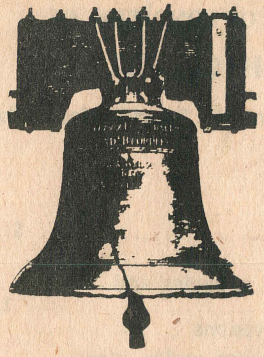
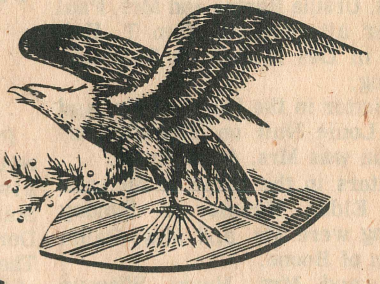


MADRID

AREA



BIG CENTENNIAL



1776-1976

"Rememberances of Days Gone By"

This was the Hutton & Lucas hardware store. Note the balcony running the full length of building. I was born in one of the apartments off this building.

How Madrid Was Named

It is probably safe to say that no other town or community in the state of Iowa received its name in the same manner that the town of Madrid did.

The tiny community owes its name to Charles W. Gaston, first settler in Douglas Township and Boone County. He was the person solely responsible for the naming that became official on September 14, 1857. Gaston, however, did not found the town. That was done by his future mother-in-law, Mrs. Anna Dalander in September, 1846.

Madrid has on file four town plats or building charts, two of which carry the former name of Swede Point.

Mrs. Dalander and her family immigrated from Sweden in 1846 and were the first foreign-born people to settle in Boone County. They chose Section 36, Township 82, Range 26 as their settling spot for it was at this point that the timber projected into the flat prairie land. Being from Sweden, this spot became known as Swede Point and remained so until 1857.

Anna Dalander had four sons and two daughters, Ulla and Anna C. The first of these daughters married C. J. Cassel while the latter married Gaston.

Mrs. Dalander died on November 28, 1854, at which time Gaston was appointed administrator of her estate.

A difficulty arose between Gaston and her four sons in regards to management of the estate, and, seeking resentment towards them, he began taking steps to change the name.

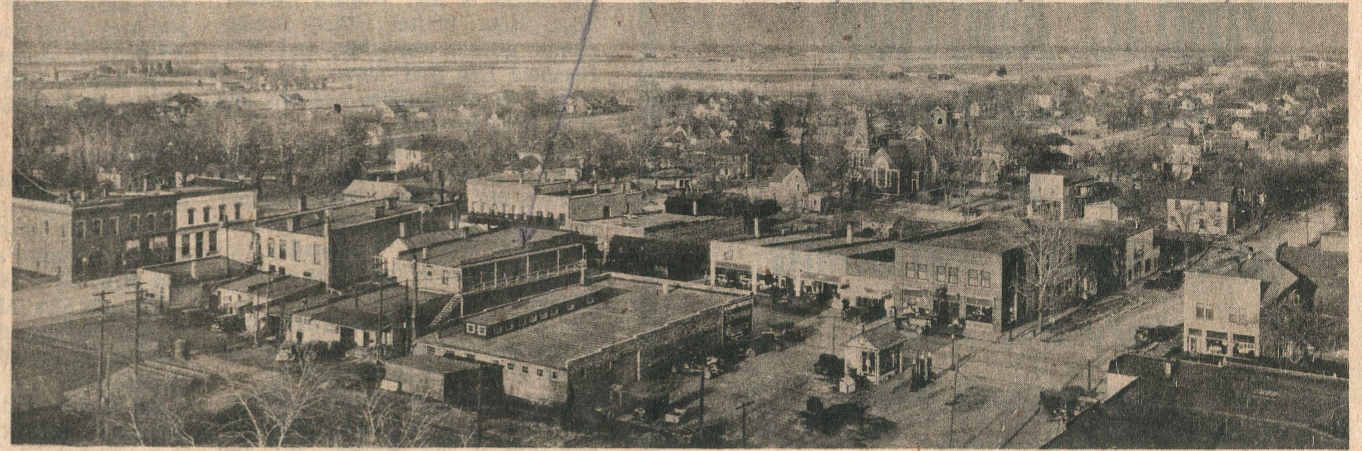
At the time of the change, Gaston had employed in his business a Spaniard, who often spoke of Madrid, the capital of his homeland. Gaston held the Spaniard, his capital and country, all in contempt and it occurred to him, that changing the name of the town to a Spanish one would aggravate the Swedes all the more. So he began the process of changing the name and by 1855, it was complete.

