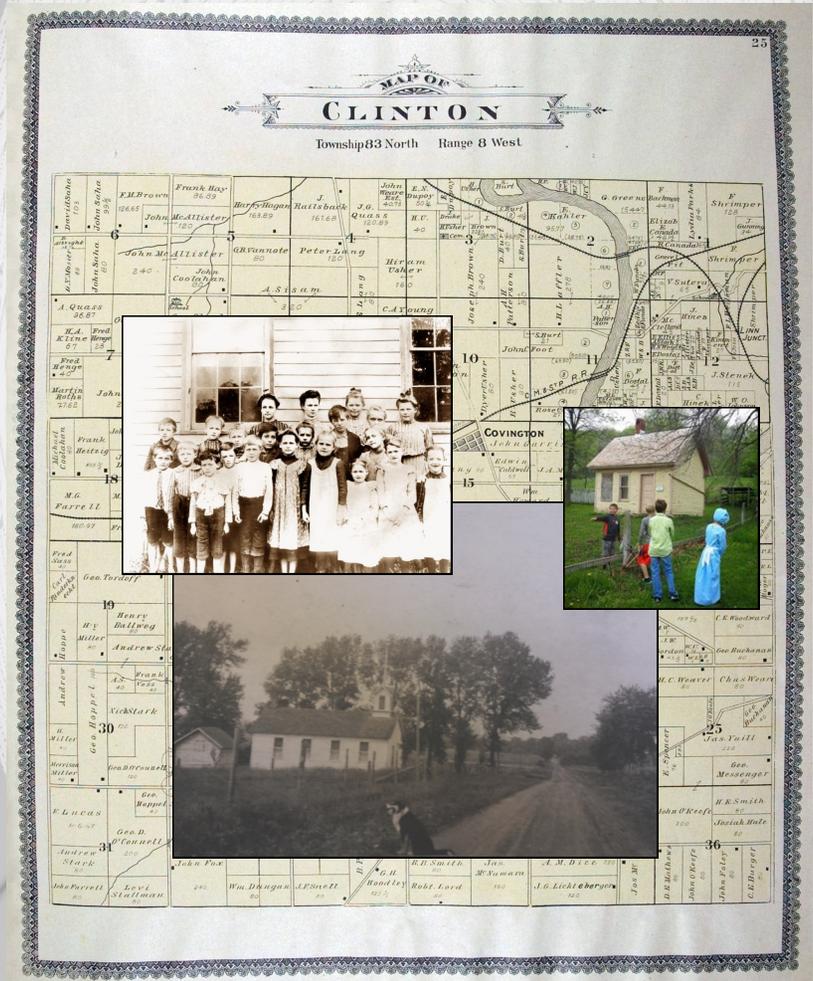


Township Meeting Minutes

1. Were you appointed to a Township Office? If so, what was it? What were your responsibilities?
2. (Small Group Activity) Did you serve on a Township committee to solve a problem for the Township? What was the problem? What did you decide? How did your decision make life better for the citizens of the Township?
3. (Large Group Activity) Who won in the case of the Naughty Goat? -The Thompsons or The Ushers? Do you think the ruling was fair? Why or why not?

