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The following resolution was offered by Councilman Sweet,  
who moved its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 68-12

WHEREAS, the Town of Story City, Iowa has been invited to prepare a history to be placed in the cornerstone of the new Court House located in Nevada, Iowa, and,

WHEREAS, it is required that said history be prepared under the authority of a resolution of this Council, and,

WHEREAS, a history has now been prepared and approved by this Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Incorporated Town of Story City, Iowa that the hereinafter history, marked "Exhibit A", and by this reference made a part and parcel of this resolution, be approved as the official history of the Town of Story City, Iowa for placement in the cornerstone in the Court House located at Nevada, Iowa.

This resolution was seconded by Councilman Anderson, and on roll call, carried by an aye and nay vote, as follows:

AYE: Anderson, Sweet, Helm and Johnson

NAY: None

ABSENT: Erickson

WHEREUPON, the Mayor declared the motion duly passed this 2nd day of May, A. D., 1968.

Arnold Jacobson  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

J. H. Williams  
Deputy Clerk

## "EXHIBIT A"

### 100 YEAR OLD STORY CITY - SECOND OLDEST IN COUNTY

#### "A BEAUTIFUL STORY"

Story City, Iowa is located 45 miles straight north of the golden dome of the Iowa State Capitol. It is within six miles of the exact center of the State of Iowa. It has a population of 1550, and a trading area of 100 square miles.

Story City is the second town in age in the county, and the third in size.

In 1837 Story County was a part of Benton County. The present boundaries were established and defined in 1846. The county was named after the eminent jurist Joseph Story, who was for a third of a century associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Hence, the town of Story City also derived its name.

#### FIRST SETTLERS

The first settlement in what is now Lafayette Township was made in the spring of 1852 by Robert Bracken; George and Daniel Prime; John, Jesse and Samuel Smith, and others, who came from New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana, and located near the present site of Story City.

In 1853 came James C. Smith with his three sons, James, Isaac and Fletcher, and son-in-law, Isaac Blades; Jonah Griffith; H. L. Boyes; Joseph Brouhard, and N. N. Sheffield and LaCount Lambert, who built the first house in Story City.

Following them came the Norwegians in 1855, lured here from Illinois and later the old country. They were Jonas Duea, Lars Sheldahl, Ole Thompson, John Mehus, Jacob Aske, John Tarvestad. The first settlers bought the prairie land for \$1.25 an acre from the government.

The same fall came Torke! Henryson, Rasmus Aske, Erick Nelson and Jacob Brue. In 1856 came Rasmus and Eric Sheldahl, Rasmus Larson Tungesvig. In 1857 came Osmund Henryson, Samuel Haaland, Knud Igland, Ole Braland, John Charlson Hagen, Anders Christenson, Knud Helvig and Peter Lars Tjernagel. In 1858 came Paul Thompson, Johannes Mathre, Knud Twedt, Lars Henderson and Baard Beroen.

The Danes appeared in the 60's and 70's, as did the Germans and Irish, developing a large settlement west of town.

### FAIRVIEW WAS FIRST

Fairview, the first town laid out and platted in Lafayette Township, comprised 13 acres in the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section twelve. It fronted on the present City park. It was laid out by a man named French. The promoters of Fairview in 1855 were George S. Prime, D. M. Brown and George W. Sowers.

In 1856 the only residents of Fairview were John J. Foot, who accommodated the traveling public, and Frederick W. Rhodes. There was a log house owned by Richard Jennis, unoccupied at that time, a small log blacksmith shop and a small residence partly finished. Both the latter belonged to William Estell. It seems Uncle Sam never recognized the name of Fairview.

### STORY CITY BECOMES A TOWN

The very first postoffice established was late in 1856 or early 1857, and was called Story City. This was only a few months after the town was platted as Fairview. On the time tables of the railroad this town was simply called Story for about forty years, while all the time the postal department knew it as Story City. The railroad finally added "City" to its records and time tables. From then until now it has been the only Story City in the world.

