schools played softball at Morton Mills Friday afternoon. The score was 20 to 21 in favor of Tenville.

1958

4 September; Review; Morton Mills: The Morton Mills school opened September 2 with just one teacher...

1959

4 June; Review; Morton Mills: A large crowd was present for the last closing day picnic at the Morton Mills school. The pupils will attend the Villisca Community schools next year.

1960

3 March; Express: Erlo Jergensen bought the building and site at Mayflower No. 7. The Mayflower Community group will continue to hold meetings there. Stanley Taylor bought Housier No. 6...

The Morton Mills school house has been turned over to the township trustees for meetings and other uses.

10 November; Review; Morton Mills: The monthly community party at the school building will be Saturday evening.

1962

27 December; Review; Morton Mills: Penwell Bros. Trucking & Grain firm entertained their employees and their families at a Christmas party...

(Note: Penwells bought the Morton Mills elevator in December 1960.)

1965

1 July; Review: A shot was fired during a break-in early Thursday morning at the Penwell Grocery at Morton Mills. Mrs. Gerald Penwell, who lives with her husband in the rear of the store, said that she was awakened at 3 a.m. by the sound of breaking glass and entering the store saw a man going through drawers.

...The man saw her and fired a shot through the glass door and then fled. About \$10 in change was taken...

8 July; Review: Charges of assault with intent to commit murder were filed against two men in the Penwell robbery case...

1966

8 December; Express; Morton Mills: Lucky Lindies and Douglas Herdsman 4-H clubs met at the school house...

1969

7 August; Review; Adv. - Auction-Service Station & Equipment - As we have sold out to new Highway 71, the following will sell by auction at Morton Mills on Aug. 11, at 6:00

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Penwell

14 August; Express; Villisca: USAF Capt. Laurent Lee Gourley...has been reported missing in action while on an Air Force mission in Vietnam...

1970

23 April; Review: (State officials) announce the closing of US highway 71 from US highway 34 to the south junction of highway 92...

(Note: US 71 was rebuilt from Atlantic to the Missouri line.

(On 13 April the Douglas Township trustees transferred the Morton Mills school grounds to the state. The schoolhouse was sold and torn down.)

1971

9 August; Express; Atlantic: Huge machines and lots of manpower have been working on US 71 south of Atlantic for several months and hopefully the new highway will be opened for traffic later this year.

(Note: The project ran behind schedule on the Grant-to-US 34 segment. It opened very late in '71 or early '72.)

1973

26 July; Express: Real Estate Transfers-Howard Penwell et al to Penwell Grain Company...

2 August; Review; Morton Mills: Mr. and Mrs. David Penwell and family moved from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Villisca this past week. David is associated with the Penwell Elevators.

(Note: The firm was incorporated, and Howard's three children and their spouses took charge.)

1976

13 May; Review; Morton Mills: There will be an election in Grant and Morton Mills the week of May 10 thru May 15 to elect the Douglas twp. Bicentennial King and Queen. Voting places...Penwell Elevator in Morton Mills.

27 May; Review; Morton Mills: There will be a memorial service and dedication of our new bicentennial flag at the Morton Mills cemetery Monday morning May 31st, at 9 o'clock.

3 November; Express: Morton Mills, Stennett, Among DOT's Removals From Current Map of Iowa - If you believe the Iowa Department of Transportation, then Stennett and Morton Mills and 110 other such communities in Iowa don't exist.

...to citizens of the 112 communities affected, the towns' absences bring a

slight twinge of pain...Morton Mills can still be found by a large sign along US 71. Business is as usual at Penwell Grain Co., the town's only business...

1977

21 April; Review; Morton Mills: A Linden tree, a gift from the Douglas Township 1976 Bicentennial fund, was planted on the Morton Mills church yard...

2 June; Review; Grant: Grant women's Softball team hosted a ball game with women from Morton Mills community Wednesday evening at the ball park...

8 December; Review: The Montgomery County minibus will start serving the senior citizens of Montgomery County the week of December 12...The Grant and Morton Mills communities will be served on Tuesday... The trips will be alternated each week between Red Oak and Atlantic...

1978

31 August; Express; Grant: Griswold State Bank, low bidder, purchased the \$20,000 in anticipatory bonds sold by Douglas Township Board of Trustees August 21.

The bonds...have been authorized... for the purpose of improving the fire protection services of the township...

