

HISTORY OF APPANOOSE COUNTY (1878) - DEAN AND HILLTOWN

**DEAN, SHAW, SUMMERS, WELLS, TAYLOR, SKINNER, KLINKENBEARD,
KIRBY, SHAUVER**

HISTORY OF APPANOOSE COUNTY - DEAN AND HILLTOWN - WELLS
TOWNSHIP - PG 470-471
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DEAN lies in the southwest corner of Section 4, Wells, near where the Missouri, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad crosses Indian Creek, and is a station on that railroad. It was named after Henry Clay Dean, for many years a leading politician in Iowa, and who now resides on a farm four miles south of this station, just over the Missouri line.

The plat was surveyed April 12, 1873, by Henry Shaw, and was dedicated as a town by James W. Summers in July of the same year. About two-fifths of the plat lies south of the track of the Missouri, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad, which has a direction here from southeast to northwest. The streets from east to west are numbered, beginning on the south side of the plat, while those running north and south are designated by the letters of the alphabet, beginning on the west side.

For a time, the indications were that Dean would become a brisk little town; but, the valley proving unhealthy, several settlers withdrew. A store or two was established, but the business was abandoned, and, besides the depot business and post office, nothing but a drugstore is maintained.

Considerable coal-mining is done in the vicinity.

HILLTOWN

This is a little hamlet on Chariton River, in Section 16, two miles south of Dean, and known on the records as Pleasant View, which has for several years past done a brisk business in mining and hauling coal to surrounding towns. Latterly, however, this business having been abridged, those interested in maintaining the coal business at this point, have undertaken the construction of a railway track from Dean to the mines at Hilltown, so that cars can be loaded at the latter mines. When this is accomplished, these mines will become very valuable.

This town started as a collateral of the milling business established by **Col. Wells**, near by, in 1845, and is about as old as Centerville, although not regularly platted at so early a

date. It was quite a trading-point twenty-five years ago; but the progress of settlement drew its business away fifteen years ago.

It was said that a few years ago, in digging a well at Hilltown, the workmen passed through a bed of coal six feet in thickness, at a distance of about twenty feet below the plane of the other. If this be true, Hilltown will become a point of considerable prominence in the near future.

THE TOWNSHIP

The site of this intended village of Leona is situated on the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 2, Town 67, Range 16, and was dedicated by R. D. Taylor, September 11, 1858. The surveying was done by **E. D. Skinner** April 29, 1857. Main and North streets run east and west, intersected by Locust street, running north and south. The magnetic variation is 10 (degree) 30 (feet).

Wells Township derives its name from **Col. James Wells**, who settled near the Chariton in 1839, and, in a year or so after, began the construction of a saw-mill, in which work he was assisted by Jack Klinkenbeard, Asa Kirby, William Shauver and others.

Many interesting details pertaining to the history of this township will be found in the general history.

Wells Township contains seventeen or eighteen miles of railway, being crossed by every line entering the county, except the Chicago & Southwestern. Its principal market town is Moulton, a portion of which village, including the depot, lies within the northern limit of Wells.