

## The Jubilee

Excerpt from  
Alice Mendenhall  
Pioneer Days

Folks for miles around came to see the first train come in, came to the "Jubilee" as it was called. On the farm, they were getting ready to go to the jubilee, also.

These were the palmy days for the farmer. His life was not yet cluttered up with silos, tractors, milking machines, separators, Federal Farm banks, Iowa land booms, bank failures, farm relief, McNary Hagen bills.

His wife is up early, too - shoos the flies out, for screens were unknown; browns the coffee in the skillet and grinds it by hand; fries potatoes for breakfast, for Quaker oats and cereals are unknown. It is a cold morning and she lays her husband's red flannel underwear out - she has "done-up" his shirt herself with tub and washboard and soft soap she had made from the lye dripping from the ash hopper, and the spare grease from butchering. She irons it with a hot handled iron, a hard task, for the shirt opens in the back and the bosom had to be as stiff as a board and to shine like polished marble.

Her husband puts on his heavy black suit that men wear for Sunday, summer and winter, his Sunday boots, his heavy gold watch chain, combs his long hair, brushes his long whiskers, puts on his stiff hat, takes a chew of plug tobacco, and while he is waiting for his wife, sits down to read what the new editor of "The News" has to say about President Hayes, and the forty-fifth congress. Among the advertisements in "The News" is Schipfer's special: men's suits \$15 to \$20 - now \$12.50; men's overcoats \$13.50 - now \$5.50; ladies' muslin nightgown 19 cents; corset covers, trimmed with lace or embroidery 10 cents.

Now away go the farmer and his wife to the jubilee in the spring wagon. Shafers' livery stable did a big business that day for it was 30 years before an automobile came to town.

## True Stories

from 1905 Celebration

Now there comes along the road in the edge of the shade of the old cottonwood, lines of covered wagons - as far as eye can reach - men and women, excited and hurrying toward California and gold, buying up all the food supplies that our settlers could produce.

And now down the road from the west comes another with armed followers. He stops in the cool shade and takes off his hat. That rugged face - those eyes that seem to flash a light never before shown on land or sea. It is John Brown, a forerunner of Lincoln, and of the Rebellion and of the emancipation of the slaves. John Brown on his way to Harper's Ferry and a martyr's death. John Brown whose presence there glorified the old cottonwood and Rodman's cabin tavern.

In 1879, with the coming of the railroad, the meekness, the grace, the charm of old South English days fade away like a dream, and the leaves of the old cottonwood mourn like the



The center of the town's activities, 1904.



Last regular eastbound train on the branch.

strode to the new town.

The first railroad ran within the edge of the shade of the old cottonwood. What a thrill to the old tree when the first train whistled for South English. Folks for miles around came to see that first train, came to the "Jubilee" as it was called, a great celebration.

Thus in 1879 the coming of the railroad and the "Jubilee" marked the closing days of Old South English and the beginning of "The New Town."

\*Note: Martha A. Rodman Hennon, 1813 - 1887, is buried on lot 3, row 8, plat III of the South English cemetery. A small stone is inscribed, "Martha - First white child born in English River Township."





### White's Store

The forerunner of White's Store was known as "Old Post's Store" sometimes even referred to as "Post's \$10 Store" because of the fact the first load of goods in the store amounted to only \$10. It was hauled by James Hennon from Washington. Where "Old Post" went was never known, but the next owners were Adams and Hogen, who later sold to J.F. White and Perry Hennon. The latter later sold his share in the store to J.F. White.

J.F. White was born in Boone County, Indiana, June 3, 1835, his father being of English ancestry and his mother of Welsh origin; the former died when he was nine years of age, and the latter when he was fourteen. He received a very limited education in the district schools of his native county, supplemented by an attendance at Lebanon, Indiana, Seminary for a short time. At the age of fourteen he commenced teaching and followed it as an occupation for five years. When he was nineteen years of age he improved a farm in Holt county, Missouri, breaking the land himself with a heavy yoke of oxen. In 1857, he decided to change his location so came to Keokuk county, settling in English River township, and engaged in farming. He acquired a farm of 265 acres. In 1858 he bought out Hogen, Adams & Co., dealers in general merchandise and was successful in that business. He probably built the building which was moved to the new town in 1879. The store never closed its doors, as far as business was concerned, during the moving. The moving process was slow and customers went to the store shopping as usual.