1980

21 January; Express: In the basement of the Morton Mills Union Church, they surround the quilt...the Morton Mills Ladies' Aid continues, as it has for even they don't know how many years...It is old; meeting every three winter weeks and just about every week in the summer, they quilt for the church.

The Aid's quilting and the church are very much intertwined. A non-denominational church, its congregation keeps it running, mainly from a fall bazaar where the finished quilts are sold...

Morton Mills is there, held together by women who like to quilt...

27 May; Express: ...The Silver Trail is Montgomery County's once-a-week transport for the elderly...

1981

3 April; Review: A new sign at the Morton Mills Church has been erected due to the efforts of the church's youth choir. The choir...painted the sign and the posts.

(Note: In 1991 a lighted sign was installed.)

12 October; Express...Asphalt resurfacing is nearing completion on U.S. 71 from near...Atlantic south to U.S. 34...

1982

25 February; Review: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Penwell of Morton Mills recently received a letter from Donovan Powers, Vallejo, Ca...Powers affectionately remembers Morton Mills in "by-gone days":

"Some things I remember about Mortons Mill some fifty-five years ago are Bryant's Restaurant; the barber shop; the window in the corner of the pool room, and the gang that used to gather there in the evenings to shoot pool; Seabery and Johnson and Walter Prather's general store, where one could buy anything from horse collars to overalls and even small vials of lovely smelling green perfume."



"I remember Joe and George Cunningham's Garage, Sam Atwood's produce station, Fay Still's hog buying office and the bank when John Taylor was the manager."

"Who can forget the Mortons Mill dance hall that featured Bess Boeman

and her group. Sam Damith was on drums, Happy Hall on tenor banjo and guitar, Willis Dunn on the sax, and a guy named Wallace was on the trumpet. Delbert Anysbell rattled the bones and shouted out the calls for at least six square dance sets. There were no microphones in those days. When things were jumping, you could feel the floor actually bounce. I remember you, Howard, playing the banjo accompanying your dad as he played the fiddle at the house square dances."

"...I remember your dad, Hazel, giving me my first haircut in a real barber chair. He doused me with the greatest smelling hair tonic I had ever experienced. It was called 'Johnny Jump-up'. Did I ever think I was grown up! It smelled wonderful, and all for the sum of 35 cents."

"Can't forget Ellis McCracken, Bill McCracken and the Merchant boys on the corner across the road from the church."

"Remember Bill asking Elzene (Gourley) Penton to take a ride with him on Connie Merchant's motorcycle with the side car. He took her all the way to Atlantic."

"Many happy memories of Mortons Mill."

Donovan Powers

1988

1 April; Express: Take 20 river otters. Add two school bus loads of children, 300 or so adult observers, several Department of Natural Resources personnel and a host of newspaper and TV photographers. Mix well and what do you have? Otter day on the banks of the Nodaway River!

The Department of Natural Resources released 20 river otters into the Nodaway River at Morton Mills Tuesday morning as part of the DNR's effort to re-establish the river otter in Iowa. The new Iowa residents were oohed and aahed by the crowd of onlookers as professional and amateur photographers stumbled over

themselves trying to get the best picture.

...otter releases are part of a three-state trade...Kentucky receives wild turkeys from Iowa and, for every two turkeys received, buys one otter from Louisiana for \$400 and sends it to Iowa...

(Note: Presumably the otters are thriving, but they are elusive critters, and are seldom seen.)

THEY OTTER BE



Department of Natural Resources

21 July; Review: The community of Morton Mills has received a gift in memory of Art and Ethel Bergren. Arching over the entrance to the Morton Mills Cemetery is a gate and sign, which says "Mortons Mill Cemetery".

1989

9 February; Review: 75th Anniversary Program - February 5, 1989 was a day that will remain in the minds and hearts of the Morton Mills Church congregation and visitors for years to come.

Many weathered the sub-zero temperature to come to the church's 75th anniversary.

The church bell rang at 10 a.m. to call the worshippers together...

The choir sang "The Old Country Church"...Donna Chapman read a brief history of the Christian Church that was located at the northwest corner opposite the Morton Mills cemetery. It had burned down...

History of the present church was read...The Morton Mills Ladies Aid served the noon meal...

The afternoon program...was closed with the congregation singing "Till We Meet Again". Everyone went to the basement and was served punch and cake. Memories, pictures and news clippings were enjoyed...

