

## History of Scott County, Iowa. Chapter IV (pt. 4)

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ness above low water mark. These quarries are worked to good advantage. The rock dresses very well under the hammer.

There is an abundance of coal that makes its appearance about ten miles from Davenport, in a South-Westerly direction, about two miles from the Mississippi river, but it has never been dug extensively. Some half dozen mines have been opened, and more or less taken of the surface coal, of very good quality, but it requires more extensive operations to bring forth a pure article which lies beneath it in great abundance. The supply of coal for the city of Davenport, is from the Rock River coal basins.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The first Agricultural Society ever formed in Scott county, was in January, 1840. Alexander W. McGregor, Esq., was chosen President; G. C. R. Mitchell, Esq., Vice President; John Forrest, Esq., Secretary, and A. Le Claire, Esq., Treasurer. At this early day but little interest was felt by the patrons of the Society, and it was suffered to go down. But little, if anything, was done for agricultural interests in the county until 1853, when in August of that year two prominent farmers, H. M. Thomson, Esq., of Long Grove, and Eli S. Wing, Esq., called a meeting, and a new Society was organized, H. M. Thomson being elected President, James Thorington, Esq., Secretary, and Jno. R. Jackson, Treasurer. The second year of this Society (in 1854) the first Fair was held in Davenport, having the same officers elected as in 1853.

In June, 1854, a company was organized called the "Fair Ground Association of Scott County, Iowa." This company purchased eight acres of land lying near Duck Creek, some two miles from the city, at a cost of two hundred dollars per acre, enclosed about four acres with a tight board fence seven feet high, and built sheds and workshops for the second annual exhibition, which took place the 24th and 25th of September, 1855. This exhibition was creditable to the Society and Scott county, showing an increasing interest of the people in agricultural pursuits. The third exhibition was held the 12th and 13th of October, 1856. The number of entries at this Fair was over three hundred, and the receipts of the Society over eight hundred dollars. The fourth annual fair of the Scott County Agricultural Society was held on the 29th and 30th of September, 1857. The exhibition of

stock far exceeded that of any other year, both in number and quality, and of garden vegetables the show was large and superior to any ever offered in Iowa. The fifth annual fair was held on the 15th, 16th and 17th of September, 1858; and although a partial failure of the crops rendered the exhibition rather meagre in some articles, yet the attendance was large and passed off well.

The fair of 1859, held in September, far exceeded all others in number and quality of the articles exhibited. The receipts were upwards of twelve hundred dollars. The officers for this year were Hugh M. Thomson, President; Edwin Smith, Vice President; John Lambert, Treasurer; Wm. Allen, Secretary; George H. French, ~~F. T. Gue~~, H. M. Washburn, Robert Christie, Directors.

B. F.

#### HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This County Society was organized on the 26th of April, 1859, by adopting a constitution, the second article of which declares, "that the object of this Society shall be to promote and foster the cultivation of fruits, flowers and vegetables in our own county, and a taste for ornamental and landscape gardening. It is also proposed to introduce and test new and choice varieties of fruits, flowers and vegetables, and afterwards publicly report thereon." The officers are George H. French, President; George L. Nickols, Vice President; Howard Darlington, Treasurer; Dr. E. J. Fountain, Corresponding Secretary; Livy S. Viele, Recording Secretary. The Society numbered forty-eight members. Two public exhibitions have been given the past season, the first in June, for early fruit, flowers and vegetables, the last one in September. Both of these exhibitions proved creditable alike to the Society and the people of Scott county. An increasing interest was shown in these displays, and from them we may judge that before two years shall have passed away the interest will be so great that no public Hall in the city will be able to contain all who may desire attendance.

There is an Agricultural store for implements used in gardening and farming, at the "Iowa Agricultural Depot" on Front street, established in 1856, and where all kinds of seed may be found. The depression in business for the last two years has seriously interfered with the design of the proprietor, L. S. Viele, Esq., but he hopes with increased facilities, to build up a large and perma-