The town post office was established in 1856, one and a half years before the change took place and for the next few years, all mail entering or leaving here was addressed or postmarked Swede Point, Iowa. In 1882, it was officially changed and has carried the name of Madrid ever since.

The name of C. W. Gaston is indelibly written into the history of Madrid and its community. He was Boone County's first settler and was known primarily as a hunter, soldier and backwoodsman.

Born in Pennsylvania on July 10, 1812, Gaston served in the Army for several years and was stationed near St. Louis, a member of Company I. Included in this regiment were Lt. Albert B. Lea, who the Minnesota town is named after and Nathan Boone, son of Daniel Boone.

Gaston lived in Hannibal, Mo., where he married and remained for several years until the death of his



wife. He then came to the now Boone County area to settle.

He married Anna C. Dalander in 1849 and following the death of his mother-in-law in 1854, he assumed control as administrator of her estate.

C. W. Gaston died in 1892 at the age of 80, having led a rough and ready lifestyle. The initial piece of ground settled by Gaston was along the Des Moines river where the Art Whitmore farm is located and it was here the Swedes found him in 1846.

The Woman Who Founded a Town

Brief History of Mrs. Anna Dalander, Founder of the City of Madrid

Among the Swedish pioneers who founded the community is one woman who will always be remembered. She was Mrs. Anna Dalander who founded the village of Swede Point, the original name for the city of Madrid.



Mrs. Anna M. Dalander, founder of the eventual city of Madrid is shown on the right hand side of the bottom row. Mrs. Dalander led the Swedish immigrants to the Madrid area in 1846. Others shown are C.J. Anderson, Mrs. Christina Dalander and Mrs. Eric Soderlund.

Early history of Mrs. Dalander is not available, except that she was born in Sweden and with her six children, came to what is now Boone County and Madrid in 1846.

She took a claim here and after some hard work by herself and family, became the owner of the West one-half of the N.E. one-quarter of section 32-82-26. Upon the tract, she built a log cabin.

She and her sons were the forerunners of the many Swedish families who moved to this community to make their home. It was in her log cabin that the first religious worship service in the county was held.

It can also be said that this small gathering was the nucleus upon which the present St. John's Lutheran Church was founded. This pioneer woman was not only religious in nature, but she had a vision for the future.

Probably the biggest thing for which she will be remembered was that she founded the city of Madrid. The first original plat was filed in 1851.