1992

17 March; Express; Morton Mills: Leonard Danielson has received an award from the Pinkerton Agency.

--- The Morton Mills annual soup supper will be March 18. Chili and potato soup will be served along with sandwiches and pie from 5-7:30 p.m. A free will offering will be accepted. The supper is sponsored by W.W. and B.L. Clubs.

1997

20 March 1997; Review: ...the amazing cucumber tree, the Morton Mills elevator...are just some of the Montgomery County sights you will see in slides at the program, "Off and On the Beaten Track" at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the History Center...

(Note: The elevator is a historical site in itself, and is also one of the very few buildings left from the days of the Atlantic Northern & Southern Railroad. It is the only such structure which is still fulfilling the purpose for which it was built.

(The Perwell grain business has not been covered in the local news, so we welcome this report from Sandra Perwell Taylor:

("The first of January 1945 the Perwell Brothers Trucking partnership was formed, with Howard, Maurice and Mac as members. Mac was in charge of the corn sheller. The first office was in Howard's home, then a small office was built between Howard's house and the John Bryant home. The trucks were parked on the site of the old McCracken garage on the west side

of the highway. The primary part of the business was trucking grain for local farmers. There were no beans then - or very few. They also hauled other things, too, such as moving household goods."

("For many years Fletcher Gourley had used the old elevator to store his grain. Art Bergren encouraged the Perwells to take over the structure, assuring them that they would get enough business to pay for it. The partners acquired the property in December 1960, and in exchange, they had a large metal building erected for Fletch Gourley."

("A 50 foot scale was installed with Rick Anderson doing the cement work. A large quonset building was erected for storing sealed corn and a year or so later a Butler building was put up."

("In 1973 the business was incorporated as Perwell Grain Company. The older generation retired and Howard's three children and their spouses took over. In 1976 the firm purchased four acres of land north of the church from Walter Gourley. Over the next four or five years a total of eight bins and a leg with pit were installed."

("Our business has expanded over the past twenty years to a larger radius of at least fifteen miles in each direction. We have five semi-trailers for grain and other grain moving equipment."

("Our elevator is unique in the fact that all we do is buy and sell grain. (and dry and store grain) We do not handle farm supplies, seed, or feed. We now have a total of eighteen grain bins and a wood elevator with a total storage capacity of 520,000 bushels of grain."

("My husband Lynn Taylor and I now own and operate the business. Our two sons are working with us and will soon buy into the corporation.")

Postmaster Appointments

Date of App't.	Postmaster
	Wallace
24 March 1875	Joseph M. McCully
Discontinued 1 February 1878	