Ushers Ferry Historic Village One Room School House Journal

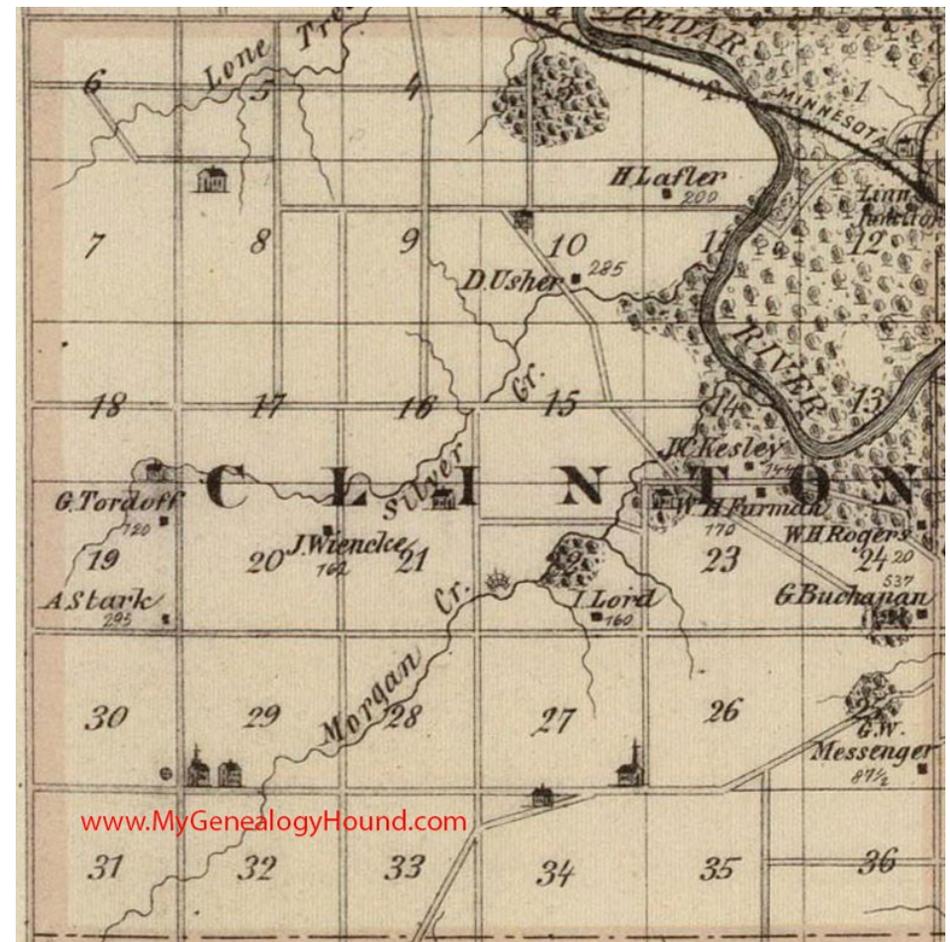


Life in a Township Government

Welcome to Ushers Ferry

As you spend time in the schoolyard and on the grounds today, this journal will help you record your impressions of the landscape, the school, and the Village. Talk about the questions and share your answers with your brothers and sisters in your family group.

We hope you have a great day at Ushers Ferry Historic Village! Come back and visit us again during one of our special events or programs!



In the Town Hall you will find a very large map of Linn County from the year 1869. This map shows both the Civil and Survey Townships of Linn County. Civil Townships are marked with names and colors, like Clinton Township, but if you look at the edges of the map, you will notice that the *Survey* identification for Clinton Township is Township 83, Range 8 West.

1. Not all of the townships are perfectly rectangular. What are the names of the townships that are not?
2. What is the name of the Civil Township located at Twp 82, Range 5 West? What two towns are located there?

What is a Township?

A Township is a small geographical area. Historically, there are two kinds of townships. *Survey Townships* are simply geographical references used by the Government Survey Office to define areas and the location of land for property deeds and ownership. A standard township was six miles square and divided into 36 sections of land. Each section was one square mile.

Civil Townships are units of local government. As the Iowa was settled and became a state, it was easy to establish these small local governments based upon the boundaries set by the government survey. That is why so many of Iowa's counties are rectangular in shape!

On the following page is a map of Ushers Ferry's location in Clinton Township, Linn County, Iowa in the year 1890. Use the map to answer the following questions.

1. What section of land does Dyer Usher live on?
2. Dyer Usher's ferry boat was located on Section 11. Find his ferry road and circle it on the map.
3. Ushers Ferry Historic Village (where you are today) is located on the North East quarter of Section 13. Mark it on the map with a star.
4. Churches are marked as buildings with a cross on the roof. Which sections of the Township have churches?
5. School Houses are marked as buildings without crosses on the roof. How many school houses can you find in Clinton Township?

1. The Usher House

The land on which Ushers Ferry sits has not always been a town. Once it was river bottom forest. Henry Usher used those trees to build his home in 1855. Later it became farm land and cattle pasture. Take a few minutes to talk about the land around you with your brothers and sisters.

1. What important natural resources made the Ushers want to settle here? How did they use those resources to make a living?
2. What is a ferry boat?
3. Mr. Usher got a road built to his ferry by serving in one important office for Clinton Township. What was that position?
4. Does this house seem big or small to you? How many people do you think could live here comfortably?
5. What very important room is missing from this house that we all have in our houses today?
6. Where did they wash their dishes?

2. The Hired Hand's House

The Hired Hands house was a small house that some farmers would build on their farm as a place for the hired man to live. Taking care of a farm was lots of work, and if the farmer didn't have children old enough to help with chores, he had to hire someone to do them. The hired man might be invited to take meals with you, but had private quarters elsewhere on the farm.

