

Chapter 14

Bromley

In the 1860's, Charles Bromley and William Ingledue came from Ohio to Iowa and settled their families on land near the stagecoach route following the Minerva Creek in Marshall County. Later, Bromley's brothers, Earl and Bertram, settled their families on nearby land.

Harry Butler set up a smithy in an old log cabin. This helped accommodate families while building their homes.

More relatives and friends settled in the area and the settlement grew. Businesses were established to accommodate the residents living there. Earl Bromley started a grocery store which included a back room used for a post office. The upstairs was used as a town hall and for dances. "Bromley Corners" was growing.

Charles E. Bromley platted the village of Bromley on September 24, 1881. It was located $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of Clemons on the Story City Branch of Iowa Central Railroad in Minerva Township. Bromley had quite an encouraging future and an eager start.

W. L. Ingledue established the Bromley Brick and Tile factory on February 13, 1884. Incorporators were: Wm. Ingledue, J. C. Armstrong, G. C. Clark, M. A. Ward, B. L. Pyle, and S. D. Bennett. He managed with much success until his death in 1900. The clay was used off his own land to make the tile.

Sunday School, Church, and dances were held in the "Beehive", a long two story house. The upstairs was one long room.

John Ellery built a hotel, later moved to Clemons.

In its boom time Bromley had twenty some houses, a general store, post office, town hall, depot, tile factory, smithy and a hotel. The railroad was active as was the stockyards. Mr. Adams was the stationmaster of the depot.

However, by the late 1800's the small village failed to grow. Many residents were moving to Clemons and businesses were dying out. The Bromley Hotel was moved to Clemons on Main Street by Jim McCormack in 1899. It was named the Arlington Hotel. Many homes were moved also. The present Edna Clemons' home and Earl Roe home were in Bromley originally. Roe's home was moved by Freeman Perry and was the former post office. These buildings were moved by horses.

The Brick and Tile factory was quite successful until 1920. Today there is still evidence of the factory just north of the tracks and south of Dick Bartine's home.

Today Bromley consists of four houses and a gravel pit, Hallett Construction.

Bromley Post Masters

John W. Tight	March 29, 1900
Marshall A. Ward	May 18, 1901
Discontinued	July 22, 1904
Total effect	July 30, 1904

BROMLEY, IOWA

Platted September 24, 1881, filed October 10, 1881 by Charles E. and Nancy G. Bromley. It originally contained sixteen blocks, laid out in a rectangular shape. It was divided lengthwise by Main Street, running North and South. All but blocks 3 thru 10 were vacated in 1887, because the town failed to develop as planned. Thus, only a few years after it's birth, Bromley was already fading away. Today there are few remnants of it's existence. A few old houses scattered along a dusty gravel road, some faded photographs in old family albums, and in my case, some very vivid memories of stories heard at my fathers knee.

I do not know if every item herein is absolute fact. I do know it is as accurate as I can make it with resources at hand. My Aunt Augusta Warner grew up next to Bromley, married "Will" Ingledue in 1907 and moved to Bromley. Aunt "Gussies" memories, and a school project done with the help of my dad, Tommy Warner, and others, serve as background for my map.

At one time Bromley contained 20 some homes, a hardware store, a general store, hotel, blacksmith shop, stockyards, post office, R.R. Depot, The Beehive, and the W. L. Ingledue Bromley Tile Works. Paul Bernards Orchard and truck patch was just south of town.

Bromley children attended the "Warner" school, just up the hill west, and south on the road by Nichols, Clemons and Jones farms. M. A. Ward and W. L. Ingledue tried very hard to have it moved to Bromley. Aunt Gussie attended the Warner school, later some went to school in Clemons.

The Town of Bromley is laid out in the east half
of the North West Quarter of section No one in Township
No Eighty four (44) North, of Range No Twenty (20) West
in the County of Marshall and State of Iowa
a more particular description of said tract is contained
in the annexed plat. The length and width of
each lot are shown upon the plat.

The streets run North and South and East and West
excepting the County road upon the south side of the
Town which is laid out upon the half section line.
The width of each street is shown upon the plat.

The alleys run North & South.

