

### Town of Marietta

The town of Marietta is situated 6 miles northeast of Marshall, ½ mile to the Iowa River and Railroad lines. Albion is about 1 mile north. The town was surveyed on October 11, 1851 and the courthouse located there without issue. The county-seat was in Marietta. Their Main Street is currently Marsh Ave (Hwy 330).

Dr. E. B. Bush was the first settler in Marietta in 1850; Mr. William Dishon was the first postmaster in 1851.

Dr. O. F. Hixon built the first mill on the Little Minerva. Dr. George Whealen came to Marietta and was the first physician to practice throughout the County and adjoining counties.

Dr. W. B. Watters had a large and lucrative practice in Marietta with his excellent surgical skills.

Mr. Delos Arnold taught in the first school that was in the old courthouse. Alexander Crow kept the first hotel. Marietta's newspaper, called *Marietta Express* and was published by T. High and A. J. Kenny.

Marietta has a Literary Society meeting weekly at the old courthouse. Many questions were discussed, essays read, and all served to save the village from stagnation.

Excitement in Marietta in 1855-56 as they were told of plans of the Fulton Air Lines Rail Road to make a stop in Marietta along the way to Missouri. In 1856, the population of Marietta increased.

In 1853, Marshalltown was determined to fight for the county-seat. Words heated up; tempers flared. An election in April of 1856, everything was done to control the votes; bribes, exaggerations, presents distributed, and untruths told.

In 1857, Marietta offered a proposal to Albion that if they would vote for Marietta to keep the county-seat, they pledged \$3,00 for the high school. Albion received a large sum of money for the vote to favor Marshalltown.

In January of 1859, Judge Smith had to sign the order to release the records to Marshalltown. That's when, on January 11, 1859, the towns of Marietta and Marshalltown, went to "battle".

The Sheriff sent to Fort Dodge for the Bowen Guards to protect Marshalltown's rights. The Marietta army was led by L. L. Weatherly, an ex-sheriff. The army consisted of farmers, mechanics, and young boys with rifles. Women and children were also involved, shouldering guns, throwing eggs, produce, and remnants of brick and stone.

An injunction, signed by Judge Thompson, halted the removal of records. The crowds were dispersed. At sunset, the altercation was over, no bloodshed, and Marietta retained the county-seat.

A decision by the Supreme Court, in the December term, gave final judgement in favor of Marshalltown as the capital and records to be delivered immediately.

December 31, 1859 records were moved from Marietta Court House to Marshalltown under cover of darkness, with no skirmishes.

In a twist to show peace, Marshalltown invited everyone in Albion and else where to attend a "New Year's Reception". Many citizens went and cordial greetings were shared. Peace was made between the two cities.

You can envision what happens to the population and businesses. It was a death blow to Marietta as wealthy and enterprising citizens sold out and moved to Marshalltown. Some store and shops closed, the brass band dispersed, and the Literary Society disbanded.

The old court house was moved to Marshalltown to Main Street and held harnesses and saddles.

In the late 1850's a large brick schoolhouse was built. The school was very excellent. The Marietta schoolhouse remained open until 1920-1921.

As of 1862, Marietta still had 600 residents, several dry goods and grocery stores, and most occupations continued.

**Resources:**

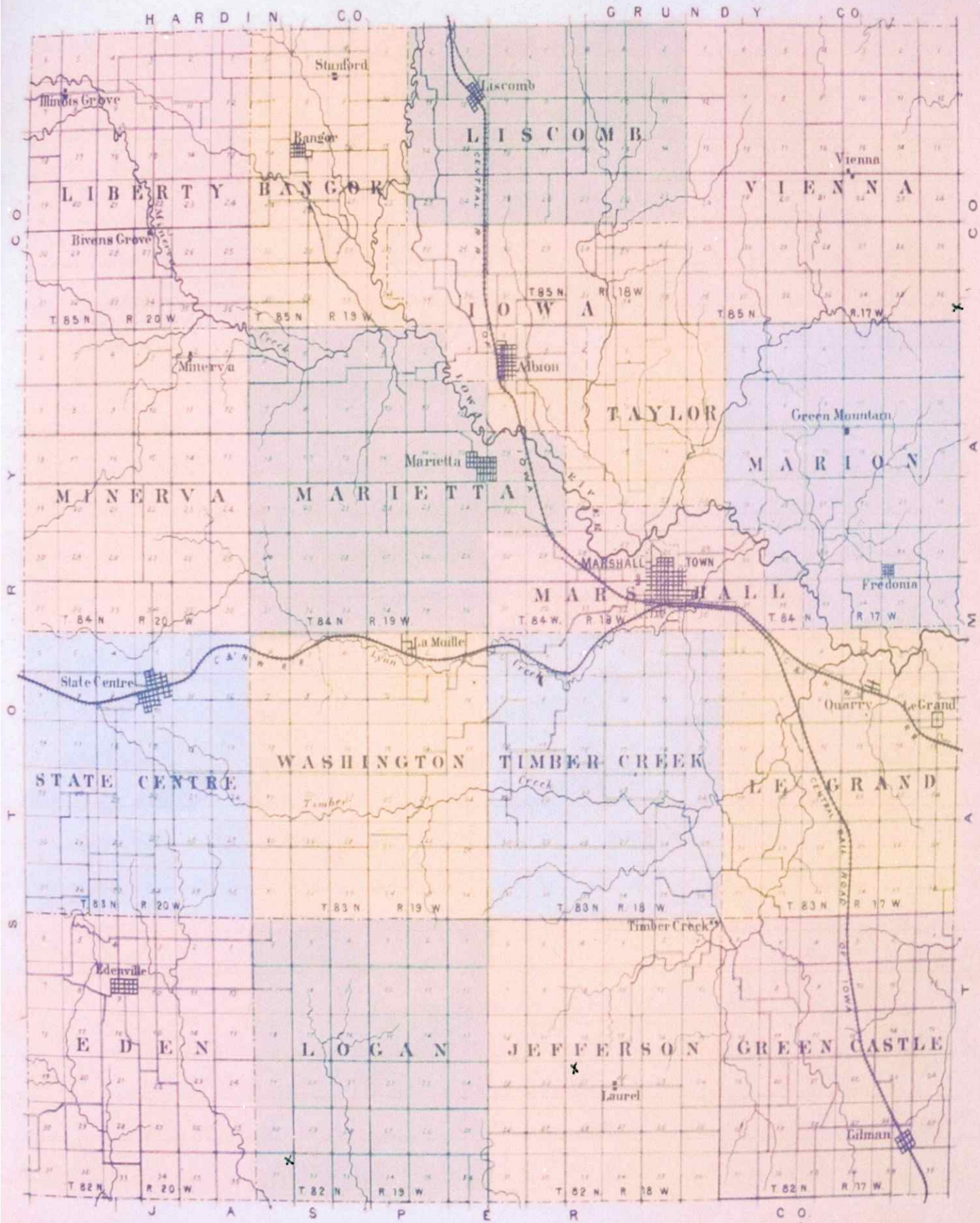
*History of Marshall County, Iowa* by Mrs. N. Sanford pg36 – 66 (Cat#20230.328.1867)

*The History of Marshall County, Iowa 1878* pgs683-699 (Cat#202081a.1878)

*The Continuing History of Marshall County, Iowa 1997* pg126 & 129 (cat#2021.393.1997)

*Marshall County History 1862* pg10 (cat#2020.329.1862)

*History of Marshall County* document in white binder pg517 (cat#2020.1)



1871