1. Do you think the hired man who lived in this house was married or single?
2. How many people do you think could live comfortably in this house?
3. Would you like to live in a house this small?

3-4. The Church and Parsonage

The Parsonage was the home to Rev. Warren C. Thompson of the Oak Hill Free Methodist Church and his wife. He was the Pastor of the church across the street.

1. What four "freedoms" did Free Methodists believe in?
Freedom of _____
Freedom from _____
Freedom from _____
Freedom for _____
2. Why was a church important to a community? What kinds of important services did Reverend Thompson offer?

How did Mrs. Thompson help out in the community?

12. Town Hall

Ushers Ferry has a Township form of government. This means the residents govern themselves, making their own rules and solving their own problems. From your group, elect Township officials to the following positions:

1. Township Trustees (pick 3) _____
2. Treasurer _____
3. Assessor _____
4. Roads Commissioner _____
5. Justice of the Peace _____
6. Constables (pick 2) _____
7. School Directors (pick 3) _____
8. Collector _____

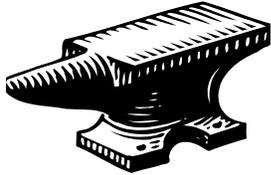
Two people have applied for a job as teacher of the Cherry Valley School House. Both have recently graduated from the 8th grade and obtained their teaching certificates. The first person is a girl, who was an excellent student, is very good with children, and who everyone agrees would be an excellent teacher. The second applicant is a young man who might not be as good of a teacher, but who is planning on attending college to become a lawyer. Some people on the committee want to hire the young woman, because she will be a better teacher, even though they know she may get married in a couple of years and they will have to hire a new teacher all over again. Other people on the committee want to hire the young man, because even though they know he also will be leaving in a year or so, they want to hire him because Ushers Ferry does not have a lawyer, and they are hoping that after he finishes college, he will come back to Ushers Ferry and open a law practice. You have the deciding vote.

Which one would you hire? Why?

11. The Blacksmith Shop

The Blacksmith was an important business in any small town. He was able to heat and shape metal to make useful tools, and even repair metal tools that were broken. Match the tools to their correct names and then write down what you think the blacksmith used them for, and why they were important.

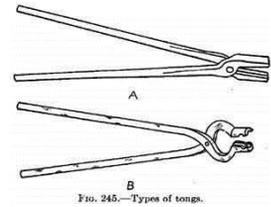
File



Vise



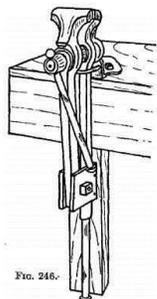
Hammer



Anvil



Tongs



5. Visiting the Doctor's House

This is the home of Dr. Miller. Unlike most doctors today, Dr. Miller had his office right inside his house. Besides the office, it's typical of the homes in Ushers Ferry.

1. In a time when very few women had more than an 8th grade education and women did not work outside the home, Dr. Miller's parents made sure that all of their children received a college education, even the girls! Do you think they would have been surprised if their daughters wanted to become doctors? Why or why not?
2. Considering that Doctor Miller only went to 8th grade in the country school, it would have been hard for him to go on to medical school. How do you think teaching country school might have helped him prepare for college?
3. Why is it important to have a Doctor in the community?
4. Doctor Miller's daughter never finished her story about Petty the pony. What do you think happened? Did she stay on? Did she get hurt? Write your own ending!

6. The Doctor's Garden

If you were sick, the doctor might not have just written you a prescription and sent you to the pharmacy to get your medicine. In fact, you might have noticed that Ushers Ferry doesn't even have a drugstore! In small towns a hundred years ago, many doctors still had to make their own pills and medicines to heal their patients. Most early medicines were made from herbs. Herbs are plants which people have found useful for healing, making perfumes or flavoring food. By the early 1900's, doctors could order a great many exotic herbs and herbal compounds from a catalog and have them delivered by mail. However, a few doctors still kept a small kitchen and medicinal herb garden as well.

The garden behind the house has several common herbs with healing properties. The jars of dried herbs on the table are more exotic herbs that he would have ordered by mail to make his medicines. Take a moment to open the jars and sniff! Then read the labels. Can you imagine drinking a medicinal tea made from that?

1. Which one of the herbs on the table would Dr. Miller have given you if you had the flu? Why might you not want to take too much of it?

What was Uva-Ursi used for?

Which one of Dr. Miller's herbs is the stinkiest?

