

Gilbert Iowa

The first persons to enter the site of Gilbert, Iowa were H.B. Dinwiddie on August 4, 1855 and Lyman F. Wisner and Joshua Saylor on September 8, 1855.

In 1878 the first railway reached town. Hezekiah Gilbert, who was one of the most earnest advocates of the railway, then became the first post master on April 3, 1878.

Mr. Gilbert, Charles Matthews and J.T. Shepherd each offered 10 acres and others gave 5 acres more for a town plat which was mostly west of the track.

Gilbert Brothers opened the first store on Main Street. From time to time other businesses came into being such as an elevator, a shipping association, both of which contributed to a thriving town, a railroad depot with John Houghland as the first agent; Frank Wilson's store, Stewart and Thomas hardware, Oliver's lumberyard, Gilbert Brothers cheese factory, Bill Marsden with the first barbershop, Ed Holmes' icecream parlor, Louis Eness piano store, Conard's hardware and lumberyard, Orning harness and furniture, Allie Morgan's hotel and later a livery barn where a team and rig could also be rented, Robinson's butchershop, R.S. Dickinson barbershop, J.P. Zenor's grocery and telephone office, Mrs. Zenor's millinery shop, Ed Alsvig garage, Coffin Brothers jewelry and grocery, and Dr. Ghrist was the first doctor in town. The Frank Bently Post No. 89 of the G.A.R. was organized in August 1883. There was also a town hall, a tavern, and the IOOF Lodge Hall. Practically all of these businesses were in existence before the town was incorporated in 1904.

At the first council meeting on June 13, 1904, after incorporation, Atty. H.E. Slattery of Ames administered the oath of office to F.M. Bell, as mayor, D.K. Bunce, T.L. Olson, L. Smith, G.P. Lake, J.W. Conard, and F.B. Gilbert as councilmen and W.H. Totten as clerk. The first ordinances were to govern

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the enactment of ordinances and to establish wages for the officials. Roscoe B. Nelson took the oath of office for the first marshall but resigned 10 days later. George Brown was administered the oath of office as Treasurer and Jake Gunder was appointed first street and sidewalk commissioner all in July. In August a 4 mill road tax and an 8 mill general fund tax was levied and A. Morgan was sworn in as 2d marshall. In December a motion was made and carried to build the first calaboose under the direction of the mayor.

In January 1905 the first bill was allowed for lumber for sidewalks. They were to be built on the north side of South Street, which is now, also, a blacktop County road.

A resolution to accept the platting of the Shepherd addition was accepted in February.

On March 27, 1905 the first election was held resulting in O.L. Gilbert being elected assessor and the reelection of C.P. Lake and J.M. Conard as Councilmen.

The wages for the street and sidewalk commissioner were 25¢ per hour and 35¢ per hour when using his team. At a council meeting that completed the first full year of incorporation, an ordinance was voted upon and passed to prohibit the riding of bicycles on the sidewalks.

By 1968 Gilbert has very little business that is locally owned. Galen Wold, garage, Everett Joy, builder, Mrs. Mary (Frank) Pepper and Mrs. Renee (Delano) Doolittle, beauty shops, John Temple, sanitary garbage collection. The elevator is owned by the Story City Cooperative Elevator and operated by Daniel Webster of Story City, Iowa. The Union Story Trust and Savings Bank has a branch bank with Mrs. Alma (Arthur) Anderson Mortvedt, a lifetime resident, as manager. The Crop Care Chemical Fertilizer plant is owned and operated by David

Stensland, who is not a resident. John Conley of Ames, owns and operates a garage. A tavern and tavern-sundary are both operated by non-residents. The Stanley Honey Co. is owned and operated by Lloyd Stanley of Gilbert and a brother Glen Stanley of Des Moines. A.L. Dickinson retired from barbering in 1965 after 50 years and now works on a very limited basis. Almost all residents work at the Iowa State College in Ames or in the town of Ames.

There is still a postoffice of 3d class and in 1968n was upgraded one grade due to increased revenue. Postmasters have been: H. Gilbert, F.B. Gilbert, B.J. Grinnell, E.B. Stewart, James Reynolds, Mrs. Jessie (Sophus) Peterson, A.L. Dickinson and the present postmaster Mrs. Leota (Walter) Stanley Ekle.

Lloyd Stanley is now serving his second term as mayor with Kenneth Thompson, Paul MacVey, Dr. William Buck, LeRoy Johnson, and Norman Dale as councilmen.

Manard Olson of Story City is marshall, Clayton Haberkorn, clerk and Mrs. Beverly Mullen, treasurer.

On February 5, 1917 an election fo consolidation was held which included the Musland School to the north, the McFarland School to the northwest, the Gibson School to the west, the Ray School to the southwest, the Union School to the southeast, and the Franklin School to the east and the Gilbert School. The school board was organized February 25, 1917. The contract for the new building was let August 29, 1918 and the building was built in 1919. B.D. Kent as president, resigned on July 1, 1918. He was then elected secretary and held that post until his death in the fall of 1950. Mrs. Violet (Galen) Wold was then elected and still holds the position. The members of the board were D.H. Jacobson, H.L. Hanson, Oley Wold, J.A. Hansman, and C.W. Halstead. S.B. Lee was treasurer. Seven school wagons were purchased @ \$262.80 each, the brakes being \$12 extra each wagon. Five of the original drivers were: W. Hunt, W.E. Harrison, Gilmore, Galen wold, and Mable Hanson. Their wages

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ranged from \$50 to \$90 per month.