The North East corner, the town at N. W. on the plat is the
South East corner of the North West quarter of said
Section No. one.

The figures in red designate the numbers of the lots.
The smaller figures in black indicate the length and
width of the lots and blocks respectively in feet.
Variation of the meridian $2^{\circ} 15'$

State of Iowa

County of Marshall The undersigned County Recorder
of said County of Marshall hereby certify that the
tract of land above described, laid out, in lots,
streets and alleys as a town and named Bromley
as shown by the annexed Plat is free from every
incumbrance and that the title in fee to the same
is in said proprietor Charles Bromley.

In witness my hand this day of Oct 18th, 1881

J. B. Jennings

Recorder

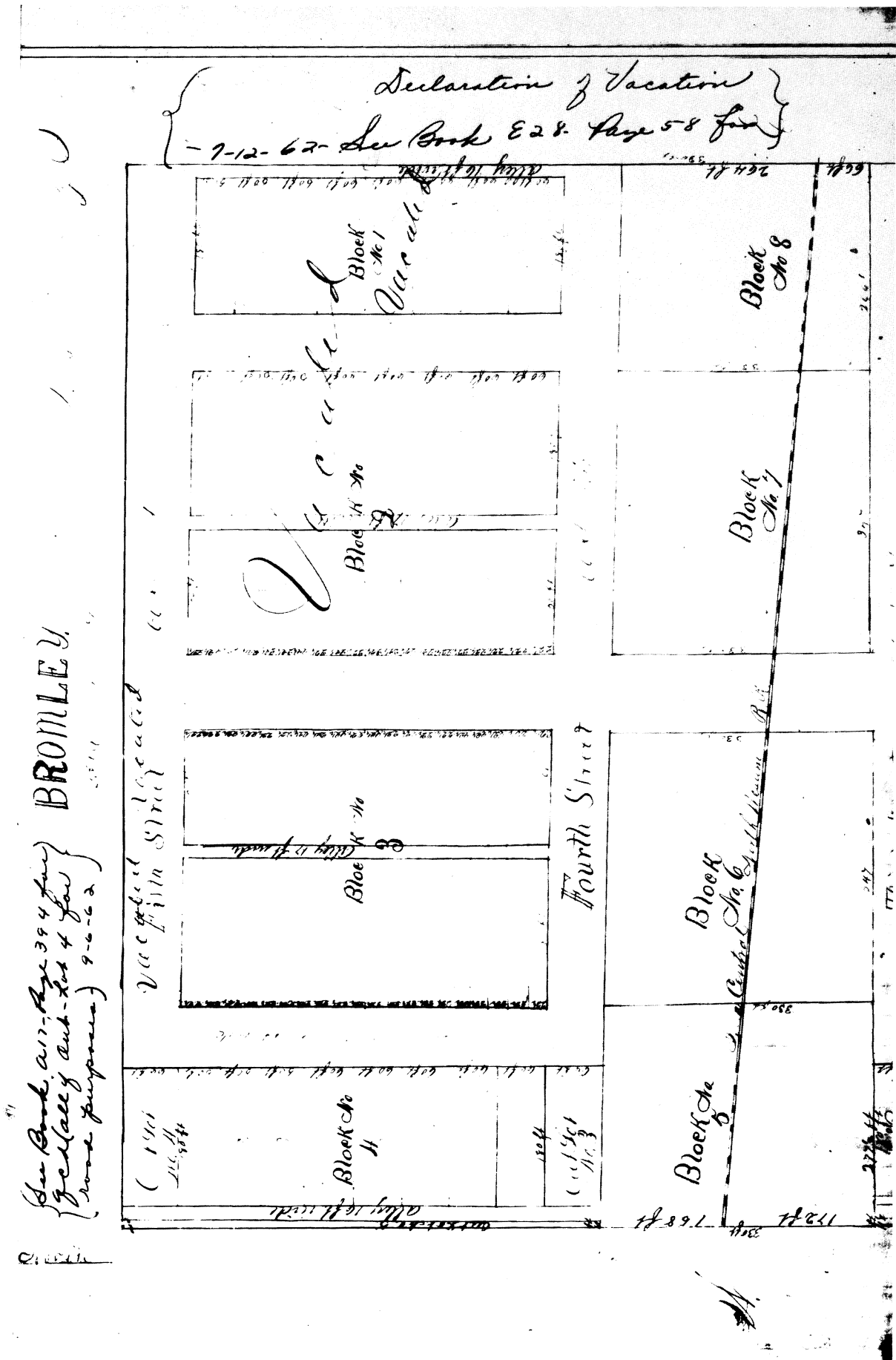
By E. D. Vile

Deputy Recorder

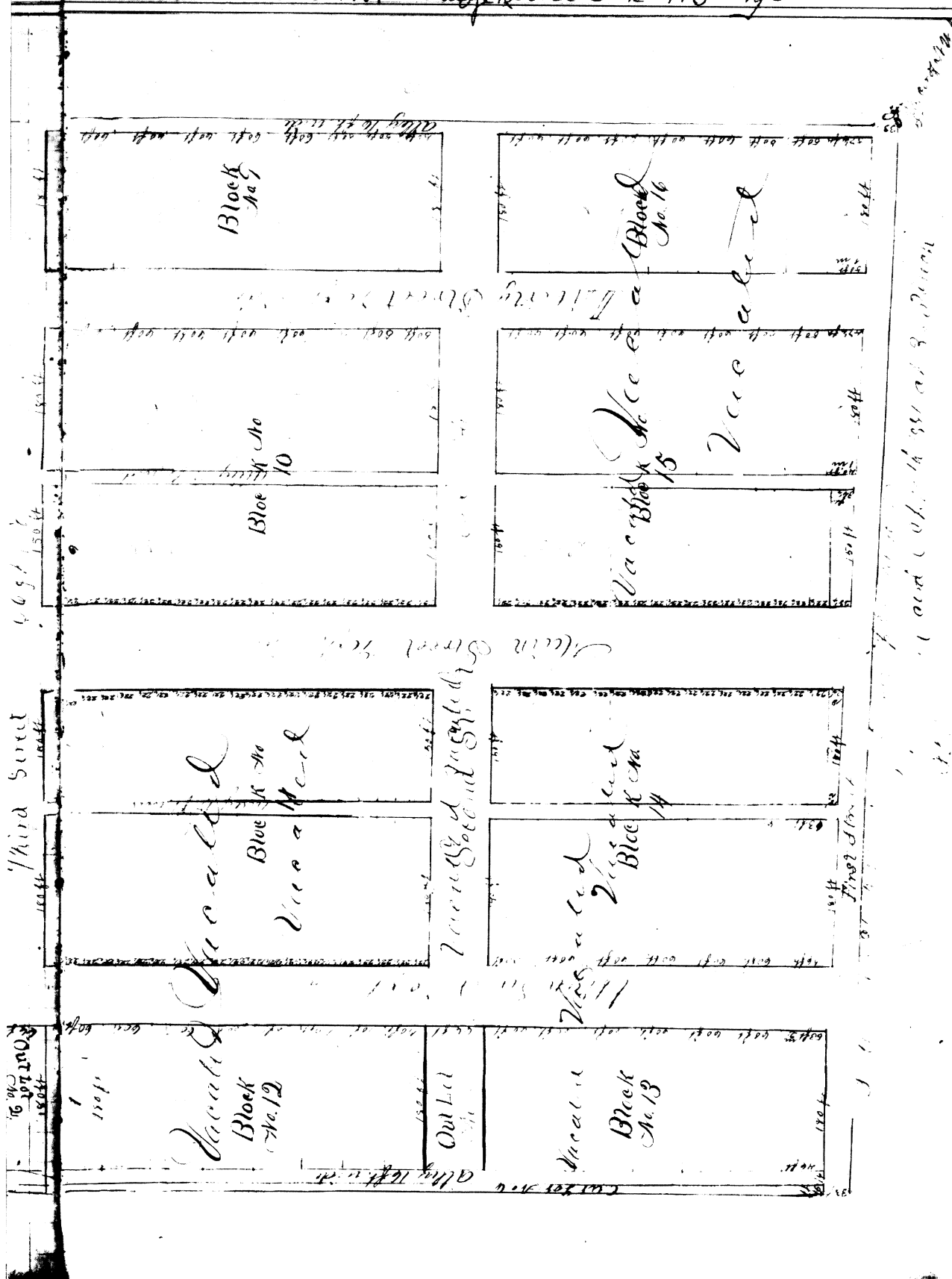
State of Iowa }
 County of Marshall } The undersigned County Treasurer
 of said County of Marshall hereby certify that the tract of
 land above described laid out into lots streets and
 alleys as a town and named Brownie as shown by
 the annexed Plat is free from taxes
 Witness my hand this 10 day of October 1881
 Byron A. Benson Jr.

