

Chapter 19

Minerva

Minerva Creek Post Office was first situated one-half mile east of Clemons in Minerva Township, Section 2. Later it moved to the present site of Minerva in Marietta Township, Section 5. This move came about when Thomas and Warren Nichols platted Minerva on March 7, 1882. It was located on the Minerva Valley Branch of the Iowa Central Railroad which ran one train per day in 1910. For many years it ran an extra passenger train both ways on Friday.

The wealthy and prosperous neighborhood benefited from the shipping availabilities of Minerva in the early 1900's. There was a depot, telegraph office, elevator, corn cribs, scales, stockyards, coal storage, post office, and general store.

The Minerva Wesley Chapel Church and cemetery were located high on a hill overlooking the town's site. It was located there before the town was platted. The Minerva School was located one-half mile south of the railroad. The school building is now the home of Alfred and Minnie Binford.

Today five families live in Minerva. The only business is the warehouse for the Minerva Valley Fertilizer Company, the office location is Bangor.

Minerva Post Masters
Thomas Nichols March 23, 1882



Minerva Church

THE MINERVA CONCERT BAND

The Minerva Concert Band was organized circa 1900 by a group of Minerva citizens. These people enjoyed music and many of them played instruments.

Their first Conductor was Paris Henry Humphreys ("Tobe") who lived in the Stanford community - (located a few miles north of Bangor). After a few years, his son W. A. Humphreys ("Dell") took over the leadership. He ran the General Store in Minerva. Around 1920 Tobe's youngest son Henry B. Humphreys became the conductor.

The band members came from many communities namely, Minerva, Stanford, Marshalltown and Clemons. The following list contains the names of many of the members over the years. They were not all members at the same time. Early members grew, passed away, some moved to other communities.

Fred Nichols	
Stacy Nichols, Sr.	
Stacy Nichols, Jr.	
Roy Nichols	
Herbert Nichols	
Clifford Nichols	
Wilmer Nichols	
Clio Nichols	
P. H. Humphreys ("Tobe") conductor	
W. A. Humphreys ("Dell") conductor	
J. F. Humphreys ("Frank")	
Henry B. Humphreys conductor	
Violette Humphreys	
Warren Humphreys	
Glen Maxfield	
Ivor Veren	
Judson Veren	
Frances Norman	
Ralph Mitchell	
Clint Brace	
Harry Butler	
Boyce Dickover	
Glen Speas	
Clarence Eaton	
Wilbur Eaton ("Bill")	
Floyd Hickman	
Clell Hickman	Eugene Beckwith
Ione Hickman	Mahlon Beckwith
Fred Cummins	Arlen Grunstead
Donald Hammer	Wilmer Hollingsworth ("Buck")
Fern Hammer	Lucille Hollingsworth - vocalist
Wallace Arney	Juanita Camp - vocalist
Howard Noble	Clifton Fiscus

The band had 2 lady vocalists, Lucille Hollingsworth and Juanita Camp. There were several male members of the band who sang well and would upon occasion do a vocal number.

The band played for 4th of July celebrations in the Park at Clemons. They also gave concerts on Wednesday evenings before the outdoor movies. They played for Ice Cream socials at Minerva; marched in parades on Memorial Day at Albion; Church day parades in Marshalltown.

The band held their practice sessions in the old Minerva Freight Office. Minerva also had a band stand - located beside and to the south of the General Store.

EVERIST CEMETERY

The Everist Cemetery is located in Section 32 in Bangor Township. In "earlier years" this was known as the Minerva Wesley Chapel Cemetery. It is located one half mile north of the Minerva Church and just south of the farm of Carroll and Kathryn Snider.

The first record recognizing the existence of the cemetery is a deed dated February 10, 1859, from Ezekel Everist to Jesse C. Everist for the "Southeast Quarter of Section 32-84-19 except one acre in the northwest corner". This one acre tract is the cemetery .

Little is known of this cemetery. It is believed that 58 burials were made there. However only eight stones remain. Of these 5 are children's graves.

Although knowledge of this cemetery is sparse, there is much interest by passer-bys, family, and the Sniders. Just recently Lloyd Davis and his son repaired an Everist stone. The Sniders care for the cemetery by mowing the front area. The back section is a wild life refuge and enjoyed by the family.