The residents of Lafayette Township at this time were Francis Wier, Dr. Homer Cochran, Daniel Prime, Noah Harding, R. T. Anderson, Robert Anderson, J. S. Anderson, Frank Anderson, Robert Bracken, William Bracken, Perry Bracken, Joah North, Jonah Griffith, James Smith, Dr. Moses, Jesse Smith, John Smith, Isaac Blades, R. Ballard, R. W. Ballard, N. N. Sheffield, George W. Sowers, William Estell, John Ring, George Ring, Richard Jennis, LaCount Lambert, George S. Prime, W. A. Wier, Rasmus Larson, L. R. Larson, Erick R. Larson, Henry Burham, John Burham, Thomas Burham, Judson A. Rhodes, F. W. Rhodes, William Burham, George Burham, Wm. R. Doolittle, John Van Fossen and James F. Brown, and others.

### FAIRVIEW BECOMES A MEMORY

Story City was laid out as a town in 1878, and together with Fairview it was incorporated as "Story City" in 1881. It then had a population of 503 on the square mile covered by the town. Frederick W. Rhoades was the first postmaster. Captain W. A. Wier was the first mayor.

## LAND OF OUR PIONEERS

Capt. W. A. Wier, who wrote for the Story County Atlas in 1902 told that the soil was rich, black loam of great depth and fertility. The surface was gently rolling, except on the west along Keigley branch, and in the northeast along Skunk River, which streams watered it. There was timber along the river consisting of white burr, red and black oak, black walnut, butternut or white walnut, hard and soft maple, basswood or linden, cottonwood, honey locust, ash, coffee-nut, hickory and elm. Until about 1860 Skunk River was well stocked with fish of pike, pickerel, redhorse, buffalo, and several varieties of bass and catfish. Keigley branch was well stocked with pike and pickerel.

## THE LIFE OF OUR PIONEERS

Capt. Wier further states that the early settlers were hardy and healthy specimens of manhood and womanhood. Sickness was almost unknown and what little there was, nearly always readily yielded to the simple home treatment of the pioneer, except the ague and fever, which continued with the pioneers until most of the prairie had been brought under cultivation, when the disease gradually disappeared. The pioneers were as a rule, not overburdened with "book larnin", but for hard common sense they were the peers of any. A more genial, generous hospitable people were not to be found. Life here was anything but a picnic at that time, wrote Capt. Wier.

## MONEY UNKNOWN AS A MEDIUM

The people strove to open up their farms, but all or nearly all had arrived with little or no money. Their property and household goods were hauled with them in the "prairie schooner" across unbridged rivers and trackless prairies. They went from forty to sixty miles to get their corn and wheat ground, and merchandise was hauled in wagons from Iowa City and Muscatine. Money was almost unknown as a medium of exchange.

## FIRST DWELLINGS

The first saw mill was built by D. M. Brown in 1855. In 1856 a steam saw mill was brought here by a Mr. House, but later removed. The increasing demand for building lumber became great. George S. Prime and Noah Harding in 1857 set upon the land, which is now a part of our city park, a steam saw mill. Lumber from this mill furnished until 1865 the logs and timber for all the first dwellings and buildings.

## FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE

In 1857 a school house was erected on the public square in Fairview. It was 20 x 24 feet, and was also utilized as a place for religious services and other public gatherings.

Principal source of water supply for domestic purposes was from the artesian wells so numerous in and around Story City. Having the greatest flow were the "Watkins" well about three miles south of Story City, and the one in the east part of Story City which furnishes the supply for the waterworks.

### WHEN THE RAILROAD CAME

The first railroad to reach this place was the Des Moines and Minnesota, January 1, 1878, and was a narrow gauge variety. Some years later this road was acquired by the Chicago and Northwestern, and the gauge widened to standard. The railroad was a tremendous boost to the town.

### HOW BROAD STREET CAME INTO BEING

The Town of Story City was fortunate in securing the services of an engineer, one Mr. Blair, an advance man of the coming railroad, to lay out the new plat. To this fact, and to Mr. Blair, it owes its wide streets and symmetrical form of the town. The business street, called Broad Street, is 100 feet in width, and the two park streets are 140 feet in width to provide for a line of trees in the middle.

### MIGRATION OF THE 90'S

The 90's were boom years and the population in 1900 was 1197. However, by the time immigrants from the older countries had swarmed in, the land was all gone. Soon a new migration set in from here to the Dakotas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, and even the Pacific coast country. In one week in the early years of this century as many as twenty-five families loaded their belongings on the railroad and moved away.