State of Iowa }
 County of Marshall } The undersigned owner of the tract
 of land situated in the County of Marshall and State
 of Iowa described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the
 South East corner of the East half of the North West
 quarter of Section No one (1) in Township No Eighty five
 North of Range No Twenty (20) West and running
 thence North one hundred & twenty rods and thence
 thence West (variation 1/4") Eighty rods and thence
 thence West one half and thence South one
 hundred & Seventeen rods (176 rods) and 24 rods to the
 South West corner of said East half and North West
 quarter and thence East Eighty rods and Eighteen
 rods to the place of beginning. Containing 52 2/3 acres
 Being the tract of land which the town of Brownie
 is laid out as shown by the annexed Plat
 do hereby certify that we caused said land to be
 laid out and that the disposition of said land
 as shown by said Plat is within the consent
 and in accordance with our desire
 Witness our hands this 24th day of Oct. 1881
 Chas E. Brownie
 Mary A. Brownie

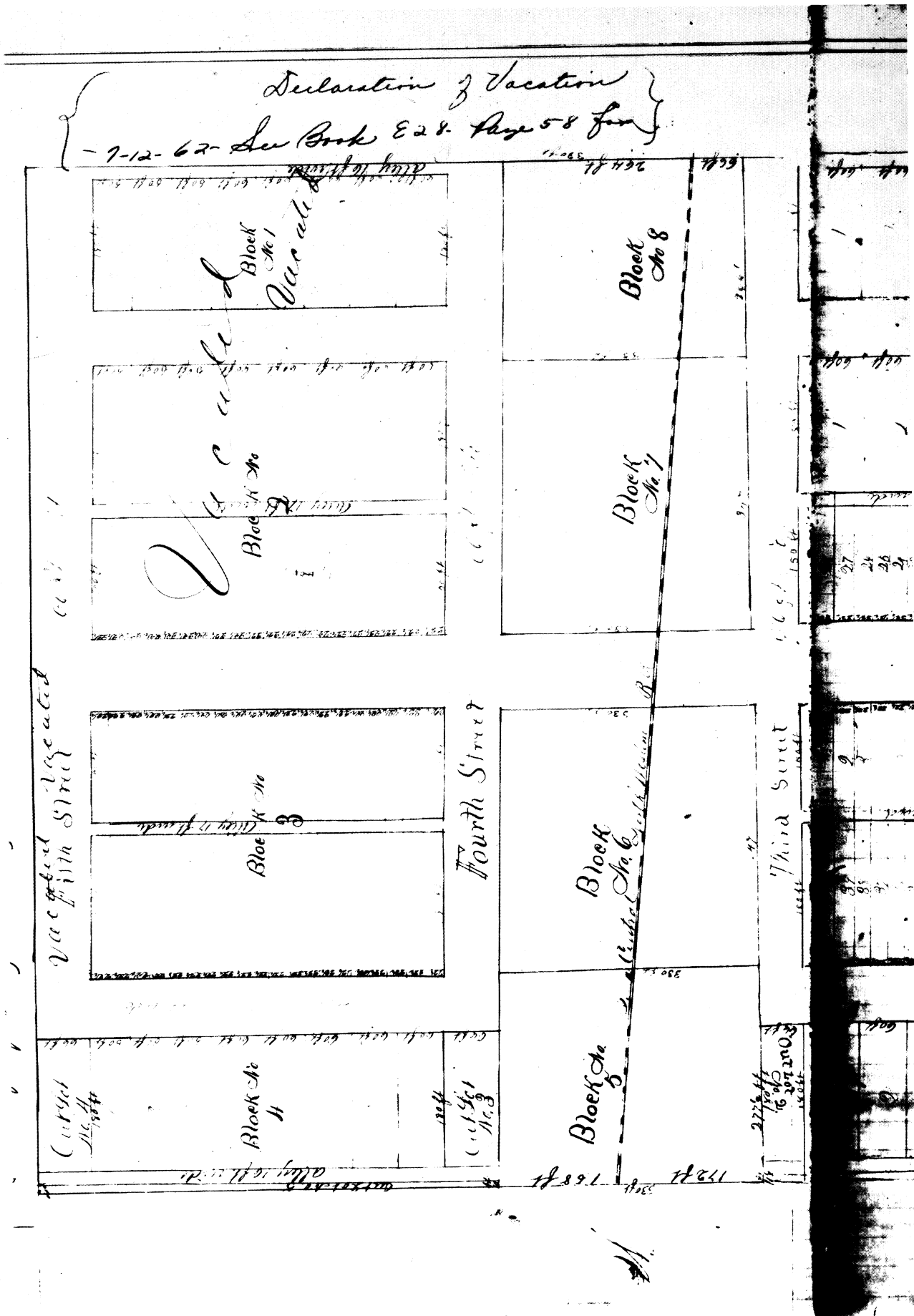
State of Iowa }
 County of Marshall } We the undersigned do hereby certify that on the 10 day
 of Oct. 1881 before the undersigned who are Justices of
 said County personally appeared Chas E. Brownie & Mary A.
 Brownie the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing certificate and
 acknowledged said instruments to be their own act and
 deed and that they executed the same for the purposes therein
 mentioned. Witness my hand and seal of said County this 10 day of Oct. 1881
 Justices of the Peace