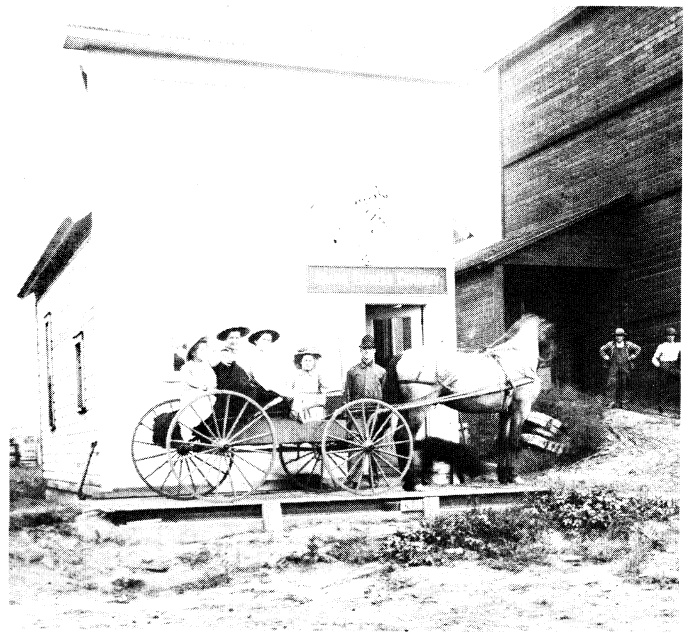
A pleasant area of many unknowns.

MONINGER STATION

Between Minerva and Marietta on the railroad line in the Southwest Corner of Section 2, Marietta Township, was Moninger Station. This was not a full-fledged railroad station, but was a shipping point from which freight was loaded and unloaded from the train. The train would also stop there to pick up passengers waiting on the platform.



Minerva Depot
Emma Nichols Veren is boarding the train to attend "normal school". Early 1900's.



The Elevator in Minerva in the 1890's

L-R

Emma Nichols Veren, Sarah Demorest, Mildred Demorest, Ruth Nichols Humphreys, John Charlier. Two men in elevator are unknown.

point of intersection, with the North line of the right
 of way of said C. & N. W. R.R. Co. thence South 106 feet
 to the South line of said right of way; thence South
 106 feet to said South line of said right of way
 3 1/2 feet to a point 123 feet east of the West line of said
 South East quarter; thence South 1.32 feet; and thence
 West 123 feet to the place of beginning.
 Be having 10th the usual. Being the tract of land
 or parcel of land in the 14.549 of the town of Minnesota
 100 feet and as shown by the recorded plat -
 do hereby certify that the same, said tract of
 land, and that the description of this tract of
 land, as above described, is not respecting
 the same as the said plat, is with our first, second
 and, in accordance with our laws.

Witness our hand this 14th day of March 1882

Thomas Nichols
 Harry Nichols

State of Iowa
 County of Mitchell; Be it remembered, that on the 14th
 day of March 1882 before the undersigned a Notary
 Public within and for said County personally appeared
 Thomas Nichols and Harry Nichols to me personally
 known to be the identical persons whose names are
 subscribed to the above certificate and acknowledged
 said instrument to be their voluntary act
 and deed and that they executed the same for
 the purposes therein mentioned.

Witness my hand, and No. 1000, seal of the
 State and Year last then written

J. M. Bremer

Notary Public

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State of Iowa
County of Marshall; The undersigned County Recorder
within and for said County hereby certify that
the tracts of land above described, lead out into
Gate Block, should and, it has, and named the town
of Minerva as shown by the annexed plat, are free
from every incumbrance and that the plat hereof
the said tracts are described as owned by Thomas
Nichols, is in said proprietor Thomas Nichols
and that the title in fee to said tract above
described as owned by Thomas Nichols is in said
proprietor Thomas Nichols.

Witness my hand, this 7th day of
March 1882

J. B. Jennings
Co Recorder

State of Iowa
County of Marshall; The undersigned County
Recorder within and for said County hereby
certify that the tract of land above described,
on which the town of Minerva is lead out
as shown by the annexed plat, are free
from all incumbrances.

Witness my hand, this 7th day of March
1882

Beyron H. Benson
Recorder

