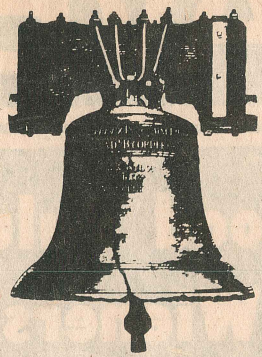
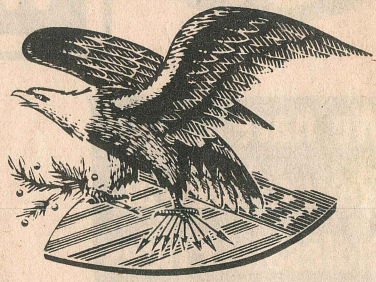


MADRID

AREA



# BICENTENNIAL



1776-1976

"Remembrances of Days Gone By"

Early Colonists Faced Adventure — Ground Flour Between Flat Stones

## Trading Post Over One Hundred Miles Away

The early colonists who came to this community may have come to a locality which was potentially a land of milk and honey, but it was far from that when it was first settled.

Rev. F. M. Hokanson, first pastor and founder of what is now St. John's Lutheran Church, in a brief history stated that things were very different from what they were accustomed to back in Sweden.

He said in his written history: "How different the outlook, then and now. Those who came to make their home in these parts now know very little of the difficulties, adversities and sacrifices that the first settlers had to overcome. Wild Indians roamed over the plains from grove to grove and although they were peaceful, the Swedes sought to treat them kindly, due to the reports they received."

Many changes took place in the community during the ensuing 22 years before Hokanson wrote his brief account following the formation of the church.

It is difficult for us to appreciate the earlier settlers in many respects. You who find yourselves irritated when the grocer doesn't have your favorite brand of coffee or sugar would find yourselves bewildered by a sudden transition to the early days of the original Swedish settlers.

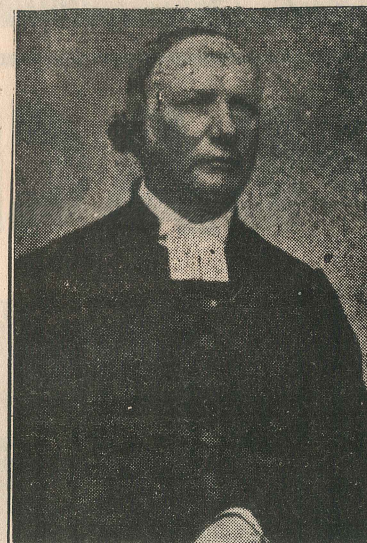
Yet these hardy Swedes thrived and grew under these conditions. With hands accustomed to work and with minds full of hope and courage, they began tilling the soil. Their acreages at first were very small and only gradually did these fields enlarge. In many areas the land had to be cleared or else they farmed around low areas. It is almost unbelievable to think that at one time, all the flat prairie land was one time heavily wooded or flat swampy marshland, useless until they dried out.

So far away from organized government as this part of the country was, one might conclude that this life was one of lawlessness and adventure. However, most people were generally well behaved and their isolation caused them to be neighborly and helpful. If sickness entered a home it was considered an obligation on the part of other families to aid in taking care of them. Those refusing to give assistance were promptly and properly ostracized.

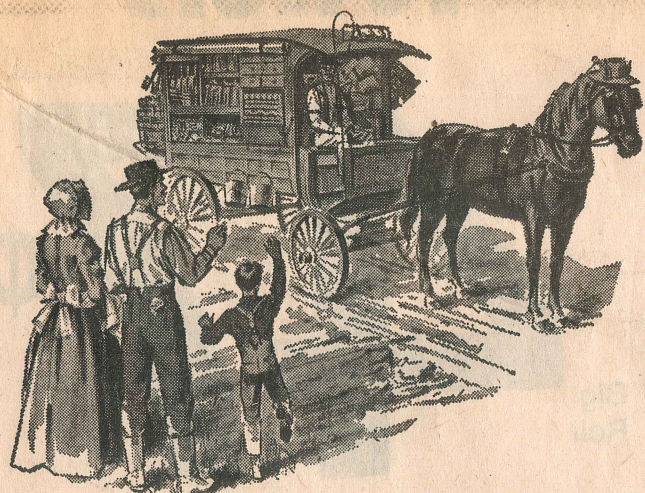
The Swedish people were particularly of that kind. Accustomed as they were to a life of industry and the diligent use of the word of God in Sweden, they were in a sense unusually well equipped to face some of the hardships and sacrifices they encountered. They came under the hope of improving their situation in life and they proposed to make the best of it. Neither could they throw their belongings in a wagon and move backwards across the state boundaries to the place they had left and where relatives could be found. They had come across the sea, thousands of miles away, and to them it was a necessity that they succeed in their undertaking.