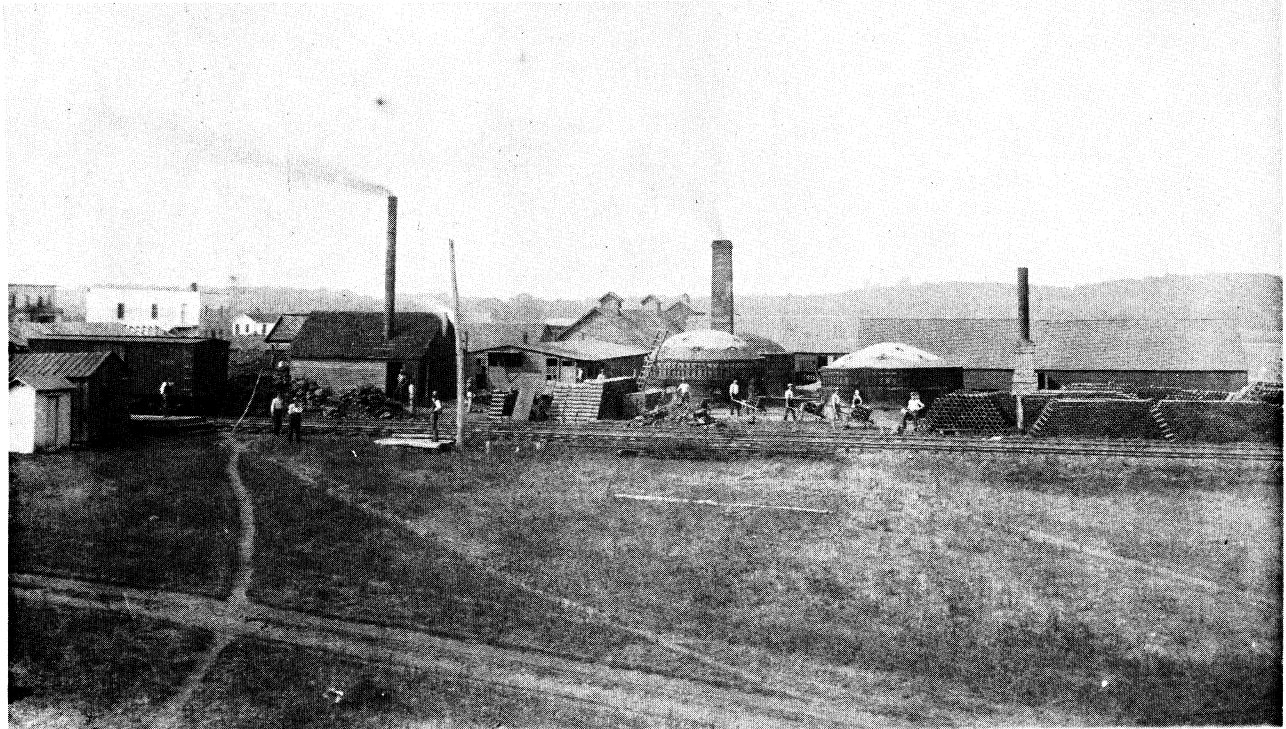


Declaration of Vacation
12-23-1887 - Village Record Book 113 - Pg 625





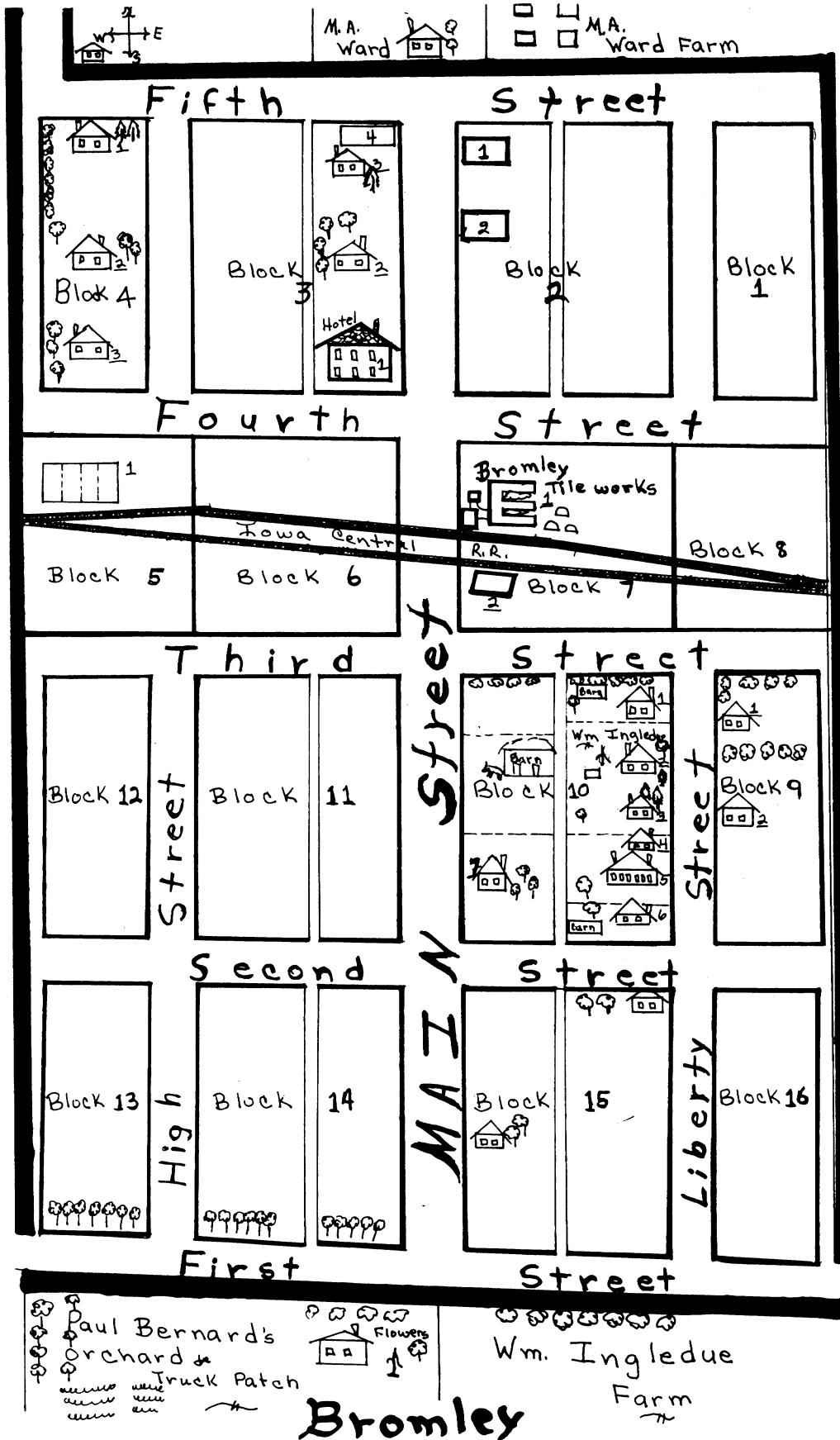




Bromley Tile Works in 1880's



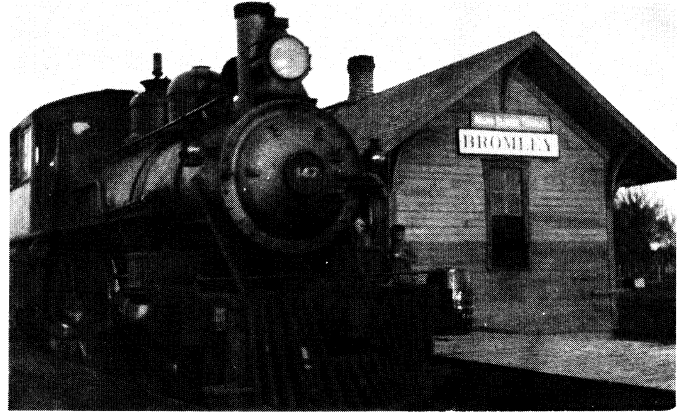
Bromley Store



No one knows all of the reasons for Bromley's demise, but some things in local history may have affected it. There were many other new towns close by: St. Anthony, Minerva, and of course Clemons all competing for building of trade and residents. It was a prime area and had many industrious and independant pioneers. After all, they all came to these new areas to start new dreams and new lives. There were floods in 1881 in all of Marshall County and some people may have headed for higher ground. Clemons is not exempt from floods either, so my guess would be that Clemons founders worked harder to get their town going.