The Saloon

At the time this Saloon was built, it was actually against the law to sell alcohol in Iowa, but the Iowa Legislature found a creative way to get around this problem when many communities protested the alcohol ban by passing the "Mulct Law." Listen to the audio or video tour to learn more!

1. How much was the fine a Saloon owner had to pay if he wanted to sell alcohol under the Mulct Law?
2. Thinking through all the families represented here at Ushers Ferry, which families do you think would have favored the temperance laws (supported the alcohol ban)? Who do you think would have wanted to be able to buy alcohol? Why?
3. Why do you think people wanted to make the sale of alcohol illegal in Iowa?
4. What is the big brass container on the floor at the end of the bar called? What was it used for?

The General Store

No town is complete without a place to purchase goods. The Ushers Ferry General Store is comparable to the Super Walmarts and Targets of today. Taped to the front door is the Grocer's Commodity list and a Shopping List for 1900. Using these lists, answer the following questions:

1. Commodity prices are the "wholesale" prices, or what it costs the storekeeper to buy the goods he resells in his store. Sometimes he is willing to buy from you or trade with you in order to get the goods he needs to serve his other customers. What items on this list might you be even be able to raise in town if you had a back yard?
2. What items on the shopping list cannot be grown in Iowa that the storekeeper will likely have to import from somewhere else?
3. Compare the Commodity price list to the Shopping price list. If you sell a dozen eggs to the storekeeper, how much money will you make?
4. If the storekeeper in turn sells that dozen eggs to someone else, how much money will he make?

7. The Telephone House

The Telephone House is home to the Ushers Ferry Telephone Cooperative. If you wanted to contact someone not included in your party line (most likely neighbors), you would be connected to the Operator who would then connect you to another Operator and so on. A phone call from Los Angeles to New York could take up to 23 minutes to connect!

1. Play a game of Operator/Telephone. Have an adult start the message. Did the message go through clearly? How long did the message take?

What you need: At least six players.

How to play: Players assemble in a straight line. The person at the beginning of the line thinks up a phrase and whispers it to the next person in line. That person whispers it to the next person, and so on, until everyone in the line has heard the phrase. The player at the end of the line calls out what he or she heard. Errors typically happen as the phrase goes down the line, so the statement announced by the last player could differ significantly, and often amusingly, from the one originally stated.

The rules: It is considered cheating if a player deliberately changes the phrase to something completely different.

How to win: This isn't a win/lose game.

What else you need to know: This game is also called Gossip, and it can teach children how easily information can change by indirect communication. It also can teach children listening skills, as well as how to control the volume of their voices.

3. Would you have liked the job of Operator? Why or why not? What if you were able to listen to everyone's phone conversations? Would that change your answer?!

8. The Czech House

Babi and Deda means Grandpa and Grandma in Czech. These tiny houses both served as retirement homes for Czech immigrants in the early 1900s. In that time places like nursing homes and assisted living facilities did not exist. When grandparents could no longer take care of their big house, they either built a little one next door to you, or even moved in with you! That way they could help babysit and you could help them with housework and chores.

1. Would you like to have your grandparents living in your backyard or right next door to you? What would be good about it? What might be hard about having them so close?
2. If your grandparents could not afford to build a tiny house like this one, would you enjoy having them live in your house with you?
3. If older people did not have families to help take care of them, and they could not take care of themselves, what do you think happened to them? Where did they go to live?

9. The Snoble House

The Snoble House was a real Czech grandparents house that used to stand at the intersection of 42nd St. and Morelle Road, in fact, you probably passed the place where it stood on your way to Ushers Ferry!

1. Why did the Snoble family decide to leave Bohemia and come to America? Can you think of a country today where life is so hard that people are willing to emigrate to a different country where they don't even speak the same language?
2. Like many Czech immigrants, the Snoble family brought many traditional Czech and German foods, customs and entertainments with them. Can you identify the traditional Czech or European foods that you can now commonly find in Iowa thanks to the Czech immigrants who brought them here? Circle them!

APPLE PIE KOLACHES SODA BREAD SAUERKRAUT HAMBURGERS
POPPYSEED CAKE CROISSANTS HOT DOGS BRATWURST CHILI

10. The Business District

The Village of Ushers Ferry is a community made up of several different parts. As you look around the town, here are some questions to talk over with your brothers and sisters.

1. What are the different businesses represented in Ushers Ferry?
2. What kinds of important businesses and buildings does your town have that are missing from Ushers Ferry?
3. What businesses does Ushers Ferry have that your town does not?
4. What businesses do you think are the most important to have in your town so people will want to live there?