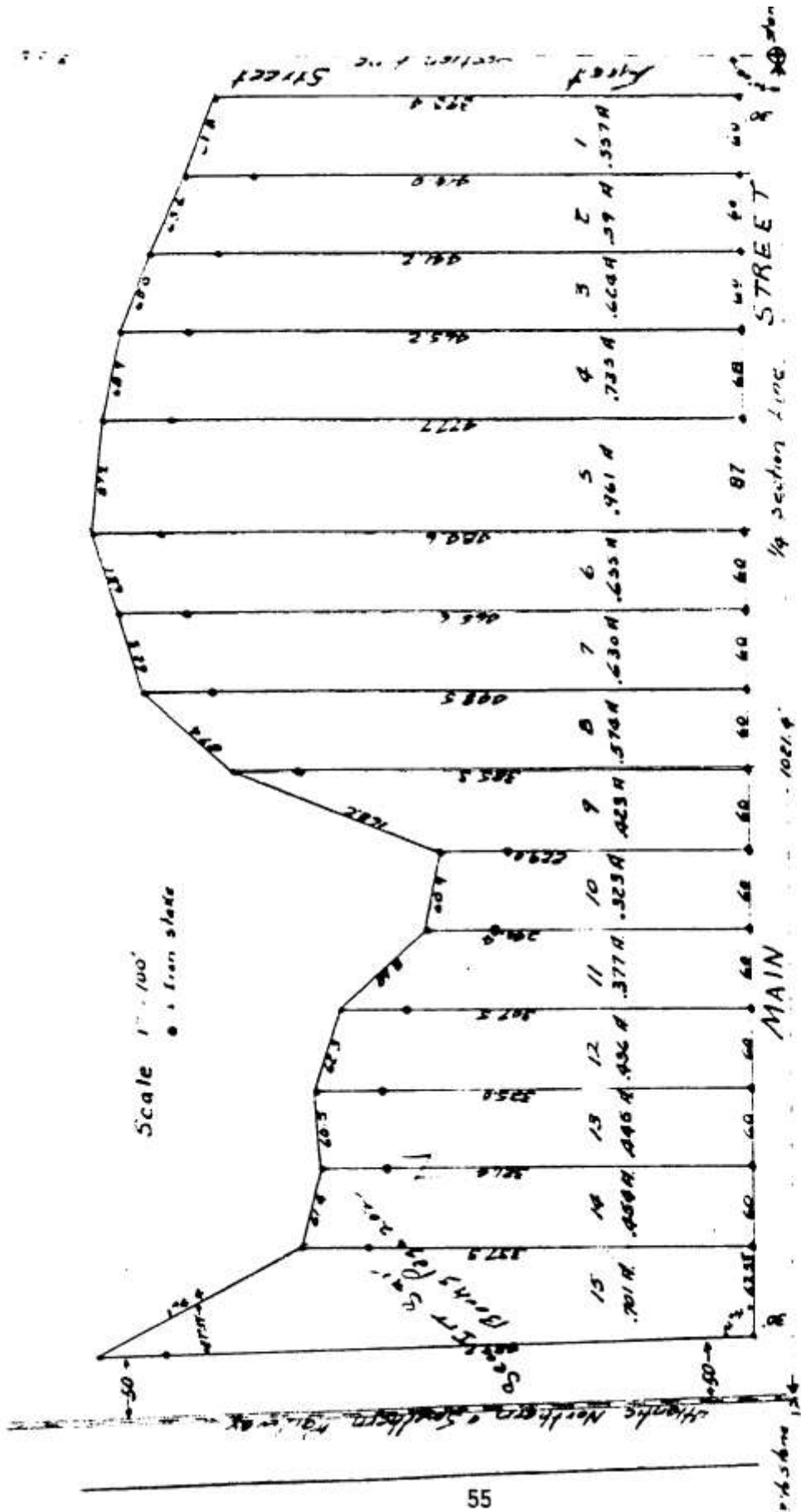
Mortons Mills

3 March 1879	Byron L. Blackburn
12 July 1880	Silas Morton
13 March 1883	Samuel Collins
9 January 1884	Lara Kime1
21 January 1886	Oscar W. Bean
12 January 1888	Samuel I. Atwood
5 October 1892	John M. Reticker
31 December 1895	Frank O. Swanson
7 October 1896	Edward L. Duff
25 August 1900	Herbert F. Porter
20 September 1902	Charles W. Johnson
20 February 1904	John M. Prather
Discontinued 30 June 1905	