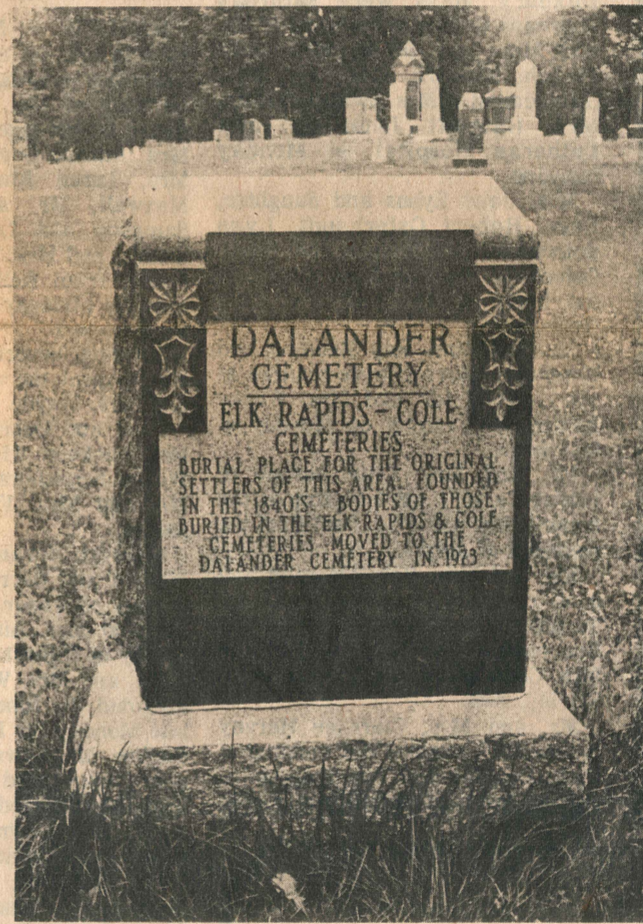
Four plats were eventually filed, two under Swede Point and two under the name of Madrid. Mrs. Dalander died in 1854.

Have You Heard
of
"Belle Point?"

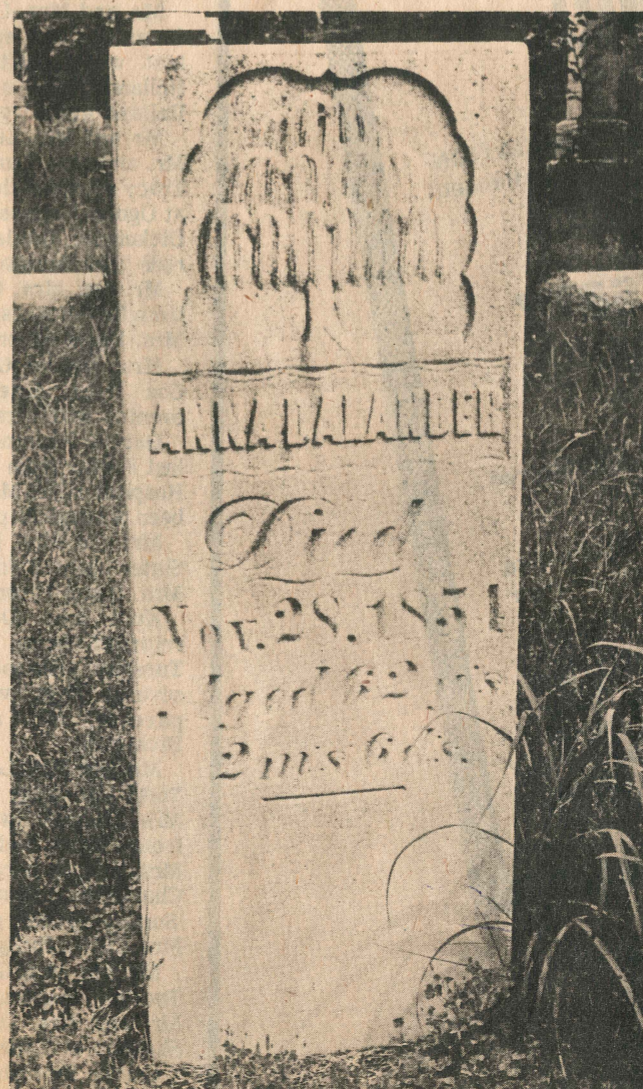
Read About it Soon!