### EARLY CENTURY GROWTH

In order to ward off a threatening slump, the businessmen here in 1908 organized the Commercial Club, now called the Greater Community Congress, for a co-ordinated effort at community building. This movement meant much to the town. As a result, in 1920 the population figure had climbed to 1591, and there had been erected twenty-five new residences, an old people's home and sanitarium, an opera house, a hotel, a creamery building, two bank buildings, two fine stone churches, a drug store and several garages. This period saw the erection of several brick business buildings, the installation of a telephone system, and an electric light plant. The main streets were graveled. A butter tub factory, a canning factory, and nearby Lake Comar all came into being.

## THE BUILDERS

The foresighted business men who were at the helm at the time of growth and progress in the early century were H. R. Boyd, S. R. Corneliussen, T. T. Henryson, Ole O. Roe, A. M. Henderson, Michas Henderson, John Donhowe, T. P. Cassem, H. T. Henryson, Paul A. Olson, John Butcher, M. O. Marvick, Joseph Marvick, John Molstre, Henry Donhowe, O. B. Peterson, John Swan, L. J. Tjernagel and others.

## THE MODERN ERA

The remaining years through the 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's fuse into what is known as the modern era. Story City has come through two great world wars, a boom, draughts and depressions, minor wars, the atomic age, and the jet age, and has survived them all.

After World War II, Story City started to take on a new image, as returning service men and women returned home. New families were started and the trend away from a retirement town was on in earnest. This trend has continued and has been increasing so that the average age of Story City's population has dropped considerably.

At this time the only hard surface or paved streets in Town were Broad Street through the business section of Town running from the C. & N. W. Railway tracks to west line of the north park and one block north and south of the main intersection. This is brick paving and was constructed in 1918 at a cost of \$67, 606. 36, paid for by special assessment. This paving is still serving the Town quite well.

In the late forties a movement was started in the Story City Community Congress for the building of a memorial hospital. This organization, serving as a Commercial Club, was organized on May 4, 1907 and has been serving the community without interruption to the present time. The idea of a memorial hospital was accepted with great enthusiasm. Committees were formed and a financial drive started that resulted in enough money being raised so that a fine hospital was built in 1950 without the need of a great deal of municipal financing. This same year approximately 80 blocks of black-top paving was completed.

Some years elapsed before any street construction was undertaken, but in 1960 approximately 22 blocks of curb and gutter and black-top paving was completed. In 1962 Broad Street from Grand Avenue to Grove Avenue was widened and surfaced with asphaltic concrete mat. In 1965 approximately 20 blocks of curb and gutter and blacktop paving was constructed, and in 1966 12 blocks of curb and gutter and paving with asphaltic concrete mat.

Other improvements in Story City in recent years are a sewage disposal plant completed in 1964 at a cost of \$130,253.77, and an addition to the Story City Municipal Hospital at a cost of \$151,729.80 in the same year.

In the last ten years Story City has grown at a steady rate. Seven new sub-divisions have been started and new homes have been built at an average of twenty a year. The 1966 special census showed a population of 1943. In 1967, with the coming of Interstate #35, the Town has annexed and extended sewer and water out to the Interstate where two new restaurants and service stations are being constructed.

Story City is served by the C. & N. W. Railway and two bus lines, and now with Interstate #35 open to the public it puts the Town in a very good position for future growth, as a comprehensive plan has just been completed under a Federal grant for the purpose of orderly growth and development.

The Town is served by its own municipal light plant consisting of five diesel units, two of which are dual powered, so they can be switched to natural gas. The total capacity is 3060 K. W. with a sub-station reserve of 1500 K. W.

The Town has many clubs and lodges, including a State Federated Woman's Club, which has won the state's highest honors yearly since its beginning. She has an exceptionally efficient Greater Community Congress, a local chapter of the Lions International Service Club, Masonic Lodge, American Legion and Legion Auxiliary and a newly organized Junior Chamber of commerce.

#### STORY CITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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The following is a short resume of the prevailing conditions of Story City Memorial Hospital.