In connection with his mercantile pursuits he engaged largely and successfully in stock feeding and stock-dealing; he was a director in the Iowa City & Western Railroad and it was largely owing to his efforts and energy that the northern portion of the county had railroad communications. He was proprietor of the "Western Herald" a journal that had quite a circulation in Keokuk and adjoining counties.

The business continued until the early 1930's. The stock was auctioned off, and the general store was no more. The post office was moved into the building, with the grandson of J.F. White as the postmaster. He also was named J.F. White.



White's Emporium about the turn of the century. The first child is unidentified, next

standing is Jennie Miller, next unidentified, Will Miller, Clara McWilliams, next two unidentified,

standing is Theodore White, J.F. White, boy unidentified, and standing at right is Walter Lane.

S.E. Herald

January 13, 1883

SALT THE BUTTER - All our customers are requested to salt their butter before bringing it to market. White Bros.



The White building served as the Post Office for over twenty years.



J.F. White, Jr., Postmaster and James Stoner, Rural Carrier.



2nd great Uncle Israel Miller

An everyday sight in the older days of South English was Israel

Pete and Dodge. When snow covered the streets the horse-drawn wagon



## THE TALLEY WAR

by A.L. Furb

The first of August recalls the 100th anniversary of an event of great local interest which occurred at South English, Keokuk County, Iowa during the Civil War. It is variously called, "The Talley War", "The Skunk River War", "The South English War", "The Copperhead War", and "The Butternut War".

(Note) "Copperheads" - so-called because of a badge cut from a copper cent, on which was the head of the Goddess of Liberty. They were worn by Peace Democrats opposed to Lincoln's war policy. Some Copperheads strongly sympathized with the South. "Butternuts" - a cross-section of a butternut was also worn as a badge by many Southern sympathizers.



Cross section of a butternut used as a badge by the antiwar Party.

For many years this incident could not be discussed without engendering hatred and unpleasant arguments. Now that the parties who figured in this dramatic incident are dead, it can be recounted without fear of inciting hard feelings. The statements made in this article have been secured from historical records, eye-witness accounts, interviews with persons who were children at the time, and reports current in the South English community. There is general agreement as to what took place, but many variations as to the details.

Most persons are familiar with the causes which led to the Civil War and recognize that many persons living in the North were in full sympathy with the South. Particularly was this true of those born in the South and who had migrated to the North prior to 1860. Such a family was that of the Talleys, who came from Tennessee in 1848, and settled in Keokuk County near the village of what came to be called Ioka. They were in full sympathy with the seceding states should be allowed to withdraw from the Union and go their way in peace.

With the declaration of War the Talley family allied themselves with the Democratic or anti-war party. One of the family, George Cyfert Talley, was a young man of more than ordinary ability. His education had been meager, but he proved to be an orator and soon attained prominence as a public speaker. Before the War he had entered the ministry, being affiliated with the Baptist Church. In 1844, the Rock Creek Baptist Church had been established near Ioka and the family, after coming to Iowa, likely affiliated with this church. At least, George Cyfert Talley and many others of the Talley family are buried in the churchyard of this church. The Rock Creek Baptist Church and cemetery are located about one mile north of highway 78 and southwest of the village of Ollie, Iowa. Regular religious services are no longer held in this church, but an annual meeting is held by descendants of earlier members.

A Northern soldier, killed in battle, had been returned here for burial and Talley had consented to preach the funeral sermon in the Mt. Zion Church. At the appointed time a crowd

assembled and Talley took his place in the pulpit prepared to lead the service. However, some doubt arose in the minds of some of those present as to Talley's loyalty to the Union. A short conference took place with the result that Talley withdrew and another minister present conducted the funeral service. Before Talley left the pulpit he invited those present, who wished to hear him speak, to gather in a nearby schoolhouse. Many in the crowd followed him, but found the schoolhouse locked. A school director present, refused the key with the result that Talley spoke in a grove of trees a short distance away.