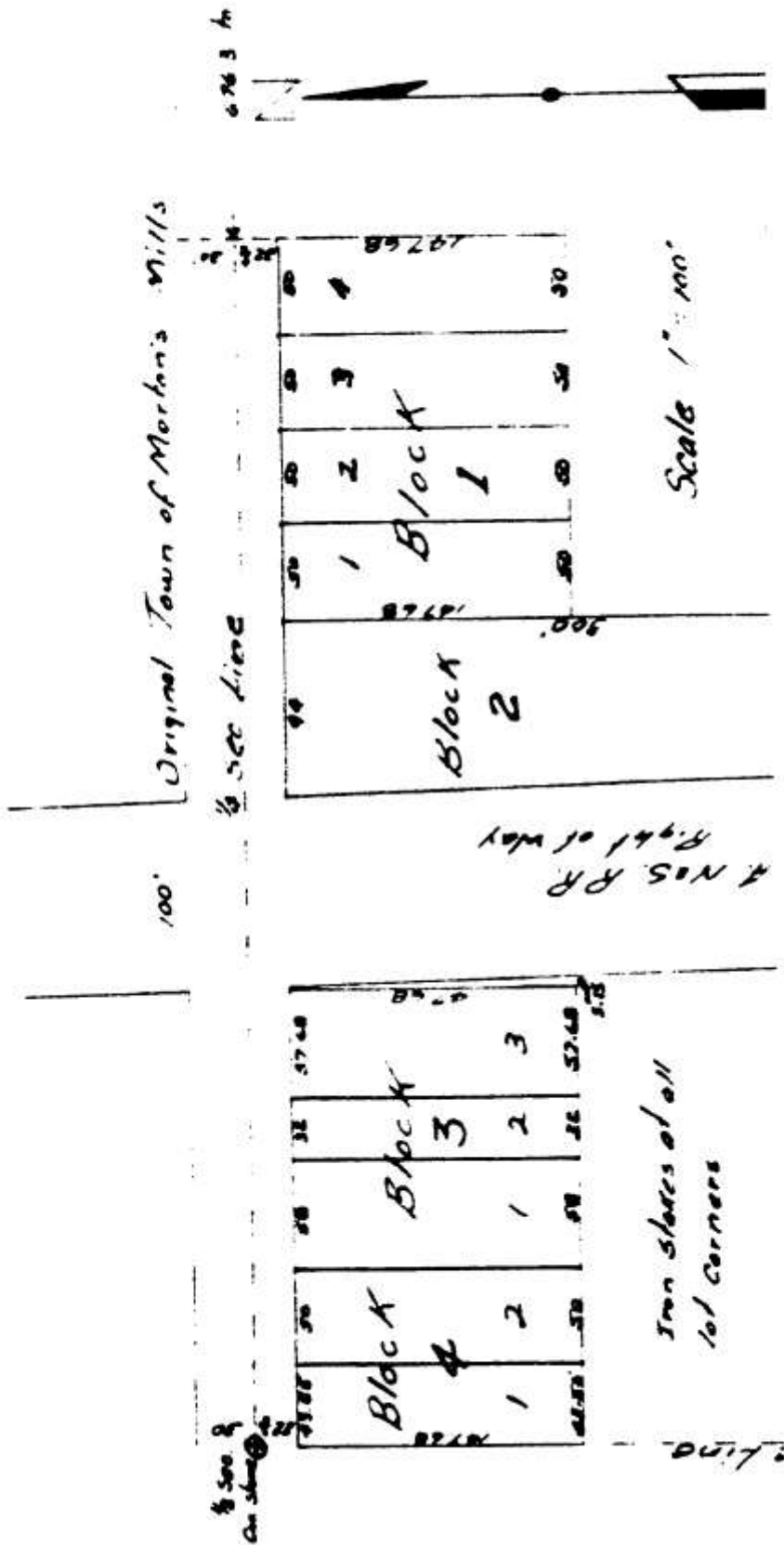
Morton Mills

26 October 1912	Walter B. Prather
6 June 1929	Leslie R. Johnson
29 April 1937	Mrs. Jessie Maud Bryant
20 May 1939	Mrs. Ila May Penwell
16 January 1943	Julius E. Velander
	Mrs. Ruby McCracken; acting PM
3 April 1947	Donald R. Norcross
Discontinued 15 March 1948	

(These dates may not reflect the actual time of service.)



Original Plat of Mortons' Mills
 24 September 1912 - Fletcher Gourley



First Addition to Morton's Mills

filed 21 April 1913

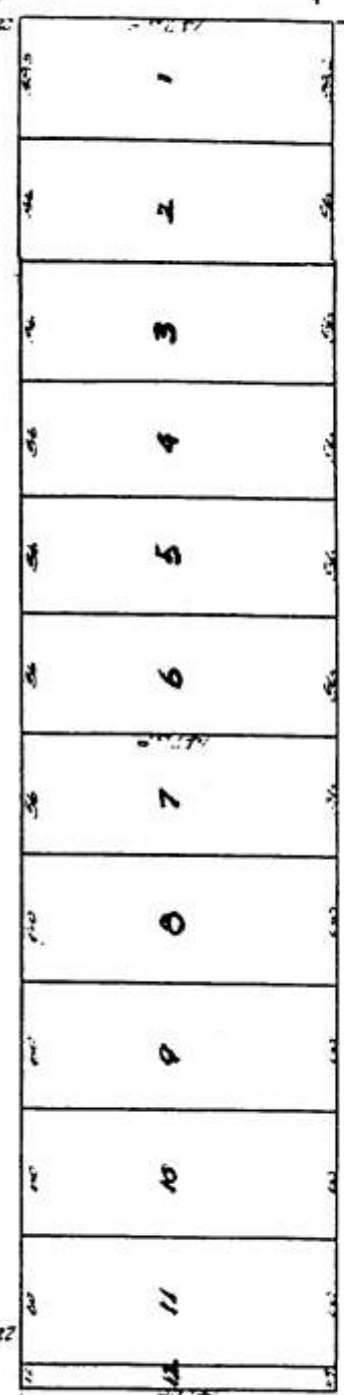
Focht's Addition to Morton's Mills

filed 19 April 1918



1/2 Section

22 1/2



Focht's Addition to
Morton's Mills

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