Hokanson, First Swedish Pastor

Rev. F. M. Hokanson, organizer of St. John's Lutheran Church in 1859 was not only the first pastor of the church, but also the first Swedish Lutheran minister in Iowa.



REV. M. F. HOKANSON



Early Madrid settlers found the first few years very difficult ones indeed. The nearest trading post where produce could be bought and sold was in Keokuk. This 200 mile trip by horse and buggy, like the one shown above, must have been very uncomfortable, and very time consuming.

It was then over 100 miles to the nearest trading post and with no telephones or railroads and hardly a marked trail, it was a hazardous journey across a boundless and swampy prairie land.

The little grain that could be secured to make flour for bread was crushed between two flat stones or with a pestal in a kettle. Sometimes the stump of a tree was hollowed out and the grain was crushed with a wooden club. Meat for the pioneer meals consisted of fish, venison, duck and wild turkey.

Only two other white families were here when the pioneers came—C. W. Gaston and Ben Williams and his family.

## MADRID, IOWA.

Has a population of 1444 according to the 1915 census, and is located in almost the geographical center of the state, in the heart of the corn belt, the most prosperous section of the globe.

A crop failure was never known here.

Madrid is in the southern part of Boone county, near the border lines of Polk and Dallas counties, on the main and double-tracked and Des Moines-Boone lines of the C. M. & St. P. Ry. We have a 24-hour electric current.

Madrid has excellent schools, five good churches, the state home for the aged of the Swedish Lutheran denomination, a live commercial club, three garages, excellent hotel facilities, and other business institutions including the Sutherland Wagon Box Manufacturing Co.'s plant, the Madrid Chemical Co., wholesale barber supplies and preparatory manufacturers; flouring and feed mill, etc. The excellent railroad facilities and other conveniences make this an unusually desirable location for manufacturing institutions. Any individual or firm looking for a business opening not at present represented here will be shown every possible courtesy. Address, SECRETARY, COMMERCIAL CLUB, MADRID, IOWA.

Madrid has an excellent water works system, one of the largest independent telephone companies in the state, four coal mines within a radius of three miles employing one thousand miners, two city parks.

Return In 5 Days to  
Madrid State Bank  
MADRID, IOWA

MADRID  
IOWA



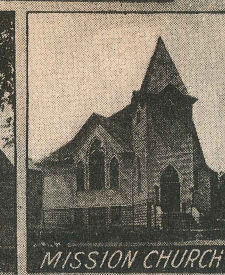
LUTHERAN OLD PEOPLES HOME



M.E. CHURCH



CHRISTIAN CHURCH



MISSION CHURCH



SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Back around 1854 when the community was settled, there were very few Swedish settlers making the trip over by boat. By 1915, when this postcard was used, the town was inhabited by 1444 people, had five churches, an excellent school, several manufacturing centers, a train running through the town, four coal mines and one of the largest independent telephone companies in the state. This card was a trademark of the City State Bank.

Born in Blekinge, Sweden on Sept. 7, 1811, he came to America in 1847, a year after the first Swedish settlement in New Sweden was founded by Peter Cassel. Cassel's uncle and brother later settled in the Madrid area around 1849.

Upon arrival in America, he was not a minister, but a shoemaker. He was ordained in Galesburg, Ill. in 1853.

In 1854 he made his first trip to Swede Point and it is understood that his work the first two years here was of a missionary nature.

He was an earnest, consecrated leader and his pastorate was distinguished chiefly by the fact that the individuals making up the congregation acquired a sense of steadfastness or togetherness through which they bonded together in every upcoming storm. Although his pastorate began in 1859, a church building was not constructed until 1867.

Following his resignation, he accepted a similar position in Bergholm, Iowa, where he remained until his retirement. He died in 1893 at Red Oak and was buried in Bergholm.