This incident caused a great deal of hard feelings and party spirit ran high in the community. Young Talley now became the spokesman for the anti-war party. He was urged by his supporters to express his political views more freely, with the result that he abandoned the pulpit for the "stump". Meetings were held all over Keokuk and adjoining counties, especially in places where threats against his speaking were made. His friends urged him on and on, until his speeches became more and more offensive to the Republican or war party. In July of 1863 Lee was defeated at Gettysburg in his attempt to invade the North and Grant had taken Vicksburg. As the cause of the South worsened the Southern sympathizers became more and more vocal in their denunciation of the North.

On Saturday, August 1, 1863, a huge Democratic rally was planned to be held in the Noffsinger grove, just north of South English in English River Township. Talley was to be the principal speaker. Hundreds of Southern sympathizers from miles around came in their wagons to attend the rally. From Talley's community came the largest delegation of all. Most of the delegates rode in specially constructed wagons, with a row of seats along each side. In the bottom of the wagons was some

six to eight inches of hay or straw. Outwardly they appeared unarmed, but later events showed that arms of various kinds were concealed in the hay and straw.

The Northern sympathizers realizing the tenseness of the situation also came in large numbers. They made their headquarters in the tavern, operated by Dan Phelps, who himself was a veteran of the Union Army. A day or two before the rally Phelps had imported a barrel of whiskey from Iowa City as he anticipated a large crowd for the rally. Frequent trips to the bar probably had a stimulating effect upon the already overwrought feelings of the Northern supporters.

At the appointed time, Talley and his supporters appeared at the grove and the program got underway. On the right side of the speaker's stand Talley placed a pistol, while on his left, he placed an open Bible. When asked by a listener why he did this he replied, "The pistol to protect my body; the Bible to protect my soul's salvation."

But let an eye-witness tell the story of what happened on this eventful day. Rufus B. Sears, then a boy of some 16 years, gave this account to reporter Russell Landstrom and it was published in the Cedar Rapids Republican on December 5, 1926.

(Note) Rufus' sister, Susanna, had married Daniel Cabler, who came to Iowa in 1854. They lived about three-fourths of a mile east of the South English river bridge on the north side of the river. Daniel and his brother Edward enlisted in the war. Daniel died at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. in 1862 and Edward was discharged for physical disability March 22, 1862. He later married his brother's widow Susanna and Rufus lived with them for some years.

"From some of Ed Cabler's papers which are in my possession I confirmed my recollection of his Army record. He was enrolled as a private in Co. F 5th Iowa Infantry July 15,

1861. He was discharged March 22, 1862 at New Madrid, Mo., for physical disability due to a number of diseases.

"After discharge from the Army, I was his almost constant companion. Ed grew to manhood in Kentucky and was a crack shot with a rifle.

"On the morning of the Democratic rally in South English, which as I recall it, was on August 1, 1863, I went with Ed to the grove where it was held. It was then known as the Noffsinger Grove. It is now the homestead of Hutzburg Slate, coming to him through his mother, a Noffsinger. It is situated 20 to 30 rods north of what was then the main street of South English proper.

"We found plank seats arranged for the audience, but Cyfert Talley spoke from a wagon. This wagon was arranged somewhat on the style of an old-fashioned band wagon, and contained about 20 armed men. A like wagon, also occupied by about the same number stood nearby. No guns were in evidence, except one held by a man whose name was Sam Knight, a man with whom I was well acquainted, and who had a No. 8 double barreled shotgun loaded with buckshot.

"Knight lived near what is now known as Green Valley, some three or four miles north of South English and some eight miles east. It appears on old Iowa maps as Foote.