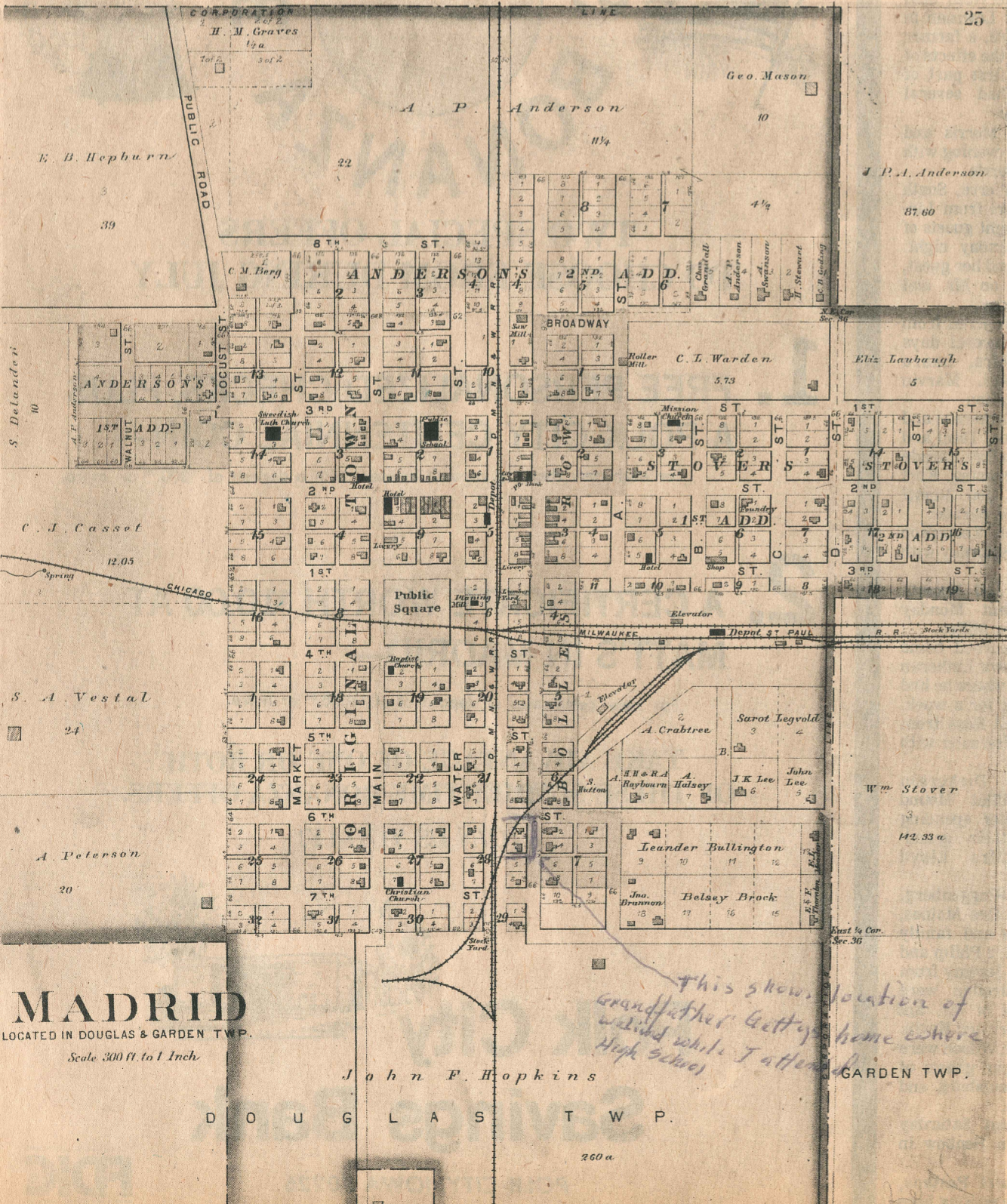
This marker is placed on the grave of Charles Gaston who changed the name of the town from Swede Point to Madrid. A feud over management of the Dalander estate provoked the change.



This is the marker located at the front of Dalander Cemetery as it is seen today. Graves from Cole Cemetery and Elk Rapids were relocated there in 1973.



This is the tombstone of Mrs. Anna M. Dalander as it looks today at Dalander Cemetery, northwest of Madrid. Mrs. Dalander founded Swede Point in 1846.



MADRID
LOCATED IN DOUGLAS & GARDEN TWP.
Scale 300 ft. to 1 Inch.

John F. Hopkins

DOUGLAS TWP.

260 a