

YORK.

The first settlers of Green County never tired of extolling the beauty of its prairies. Sometimes, when they watched the play of the sunlight on the long grassy billows before them, something of its brightness entered into their own hopes; and, with unusual confidence in the world's progress, they remarked to each other, sometime, though it wo'n't be in our day, these prairies will all be in farms. Then, because they had come, originally if not immediately, from a wooded country, and it seemed to them more in accordance with the fitness of things to spend life making a clearing than to take one of nature's making, a great many of them turned their backs on the beautiful prairie and made their homes in the timber, though a few of them, after grubbing away their best years, adopted a contrary opinion and removed to the prairie, where they speedily acquired a competence. Even while they admired the prairies, most of these denizens of the forest lamented the country's great scarcity of trees; and, as the Indian was known to be the cause of some of the

inconveniences to which they were subject, they ascribed the deficiency of trees also to him, or at least to the fires which he sent sweeping over the country every year to make the hunting good. By the time York was settled, prairies were in better repute than they had been five years before. It does not appear which one of the opposing theorists on the treelessness of prairies numbered the first settlers of York among his followers. These pioneers may have seen the cause of prairies in climatic influences, in dried-up lakes, or in peculiarities of soil; though, since they saw that the seeming deficiency of trees was really a blessing—and there has always been a superabundance of woodland—it might have seemed to them a pity to deny the blame-laden Indian the credit of it. Whatever their theory was, and it is possible they never bothered themselves with any theory, the first settlers of York left the timber of the northern and western parts of the town unclaimed, and made their settlement on the prairie, near the south-east corner of the township.

John Stewart, the first settler, came from Ohio in 1840. The next settlers, Wm. C. Green, Chas. Reed, and Ezra Wescott, came together from New York state. They also came in 1840. In 1841-'2, Amos Conkey, Albro, Chester, and Wm. Crowell, Joseph Miller, Philander Peebles, H. H. Hurlbut, J. F. Wescott, Wm. Spears, and Simeon Allen came, most of them from New York, the others from Ohio. Most of them settled at once in the south-eastern part of the town, calling their settlement Green's Prairie. They were poorly prepared for

the cold winter of 1842-'3, but they had health and hope, and only one person died—a little daughter of Philander Peebles, who had contracted consumption in New York.

It was several years before any settlement was made in the northern and western parts of York. Since 1853-'4-'5, these parts of the town have been mostly occupied by Norwegians. There are also a few Germans and Irish, and near the south-west corner, Yankees are numerous enough to give one place the name of Yankee hollow.

As the prairie north of Green's Prairie was settled, it began to be called York, in honor of the original home of the people; and at the suggestion of the Rev. Augustus Hurlbut, the first clergyman in the township, this name was given to the town, which would probably have been named for Mr. Green had not Green been the name of the county. In 1846 or '47, Green's Prairie obtained a post office, to which the first postmaster, Lemuel Chase, gave the name of Farmer's Grove, in allusion to a grove near his house. A little later, Edward Sendel opened a store on the prairie. Both office and store were farther north and west than the present village of Farmer's Grove. Mr. Sendell closed his store and Mr. E. T. Gardner opened another a short distance west of the site of the village. In the meantime Bem post office, named by admirers of the Hungarian general, had been established on York prairie, and the Farmer's Grove office had been moved south, and after several changes in the ownership of the store,

store and office met at the house of Mr. J. F. Wescott, where the small village of Farmer's Grove has grown up around them.

The village of Postville dates its beginning from the arrival of Albro Crowell, who made his home there when he first came to the county. The second and third houses were built by Ira Walker and Edwin Crowell. In 1858, Gilbert Post built the fourth house, the lower story of which was used as a store. After a time, Mr. Crowell started another store. A drug store, a tailor shop, a harness shop, and more dwellings followed. The Stewart post-office, so called for York's first settler, was moved there from its first place a mile or two west, and the village was recorded as Postville. Through all succeeding changes Postville has prospered. The first store has been transformed into a hotel, and long ago the village was thought large enough to have a saloon; but York has never had a board that would grant a license.

During the summer of 1876 four large cheese factories, all owned by companies, were in operation in York. At Farmers' Grove, at the factory north of the village (where was formerly Eli George's tavern, the first voting place in the town), and at Yankee Hollow Limburger cheese is made. At Postville the cheese is American cheese.

LARGEST FARMERS IN YORK IN 1876.

Names.	No. of Acres.	Names.	No. of Acres.
O. Ames,	- 175	D. Ash,	- 205
C. Anderson,	- 224	Holver O. Brenden,	- 161
Hans Arneson,	- 200	Ole Burgeson,	- 160

Names.	No. of Acres.	Names.	No. of Acres.
Wm. Byrne, -	300	Joseph Miller, -	340
*Richard Byrne, -	480	R. S. Mosher, -	189
S. C. Campbell, -	230	Helga Olson, -	233
A. Crowell, -	189	*Gilbert Olson, -	450
R. Crowell, -	190	M. J. Owens, guardian,	265
James Cullen, -	320	J. M. Peebles, -	164
A. O. Eidsmoe, -	170	P. Peebles, -	241
C. O. Eidsmoe, -	242	*Gilbert Post, -	489
Hans Embertson, -	220	Chas. Reed, sen., -	240
K. T. Fjose, -	195	T. C. Richmond, -	279
*Hiram Gabriel, -	643	Davis Robb, -	203
*J. S. Gabriel, -	280	S. M. Sherman, -	176
R. Gabriel, -	170	B. O. Slitten, -	204
Geo. Gilbert, -	365	Ole C. Sorum, -	172
C. Gulson, -	390	A. A. Strowmen, -	288
Andrew Hanson, -	200	Erick Sviggum, -	259
Ole O. Hougen, -	180	Hans S. Sviggum, -	223
H. H. Hurlbut, -	171	Knud J. Sviggum, -	200
Ole Jeremiason, -	214	Ole & A. Thompison, -	360
John Johnson, -	326	Christian Toreson, -	161
A. O. Jorde, -	178	John C. Ula, -	170
Annon Kjellesvig, -	167	J. T. Vollen, -	160
Erik Larson, -	240	A. Wheeler, -	180
Ole H. Lee, -	191		

TOWN OFFICERS FROM 1849 TO '77 INCLUSIVE.

CHAIRMEN.

WM. C. GREEN, four years.	J. STEWART.
J. STEWART.	D. STEWART, three years.
WM. C. GREEN, four years.	D. C. DAY.
P. PEEBLES.	P. PEEBLES.
H. H. HURLBUT.	D. STEWART, five years.
J. STEWART.	P. PEEBLES.
No record for 1861.	J. S. GABRIEL, three years.
H. H. HURLBUT.	

CLERKS.

E. B. CROWELL.	D. STEWART, two years.
E. T. GARDNER.	F. A. DUNHAM.
E. B. CROWELL.	J. F. WESCOTT, two years.
H. GABRIEL, three years.	J. M. PEEBLES, five years.
J. F. WESCOTT.	A. O. EIDSMOE, two years.
H. GABRIEL.	J. A. KETTLESON.
H. H. HURLBUT.	WM. C. KING.
A. ALDER.	A. O. EIDSMOE.
J. F. WESCOTT.	A. PETERSON.
No record for 1861.	

*Largest Stock Growers.