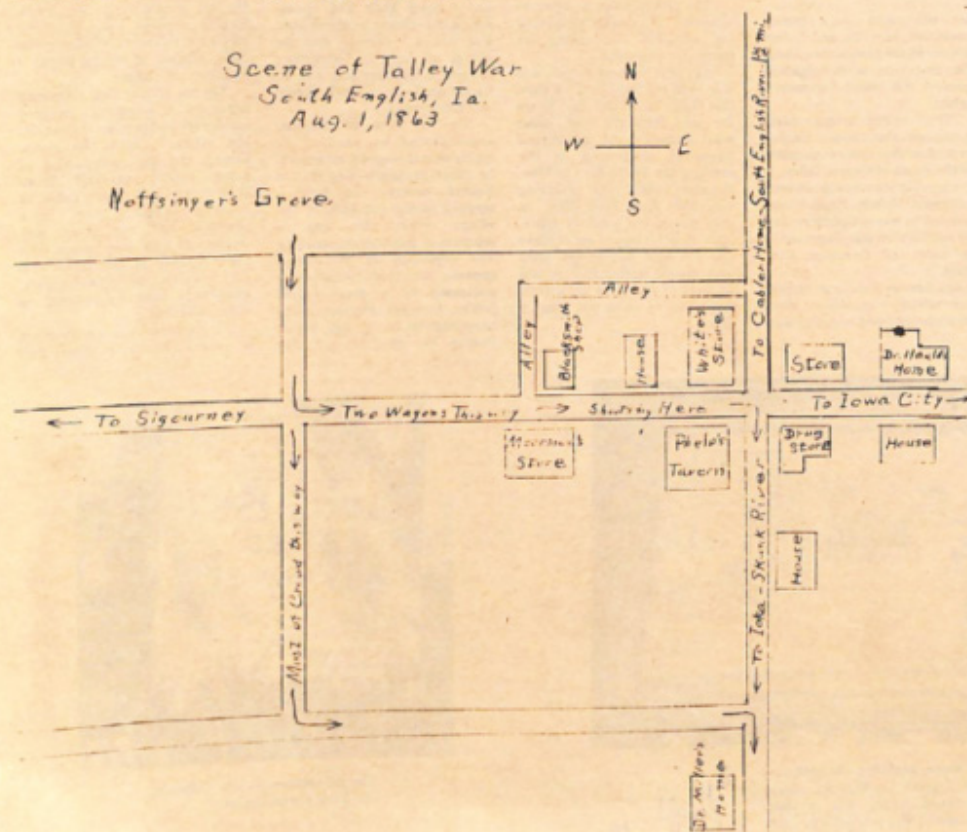
"Some time during the morning he left the wagon and I had a short conversation with him. He told me how his gun was loaded, and told me he was going to get at least one blue-bellied Yankee". He later returned to his wagon before it left the grove. I think he was the only 'copperhead' who left the wagon at the grove.

"Excitement ran high at the grove and there were many wordy altercations. I saw one Mrs. Starkweather, a loyalist, become engaged in a quarrel with a woman wearing a butternut badge, who was sitting next to her. During the quarrel Mrs. Starkweather tore off the other woman's badge and in return Mrs. Starkweather's dress was torn to strips. Later, after the shooting, I saw Tom Moorman, a merchant in South English, call her into his store to select a dress from any pattern in his place of business. She did so, and he cut off and presented her with enough goods to make her a new dress.

"At the conclusion of this dispute in the grove, Ed said to me that there would certainly be trouble before the day was over, and we started to Ed's home for our rifles, about 1 1/4 miles north of town on the South English river. When we reached his home we discovered that we did not have enough bullets so Ed and I molded a supply and loaded our rifles, while my sister, Susan, tied the patching on the bullets. We then hurried back to South English. On the way Ed said 'boy, make every bullet count.'

"There were no fenced roads and we took the shortest and best path. We entered the town through an alley running north and south a block west of Dan Phelps' hotel. This alley had not been cleared of its original growth of hazel brush and our purpose in taking this route was to conceal our guns.

"When we came to the street running east and west through old South English, we turned east and stored our guns in the barroom of the hotel, which stood on the corner of what is now lot 3, in block 4 of the original plat of South English. "A Republican speaker was addressing a small group of people near the hotel, and Ed





# TALLEY WAR (continued)

and I mingled with the people in the barroom and on the street, until the two loads of 'copperheads' from the grove appeared.

"The two wagons, already mentioned, left the grove and drove south to the main street of South English on a road 80 rods west of the hotel. They then turned east on the street leading past the hotel, apparently with the purpose of leaving town on a road turning south just past the hotel.

"The men in the wagons were now all armed and flourished their weapons. Eighteen loyalist men had concealed their rifles in the hotel barroom.