1. Thirty-six bed hospital owned and operated by the city of Story City.
2. The hospital had a 92% occupancy in 1967, with 41.3% of these patients being Medicare patients.
3. Total patient days increased from 10,447 days in 1966 to 12,052 in 1967.
4. The total number of surgical operations for the year was 236 with the majority of these occurring after June, 1968 when E. S. Honsinger, D. O., a surgeon, moved to Story City.

5. The average number of personnel employed was 78.
6. The doctors on the staff in 1967 were:
  - a) G. E. DuBois, D. O., McCallsburg, Iowa
  - b) L. D. Barry, D. O., Williams, Iowa
  - c) Robert Larson, D.O., Roland, Iowa
  - d) D. V. Mullin, D. O., Ellsworth, Iowa
  - e) M. L. Hodson, D. O., Jewell, Iowa
  - f) R. H. Heise, M.D., Story City, Iowa
  - g) C. E. Semler, D.O., Story City, Iowa
  - h) A. H. Lekwa, M.D., Story City, Iowa
  - i) E. S. Honsinger, D.O. (June), Ames, Iowa
  - j) H. L. Gulden, D.O. (associate), Ames, Iowa
  - k) W. G. Dennert, M.D. (associate), Boone, Iowa
  - l) M. G. Sloan, M.D. (associate), Boone, Iowa
7. The December year-to-date balance showed a net profit of approximately 3% over cost.

With these facts in mind, it would seem that the potential for growth is good based upon need and a sound financial condition.

#### HISTORY OF THE STORY CITY SCHOOL

The first school building was erected in 1857, and was taught in the winter by Anna Sutlief, in the old Jenness Log Hut, located in an area which later became a city park.

Increased enrollment caused the erection of a second building. This building cost \$500.00 and served as the school until 1881 when it was sold.

A third structure was constructed in 1881 at a cost of \$3,500.00. It was located on the west side of Elm Avenue between Broad and Story Streets. By 1890, the school consisted of four rooms. The faculty was made up of three teachers and a Principal. The enrollment included 62 in the Principal's room, 32 in the intermediate grades, and 70 in the primary grades. The school totaled ten grades and, until 1890, no graduation exercises had been held.

In 1905 it became apparent that quarters were, once again, becoming too crowded. To meet the situation, a new brick High School building was erected at a cost of \$7,500.00 on the corner of Story and State Streets. The building accommodated the high school and seventh and eighth grades. The first six grades remained housed in the old frame building located on Elm Avenue.



By 1919 the high school had outgrown its facilities and a fine new structure was built. The new high school building was erected on a site adjacent to the building constructed in 1905. The high school facilities proved to be adequate until 1948 when it became necessary to construct a temporary addition to provide space for shop facilities. A bus garage was also erected to house the five school buses operating at that time.

A new gymnasium-auditorium addition was completed in 1953. The new facilities provided a seating capacity of 1200 and housed an electric organ donated by the Story City Lions Club. The 1953 addition also provided space for more classrooms.

The Story City Independent School became a Community School District in 1956 with the addition of area in Story and Boone Counties that totaled 51 square miles. In 1962, four sections of land in Hamilton County, formerly known as Sandness Township, was voted into the district. The school district now totals 55.1 sections of land and extends into three counties.

The patrons of the Community District voted in December 1963 to expand facilities by building a new addition to the present high school building. The new \$200,000.00 project called for a new vocational agriculture and industrial arts shop, mechanical drawing and agriculture classrooms and vocal and instrumental music departments. The new facilities vacated rooms in the high school building for much needed expansion in the academic areas. Enlarging and improving the athletic field was also a part of the improvements voted upon in 1963. The latest addition was scheduled for occupancy in 1965.

The 1966-67 school year showed the total enrollment of the Story City Community School to be 690 students. The school was staffed with 38 teachers.

On March 28, 1968, a contract for a new elementary school was let for the sum of \$457,098.00.

