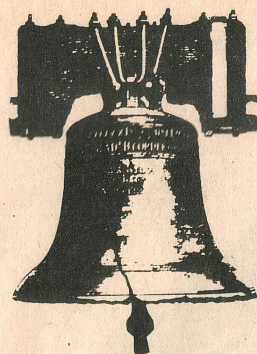
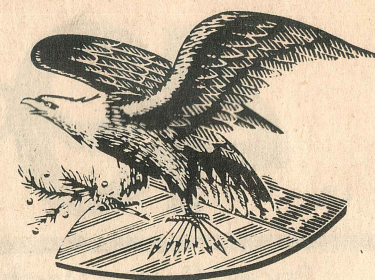


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AREA



BICENTENNIAL



1776-1976

"Remembrances of Days Gone By"

Luther Only Existing Town in Worth Township

The only existing town in Worth Township today is the tiny community of Luther. A post office was started in the town in 1884 but it wasn't until 1893 that the town was officially laid out. The man responsible for this and for whom the town was named, was Clark Luther. He was one of 11 children born to Sameul and Dora Luther, a pioneer family from Clay County, Indiana.

The earliest appearance of the Luther name in history dates back to Saxony, Germany and 1328 where Johann Luther lived. Not much is known about this man because of the numerous religious wars occurring at this time.

The Luther lineage of which we are interested are descendants of John Luther, born around 1423 in the Thuringia forest region of old Saxony. His brother Henry (Heine) Luther, born approximately 1425 also in old Saxony, was the grandfather of Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546), the Reformer.

Descendants of John Luther migrated down from old Saxony through Switzerland into Baden and Wurttemberg section of Germany, east of the Rhine River and on into Strasbourg, Alsace, where Albrecht Luther was born in 1650.

Their stay in Strasbourg was short, for the Luthers moved back into the Wurttemberg area of Germany near Switzerland where it is believed they started their move to the New World.

Getting out of the area was not easy and oftentimes took several years of planning. Christian Luther, great-grandfather of Clark Luther, his wife Christiana, three sons, Michael, George, Jacob and a daughter landed at Alexandria, Virginia in 1759.

The family settled around Frederick where his sons served in the Revolutionary War. Michael and George were foot soldiers while Jacob managed a supply wagon-train.

After his term in the armed forces Michael married Mary Kindle on December 20, 1789. Her people lived in southern Pennsylvania where she met Michael during the war. In 1790, Michael and his father, Christian, moved their families to Randolph County, North Carolina where they began farming at the headwaters of the Cape Fear River. Around 1793, Jacob joined the rest of his family.

In Carolina, as in Maryland, the farm lands soon wore out and with the thousands of immigrants pouring in from Europe, the lands became over crowded. The pioneers started pushing west over the Appalachian Mountains into Kentucky, Tennessee, and the Ohio Valley. Jacob and his married children founded a large community in Clay County, Indiana along the Wabash River near Bowling Green. George's family, however, remained in Randolph and Chatham counties.

Sameul Luther, a son of Jacob Luther, was born May 2, 1802 in North Carolina. At the age of 20 he married Dova Green and the following year near settled near Bowling Green, Indiana.

Here he remained until May 1849 when he moved to Iowa and settled with his family north of Madrid about one mile north and west of Fairview Cemetery. He also donated the land for Fairview Cemetery. At this time in history, Luther was regarded as the most successful farmer in Boone County.

Eleven children, Martha, Clark, Margurrite, Mary, Warren, Nancy, Zylph, Mildren, Newton, Myron, and Dova Ann were born to them.



CLARK LUTHER

Clark was born September 2, 1823 in Randolph County, North Carolina. While still a baby, his parents moved to Clay County, Indiana near Bowling Green.

In 1849, he came to Ames settling near the present site of Iowa State University. He stayed here for two years making periodic visits back to Indiana. He later purchased additional property in the Ames area, but sold it in 1851 and moved to Boone County about two miles west of Luther.

He purchased 160 acres from the government at \$1.25 an acre. His first house was a log cabin but he later built a brick home across the road in 1858.

Clark married Laura Long, daughter of John Long in 1854 and they had 10 children, French, Ira, Emma, Sameul, Donea, Johnney, Sidney, Delaney, Alva and Sara.

Luther

The second and last town to be laid out in Worth Township was the town of Luther. The post office in this tiny Boone County community was established in 1884. It was the fifth such building organized in Worth Township and it was named Luther in honor of Clark Luther who owned the house it was kept in and the land on which it stood. The first post master was J. K. Jenkins and this post office distributed mail to citizens of southern Worth Township for many years.

Early in its history, the community was very prosperous due mainly to the Boone line of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad upon which it was located. There once was three stores, one bank, a blacksmith shop, woodwork shop, livery barn, telephone office, practicing physician and two grain elevators.

Two churches were also built, one Methodist Episcopal, the other having the Church of Christ denomination. It also had a brick schoolhouse large enough to accommodate the pupils of the district and nearby area. Today, the schoolhouse is no longer used and the town is a part of the United Community School District.

The town has a population total of approximately 200 people and some of the following businesses can still be found there today: post office, grain elevator, a cafe, several beauty salons, a gas station, two churches, Christian and Methodist in denomination as well as a building housing city hall where all town government meetings are held.

For the past two summers, the town has been a popular resting spot for Iowa's summer bike riders and recently, the spur line was officially closed to traffic.