"As the wagons drew near such epithets as 'cowards', 'copperheads', 'abolitionists', 'traitors', and such started the fight. Tom Moorman's gun was discharged accidentally. He had been running and I saw the bullet strike the ground.

town. Talley was dead upon arrival at the doctor's house.

(Note) This doctor was Nathan C. Miller, who had served in Co. D 18th Iowa Infantry as a surgeon. He studied medicine beginning in 1838 and began to practice in 1844. In 1854 he came to Iowa from Ohio and was one of the first doctors in the South English area. He enlisted in June 1862 and was discharged Dec. 27, 1862 for disability resulting from a stroke.

"Talley was shot several times, however, and several men were injured. Several Union soldiers, home on furlough, took part in the fight, as well as loyalist civilians. One of the loyalists who had been fatally wounded asked that he be allowed to die under the American flag, and his friends honored his request by draping a flag over his body.

"Captain Henry Downs, who was home from Army service organized a company after the fight, patrolled the streets and prevented a threatened return of the 'Copperheads'. The 'Copperheads' sent word that Cabler

five years, having been born in 1858. The following is her personal recollection of the events.

"I was a little girl of five - playing at the front gate that morning - watching with delight a long line of wagons driving by loaded with men and women, from the east. I did not see the main delegation with their leader which came in from the south. A man on horseback rode at the head of this procession - must have been the marshal of the day as he wore a hi-h plug hat and a wonderful bright sash. Our hired man, Matt, a hot tempered Irishman from Chicago met these wagons as he came up the street, and what did he do but pick up a brick bat, hurl it at the marshal and knock off his high plug hat. Others jumped into the fray and took his sash off, but undismayed the wagons drove on to join the big delegation from the south, as they proceeded to the grove north of town.

"My mother must have kept me close to home that day for I recall nothing more until late afternoon when she grabbed me and baby Willis. She must have heard the rumble of the wagons and the noise as the crowd was leaving the grove for the return home. She hustled us across the yard and into the back door of our neighbor, Mrs. Cochrane, who was crying and wringing her hands because her husband and son, Lonnie, were downtown. My mother was crying because my father was there also. 'Oh, there's a shot,' she cried. 'There's another.' Then they came so fast she could not count them. I rolled under the bed. In a short time my father came home and found us at the neighbors.

"I remember nothing more until that night when we went to the cabin of Moses Hall, east of town. All the women and children were sent out of town that night and for many nights to come, for fear the 'Copperheads' would return and burn the town. I recall being in bed with my mother and brother, Willie, in a soft feather bed.

"My father wrote a letter to Governor Kirkwood explaining the situation and asking for troops for protection.

"My next memory picture was also from our front gate - a sight that thrills me to this day. Down the road from the east, came what seemed to me, a thousand bayonets glistening in the evening sun as the boys in blue, the state militia came marching into town from Iowa City. As they passed our gate my uncle, Isaac Heald, stepped out of ranks and the next minute his arms were around mother and me and we were all crying for joy that he had come to us in our hour of need.



This building was a drug store at the time of the Talley War.

"After the danger was over and the soldiers left town, a cannon was left behind. A building was erected to shelter it. On occasion it was taken out to be fired, but in celebrating a wedding an extra charge of powder was used, and the old cannon exploded and that was the end of it."

The third account comes from a reporter for the Muscatine Journal and was published in the Annals of Iowa for July 1909.

"During the dark days of the summer of 1863, when Grant was investing Vicksburg and Lee was marching on Pennsylvania, there existed in portions of Keokuk, Poweshiek and Wapello counties a large number of Southern sympathizers, who had from the outset of the war made a fierce opposition to its prosecution.

"A man named Talley, living near Ioka, in Keokuk county, a Baptist preacher, made himself a leader among this element by his blatant, disloyal speeches in different parts of the country, rendering himself obnoxious to the Union-loving portion of the community. He usually went armed with a couple of revolvers and a bowie knife and openly defied the officers to arrest him. The fall of Vicksburg and the defeat of Lee at Gettysburg seemed to embitter him and his harangues became more violent and threatening.