#### HISTORY OF BETHANY MANOR TO APRIL 30, 1968

On October 14, 1911, a committee was appointed from the Story City Commercial Club to organize a corporation for the purpose of erecting a home and hospital combination building. The committee composed of: T. T. Henryson, J. C. Jessen, B. T. Holm, Henry Hovland, D. B. Olson, G. Amlund and Paul A. Olson acted quickly. A corporation under the name "The Central Iowa Lutheran Sanitarium and Home Association" was organized and articles filed on February 1, 1912. Anyone who contributed at least \$25.00 or paid annual dues of \$2.00 were voting members of the corporation. The first board

members were: O. S. Boyd, chairman, B. T. Holm, vice chairman, D. B. Olson, secretary, T. T. Henryson, treasurer, E. P. Anderson, J. O. Anderson, G. Amlund, C. E. Christiansen, Henry Hovland, M. L. Hatlestad, Axel Johnson, C. A. Jerdeman, Fred Kokemuller, O. M. Lyders, Hermund Mellang, John Michel, Adam Moeller, E. M. Rod, Osmund Ritland, Ingebrigt Satre, and Oscar Thompson. A committee composed of the following: S. L. Larson, M. J. Jorgenson, Mrs. L. R. Larson, H. J. Jorgenson, S. J. Nessa, and T. T. Henryson, donated the site plus three blocks south and west of the site with an estimated value of \$6,500.00. They also gave \$1,000.00 cash and paid the commissions of solicitors and committee expenses to March 1, 1913. Funds were collected, a building of two wings erected at a cost of \$34,464.00. The cornerstone was laid on October 31, 1913 by Dr. J. N. Kildahl. The building was dedicated on June 30, 1914. The first resident in the home entered on June 1, 1914 and the first patient entered the hospital on July 1, 1914. The dedication service was conducted by the Rev. O. P. Vangsness. On March 7, 1921, the corporation voted to ask the Norwegian Lutheran Church to take over the ownership and operation of the home and hospital which was quite heavily in debt at the time. This was done and the home continued to be under the church until the Bethany Manor Corporation was organized (composed of 30 congregations of the American Lutheran Church in Central Iowa) on March 11, 1963. This corporation continues to be affiliated with the A. L. C. The name of the home was at that time changed to Bethany Manor. The hospital section was converted to residential rooms for aged in 1947.

The Rev. and Mrs. K. L. Guttebo were installed on March 1, 1914, as the first administrator and matron. Other couples who served in this dual capacity as administrator and matron were: Rev. & Mrs. T. Saetveit, 1919-1920; Rev. and Mrs. A. O. Dolven, 1920-1921; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Heggen, 1921-1923; Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Molstre, 1923-1938; Rev. & Mrs. Peder Buland, 1938-1943; Rev. & Mrs. E. R. Rorem, 1943-1954; and Rev. & Mrs. L. A. Mathre, 1954-1961. Since February 1, 1961 when the Rev. Pernie C. Pederson became administrator-chaplain, the administrator's wife has not served as matron. Mrs. Geneva Hanson and since 1965 Miss Gladys Bjerkestrand has served as matron. Mrs. Rosella Severson has been supervising nurse in the home since 1963. Ansel Mortvedt has been custodian since 1964. Mrs. Clara Abrahamson has been head cook since 1957. Mrs. Eva Allison has had charge of the laundry since 1960. With the opening of a new wing for nursing care in 1968, the Rev. M. C. Hagedorn joined the staff as chaplain, and Mrs. Charlotte Rolph as supervisor of nurses in this new section.

Additions were made as follows: Chapel addition, 1930; East Wing, 1948; old infirmary, 1954; duplex, 1963 (John H. Thoreson & Mrs. Anna Hjermstad, his sister, gave \$10,000.00 toward erection of duplex, with privilege to occupy one apartment during their life times); new nursing care wing, 1968. Total bed capacity of Bethany Manor at present is 128 beds of which 56 are nursing care beds.

Many have served on the board throughout the years. The present board consists of: Mr. Joe Donhowe, Story City, chairman, Mr. Arthur F. Bockwoldt, Stanhope, vice chairman, Rev. Norbert Jolivette, Jewell, secretary, Mr. Arnold Maakestad, Radcliffe, Mr. Merlin H. Anderson, Ames, Mr. O. E. Walker, Williams, Mr. Truman Lewis, Des Moines, Rev. Everett Nelson, Roland, and Mr. Franklin Lee, McCallsburg. The administrator serves as the treasurer by appointment by the board.

Bethany Manor employs 88 people of whom more than half are part time workers.