From the material available it cannot be established how many teachers there were that first year but their salaries were mostly \$75 with the principal getting \$1200. Carl Knudson was the first janitor at a wage of \$70.

V.L. Schwenk and Leroy Kruskop are the present superintendent and principal respectively. There are 30 other teachers in the system with a beginning wage of \$5800.

The present board members are: Robert Borgmeyer, Ernest Clouser, Jens Larson, Joe Romsey, and Paul Jensen. The bus drivers are: Daniel Jacobson, John Conley, Holger Jensen, Mrs. Roberta (James) Hurd, Richard Turner and Maurice Banford. The cooks for the hot lunch program are: Mrs Rose Banford, Mrs. Mary McNertney, Mrs. Phyllis Campbell, and Mrs. Theola Peterson. Janitors are Orlin Askelson and Wallace Hadaway, and Mrs. Alma Mortvedt, Treasurer.

Since the original building was built, another building has been built and the second addition was added in 1967-1968. This was extra classrooms to house the approximately 485 students enrolled.

In 1870 a small group of Norweigan-speaking families began worshipping together in their homes and in the Musland School building 2 miles north and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Gilbert. 1881 ushered in the formal organization of the congregation known as the South St. Petri Evangelical Lutheran Church with the Rev. Nels Amlund as its first pastor. In 1892 the present church building was constructed near the school. Within the year 1927 the church building was moved to Gilbert. From 1881-1899 the congregation was part of the St. Petri, Story City parish and from 1899-1952 was affiliated with Immanuel Church, Story City.

In 1952 the congregation voted to become a separate parish and changed

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its name to the Gilbert Evangelical Lutheran Church. A parsonage was purchased adjacent to the church property and its first resident pastor Rev. Walter G. Johnson was called. Pastors who have served the church have been: N. Amlund, L.O. Sherven, J. Tanner, O.E. Bordahl, T. Heimarck, S. Carlsen, A.O. Skibsrud, T.J. Alvestad, W.G. Johnson, Paul F. Anderson, Paul S. Reque and the present Harold Rice. Its present membership numbers about 255.

The Gilbert Congregational Church was organized in 1880 with the following charter members: F.B. & Mary Gilbert, C.T. & Alcinda Barker, E.P. Gilbert all from the Ames Church, L. & Lavina Oliver from the C.P. Church. The first addition to this number was M.W. & Helen Templeton. In 1882 the church was built. The members likely met in homes or a school until then as was the custom. For more than 16 years the Gilbert Station Church, as it was known, was yoked with the Ames Church. Rev. A.A. Baker came once a month for several years. His successor was Rev. George Perkins and it was under his direction that the church was formed. Rev. William Bennett succeeded him. The ministers who served from the Ames Church until 1898 were: Rev. E.C. Moulton, Rev. J.D. Wells, Rev. F.J. Douglas, Rev. H.P. Douglas and then Ames decided that their minister must be full time. Prof. Barrows served for the following year. Rev. Ball was on trial for 3 months. Rev. G.W. Tingle served as first resident minister. The parsonage was built in 1898. Land for the church and parsonage was purchased from J.T. Shepherd. Rev. Dunton, Rev. J.W. Buck, Rev. C.T. Halbert, Rev. A.J. Naly served until April 1908. In May 1908 the church burned to the ground. A new one was built and it was dedicated the first Sunday in January 1909. Rev. A.J. Wolfe was the first pastor after that. He was followed by W.B. Pardun, W. Wilson, H.L. Wissler, E.L. Anderson, C.D. Davis, J.P. Himmel, Aled Russel, J.O. Smith, Gordon Blunt, Paul Garrison,

Robert Entorf, Paul Beckman, Mrs. Helen Turner, Wm. H. Hill, Harry Ehlers, Roger Knight and the present Clay Lumpkins.

During the term of Roger Knight the Congregational churches merged with the Evangelical and Reformed and the name was changed to the United Church of Christ.

In 1962 an addition was built on the church to add classrooms. The present membership is approximately 200.

SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church several miles northwest of Gilbert, but within the school district, serves the Catholics of this community.

Everyone is interested in the future of Gilbert. At the present ,2 sites have been laid out for parks with a combined total of 3 acres. A sewer system is being planned and new developments for homes are springing up. This will make the following slogan more meaningful.

The slogan spells Gilbert both ways:

GILBERT

IS

LITTLE

BUT

EVERYONE

RETURNS

THERE

Lloyd Stanley
Mayor
Clayton C. Haberberg
Clerk

Paul E. Mardley
Leroy Johnson
Norman Dale
Kenneth B. Thompson
William B. Buck