"On the first of August, accompanied by seventy or eighty men in wagons, all armed, he went to South English, in Keokuk county, and held a meeting in the outskirts of the village. While this was in progress a Republican meeting was organized in the street opposite the hotel, which was addressed by a man named Settler, from Mt. Pleasant, who happened to be at the hotel. During the progress of this

meeting, Talley and his crowd drove through the meeting exhibiting butternut and copperhead pins, which were recognized badges of disloyalty in the North at that time.

"A wounded soldier named Moorman seized one of the men wearing a butternut and stripped it off and was proceeding to serve others in the same way when he was seized by one of them. His father went to his rescue and discharged his revolver. At this, Talley raised up in his wagon and gave word to fire, at the same time firing his own revolver into the crowd and a regular fusillade was discharged by his armed followers but, singular to report, without hitting anyone. I was there the next day and saw many bullets imbedded in the hotel front. The firing was returned and Talley was killed and one of his men wounded. On the fall of their leader they drove off vowing to return and hang a number of the citizens and burn the town.

"Word was sent to Washington, Iowa, where Col. N.P. Chipman, Chief of Staff for General R. Curtiss happened to be at home on a short furlough. He left immediately for South English, whither I accompanied him in the interests of Muscatine Daily Journal of which paper I was then city editor.

"On our arrival Col. Chipman organized a company, erected barricades and prepared to resist any effort to take the town. During the day companies of state militia arrived from Washington and others came in from Poweshiek and Iowa counties, and the town was turned into a military camp, with Col. Chipman in command and J.F. Junkin of Washington, afterwards attorney-general of Iowa, Adjutant.

"In the meantime a mob of six or seven hundred men had



Entrance door of the Rock Creek Church.

"The Marshal of the delegation, wearing a big red sash over his shoulder, astride a horse, tried to rally the 'Copperheads'. A cripple seized the bridle of the Marshal's horse and cried, 'Damn you, give me that badge'. The Marshall started to obey and the cripple seized the badge. 'Talley fired three shots with a big revolver. In his free hand he held a knife. Talley was standing erect in the wagon when he was shot. He then fell backward, the blood trickling from his head and running down through his beard. The wagon turned south and stopped at a doctor's house just south of

where dare not come to a certain appointed place. Ed and I slept upstairs in his home, armed with rifles and clubs, while neighbors guarded the house for several nights.

"The rebel camp later demanded that South English surrender the men responsible for the death of Cypert Talley, in which event they would not burn the town. South English was guarded by many outsiders until the hostile mob was dispersed by an order of Governor Kirkwood."

Another eye-witness account was written by Alice Heald Mendendall, then a girl of some



A scene depicting the action of the August 1st incident, reconstructed from the various accounts. The original was made by Donald + L.



The gravestone of Mr. Talley in the Rock Creek Cemetery.



## TALLEY WAR (continued)

gathered in the bottoms of the Skunk river armed with all kinds of weapons from shot guns to meat axes. They demanded that ten of the best citizens of South English should be arrested and immediately tried, charged with the crime of murder in the first degree, and threatening to march on the town and burn it, and seize the men themselves and hang them, unless their demand was complied with.

"The messenger sent by them, discovering the preparations made for their reception, returned and reported that the men were willing to give themselves up to the proper authorities for trial, which under the circumstances of Chipman's preparations was accepted.

"They were arrested by Sheriff Adams, had a preliminary hearing before a Justice of the Peace, and were bound over in the sum of \$1,000 each for their appearance at the next term of the District Court. The army of the Skunk was dispersed and Col. Chipman's forces sent home, and it was supposed that the affair was ended. But during the night another mob of nearly a thousand men gathered on Skunk river bottom near Sigourney and threatened to march on the place and destroy it unless the men bound over at South English were immediately brought to Sigourney and placed on trial. There was great excitement in Sigourney, the business houses were closed and nearly every man turned out to defend the place. There was no railroad or telegraph line to Sigourney at that time.

"Mr. Sanders, the clerk of the court, who afterwards established and conducted Sanders' Stock Journal at Chicago, drove to Washington and took an engine from there to Muscatine, where he got into telegraph communication with Gov. Kirkwood. I went back on the engine and drove to Sigourney, finding the town in a state of excitement, patrolled by a company of home guards only half of them armed. The town was filled with ugly, scowling, armed rioters from the rendezvous on Skunk river and things looked pretty squally.