When did Bromley fade away? We know that it lost it's post office by 1904, but it continued to be known by local folks as Bromley for many years. The hotel was moved to Clemons by 1898. The Tile factory continued to operate for quite a few years, probably until the 1920's. I can remember using clay tiles in our garden that had the name on them, and they broke quite easily.

Where did Bromley go? Many buildings were moved to Clemons, some to other farms, some torn down, and one was all ready to be moved but got blown away in a big wind storm. One house was moved to Clemons on a flat car, probably the one now lived in by Edna Clemons. The hotel went to Clemons, and that was quite a job! Below is a Block by Block list of Bromley's buildings on the left and where they are located if now in Clemons.



Bromley Depot

The small part of Burr Atkinsons home came from Bromley also. The Earl Roe home housed the Bromley post office. Other homes from Bromley are in Clemons but I'm not sure of their locations. Marlys Davis house probably came from Bromley. The drying sheds from the tile works served as a corn crib and machine shed-hog house on our farm during my youth. My father used several buildings to rebuild his barn after a fire.

By Rosalie Ann Ingledue Johnson

KEY TO MAP OF BROMLEY

- Block 1 no buildings
- 2 1-hardware store
2-general store
- 3 1-hotel
2-house
3-house
4-blacksmith shop
- 4 1-Eli Bartlett home
now Nelson
2-W. L. Ingledue
Gussie lived here
3-Al Butler home
- 5 1-The stockyard
- 6 no buildings
- 7 1-Bromley Tile Works
2-R.R. Depot
- 8 no buildings
- 9 1-Old M. A. Ward home
2-Ed. Ratcliff home
- 10 1-house
2-W. L. Ingledue home
3-house now my wash house
4-house
5-The Beehive
6-John Boofer home
7-house
- 11 no buildings
- 12 no buildings
- 13 no buildings
- 14 no buildings
- 15 1-house
- 16 no buildings

BUILDINGS NOW IN CLEMONS

- one is now "Warren's Place"
- one is now John Hinders
now owned by the Jerry Babbs
- building houses office etc. at Hallett construction pit
- now Earl Roe home
- now the Dennis Tuttle home
- House across from L. Nichols farm.