"During the night Governor Kirkwood came in from Washington accompanied only by Col. Trumbull, of his staff, afterwards colonel of the 9th cavalry. They drove direct to the court house and Governor Kirkwood at once proceeded to make a speech.

"It is once in a lifetime that a man is permitted to hear such a speech and especially to hear such a speech to such an audience under such circumstances. The grand old man seemed to be inspired; he was utterly fearless, although apparently in imminent danger, surrounded and threatened at times to hang him, hissing curses at him, which, however, failed to interrupt his speech. And such a speech. It's like never came from the mouth of any other governor of any state. It was far from ladylike in fact would hardly do for print, but was vigorous, virile and to the point, filled with good old English and interspersed with an occasional round mouth filling epithet as he referred to the rebels. It was exhilarating, exciting but fearsome to see that rugged, fearless, earnest, grand man standing up in the middle of the night hurling denunciations and threats to such a mob. He told them that he had come to see that law was enforced; that the people of South English would be fairly tried and if guilty

scoundrelly mob as confronted him; that he had reason to believe that they were drawn together not so much to punish crime or see that it was punished, as to throw obstacles in the way of the government in putting down the rebellion; that he didn't propose to have any fire-in-the-rear rebellion in Iowa and unless they dispersed before morning he would have them shot down like dogs, that he had ordered troops which were on their way, and when they arrived the next day they would shoot, and shoot straight, and shoot leaden bullets, not blank cartridges; that he would put down this mob if he had to kill every mother's son of them - although that was not exactly the name he applied, but it would not be polite to give it verbatim.

"His appearance and bravery cowed them and they commenced to slink away and before the governor would go to bed most of them had left town. The next morning a company came in from Muscatine and during the day others arrived from Mr. Pleasant, Washington and other towns, and by evening there were ten companies of militia quartered in and around the town and the mob had entirely dissolved and gone home.

"I have always thought that there would have been bloodshed if Governor Kirkwood had not fearlessly met the crisis.

"A number of the rioters were arrested and bound over, charged with exciting a riot, but they, together with the South English prisoners, were released and all prosecution was wisely dropped at the next term of court."

Despite the claims and counter-claims it seems impossible to fix the responsibility upon any one person for the death of Talley. He was shot twice in the head and at least three times in the chest. Any one of these shots could have been fatal.

The whole situation seems best summarized by the epitaph on his stone in the Rock Creek Cemetery.

George Cyphert Talley died August 1, 1863, aged 29 yrs. 5 mo. and 27 da. "Died a martyr to his religious and political opinions; shot down by highwaymen at South English, Keokuk County, Iowa, while bravely defending the same."

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### The Death of Cyphert Talley by J.L. Swift

The Civil War years were a tumultuous era in our country's history, characterized by both internal and external strife. In our own State of Iowa, one dramatic incident stands out as an example of the deep conflicts in beliefs and sympathies that existed, not only between Northerners and Southerners, but between citizens of the same geographic locale. It was during this time that a known group of dissidents in the North were actively engaged in condemning the Lincoln administration's war policies. This group's ideology was known as the Copperhead Movement and its adherents were actively opposed to the suppression by force of the Southern insurrection. The Copperheads were sympathetic to the Southern cause and advocated a cessation of Northern enlistments in the Union Army; "they denounced the war as an 'Abolition Crusade'."

George C. (Cyphert) Talley was a Baptist Minister and a noted Copperhead. He was a fearless and bold defender of the Southern Rebellion and a "firm

believer in slavery as a Divine Institution." On August 1, 1863, a mass meeting of Peace Democrats was held near English River in Keokuk County. Keokuk County contained a large settlement of Copperheads. Talley was the chief speaker at this meeting and the gathering was also attended by pro-Northerners who carried weapons to defend themselves against a threat made by the Copperheads that they would destroy South English, a known Union stronghold. Talley, blatantly displaying the disloyal Butternut badge, so outraged the citizens of South English by his speech that insults were exchanged and physical violence erupted. Shots were fired and Talley was killed by one of the South English citizens.