THE INGLEDUE'S OF BROMLEY

The Ingledue's have been in Marshall County since at least the 1850's. O. L. Ingledue was mayor of Marshalltown from 1905-1911. His father, James L. Ingledue had the contract for driving the R. R. piling from Marshalltown to Albia, a difficult job in those days. The Nichols & Green shoe store was formerly The Ingledue & Young shoe store, with a dry goods store next door. An Ingledue owned a movie house in Marshalltown. There were a lot of Ingledue's, my father was one of seven brothers, my grandfather was also one of seven brothers, my great grandfather was one of seven children. Many Ingledues farmed, many more went traveling to find places where their health would be better. The Ingledues seem to have an inherited tendency to asthma, headaches and other allergies, several died at an early age from this. As far as I know, my father was the only Ingledue around here to continue farming the land himself until retirement age. Because of ill health he eventually had to rent out the farmland, but this has always been home. No one but Ingledues have lived in this house since my great grandfather W.L. Ingledue bought this land more than one hundred years ago.



Home of William Ingledue in Bromley
Rosalie Johnson and her daughter, granddaughters of Wm. Ingledue, reside in the house.

W.L. owned the Bromley Tile Works. It started in 1884, the name was changed to Brick and Tile Works when the post office left, making the mailing address Clemons. At one time W. L. lived in a house by the clay pit (clay from his own land was used to make bricks and tile), it was located near the "Timber Path" on our farm. Later he remodeled and added to the house I live in (#2 in block #10 of "Old Bromley").

My grandfather W. L. the II, was a cowboy for a few years out west and on the way back to Iowa met and married my grandmother Mary Monroe, their first child Phebe was born there. When my father was seven his father moved back here and they lived for a short time in the house now owned by Richard and Joan Witt. Joan's grandfather L. Marsh Ingledue was my grandfathers

youngest brother. W.L. the I, built the house where Joan Witt now lives.

Some things my father told me about were: Seeing the Buffalo Bill Expo in Marshalltown in the fall of 1899. The Indians who would come silently in the house and startle his grandmother Phebe. They only wanted a little coffee or other white mans novelties or just seemed interested in what these new comers did.

Working in the Tile Works firing the kilns at age 15 and later he and his brother took turns running the steam engine. The steam whistle was blown at noon each day. All of my dads brothers worked there at some time. Most of his brothers learned teletype at the Bromley depot. They worked six days a week and on Sunday they played baseball. They played State Center and other close towns and they played as hard as they worked.

Riding Bronco's, riding double! His dad shipped them in when he got cattle out west.

Celebrating the fourth of July by setting off their own fireworks. Putting gunpowder between two anvils running a fuse, lighting it, and then running!!! It could be heard far away.

By Rosalie Ann Ingledue Johnson

BROMLEY - BROOM FACTORY

In the 1940's and up until early 1960's, Bromley had a broom factory. Charles Perry, who lived on the west mile of the road about a block south of the railroad crossing, had a small building along the road south of his house in which he made brooms for many years. After he died his son Mark Perry operated the factory. It wasn't really a factory as it only consisted of the small old building and no employees, but it had all the old equipment for making brooms.

Every spring they would plant broom corn along the road around the building and sometimes in August would cut the broom corn and lay it over to dry. Then in late fall the top of the broom corn stalk or head would be gathered in and they would make brooms. This operation existed for several years and was quite interesting to observe.

BROMLEY BASEBALL

C. R. Bartine used to tell about playing baseball in Bromley around 1900. At that time Bromley had a baseball team that played on Sundays.

BROMLEY GRAVEL TRAINS

In the 1950's the railroad and deteriorated to where service was maintained only about 2 or 3 times a week. But the train used to come up to Bromley almost daily to bring gravel cars and pick up loaded cars at the gravel pit operated by Empire Sand and Gravel Company.