After Talley was shot, his followers quickly left town and swore vengeance. Southern sympathizers from Keokuk, Wapello, Mahaska and Poweshiek counties assembled on the western border of Keokuk in preparation for war on the South English citizens. Governor Kirkwood's help was sought and he immediately dispatched several companies of militia to the scene. The Copperheads dispersed upon seeing the State Troops and a bitter battle and further bloodshed were thus avoided.

The following article relates the incidents leading up to and including Cyphert Talley's death. It reveals the name of the man who shot Talley and who, therefore, became a hero in his own right.

The author of this account, Mr. John L. Swift, practiced law in North English, Ia., from 1907 to 1930 when he took his law office to Marengo, Ia., where he stayed until his death. His clients knew him as a dependable lawyer who would go to any lengths to fight for their rights in an honorable way. Mr. Swift's son Harold, found the manuscript after his father's death and Mr. Donald S. Garrett of South English, was kind enough to offer it to the ANNALS for publication.

In August, 1908, Mr. Edward Cabler, a resident of English River Township, living about one and one half miles north of South English, called at my office in North English for the purpose of making his last will. After making several visits, the instrument was prepared to his satisfaction, and was executed by him on August 18, 1908. This will remained in my custody until the death of Mr. Cabler on March 1st, 1916, when it was filed for probate in the office of the clerk of the District Court of Keokuk County, Iowa. Certain children of Mr. Cabler thereupon filed objections to the probate of the will, the matter was finally set for trial in the District Court, when the objections were withdrawn and the will was duly admitted to probate on March 9th, 1917.

In his will Mr. Cabler recited that he was then seventy-six years of age, Mr. R.B. Sears of North English, a brother of Mr. Cabler's deceased wife, was nominated as executor, and upon the probate of the will duly qualified and administered the estate.

In one of our many conferences during the contest of the will and the administration of the estate Mr. Sears remarked: "Well, Ed has passed away and I can tell now what I never told before. He was the man who shot Cyphert Talley."

As Mr. Sears is perhaps the last living participant in the skirmish in which Talley was killed, the following statement made by him of the events of that August day in 1863 may be of

### Mr. Sears' Statement

I was born in Henry County, Indiana, in 1850. The next year my parents brought me to Iowa, and I have lived in the North English neighborhood ever since.

My sister Susan was fifteen years my senior. During the war she was married to Edward Cabler, a private in Co. F, 5th Iowa Inf. After her marriage, my parents being quite old, I lived at her home which was situated on the north fifty-five acres of the east half of section fourteen, township seventy-seven north, range eleven west of the 5th P.M. The South English River touched the corner of this land, and the town of South English was up the bluff of the river and a good mile and a half due south.

From some of Ed Cabler's papers which are in my possession I confirm my recollection of his army record. He was enrolled as a private in the said company on July 15, 1861. He was discharged at New Madrid, Mo. on March 22, 1862, having contracted chronic diarrhea, measles, and typhoid fever, which resulted in general debility, disease of digestive organs, heart and lungs.

After his discharge from the army, I was almost a constant companion of Ed's. We performed the many chores around the farm, and often hunted up and down English River. Ed grew to manhood in Kentucky and was a crack rifle shot. He retained this ability to shoot a rifle expertly until about one year before his death.

On the morning of the Democratic Rally at South English, which as I recall it was on August 1st, 1863, I went with Ed to the grove where it was being held. This was then known as the Noffsinger Grove. It is now the homestead of Hurlbert Slate, coming to him through his mother, a Noffsinger. It is situated on the south east quarter of section twenty-three, township seventy-seven, north, range eleven, about twenty or thirty rods north of the town of South English proper. We found plank seats arranged for the audience, but Cyphert Talley spoke from a wagon. This wagon was arranged somewhat on the style of an old fashioned band wagon, and contained about twenty men. A like wagon also occupied by about the same number stood near by. No guns were in evidence except one held by one Sam Knight, a man with whom I was well acquainted, and who had a No. 8 double barreled shot gun loaded with buck shot. Knight lived near what is now known as Green Valley, some three or four miles north and eight east of South English. It appears on the old Iowa maps as Foote. Some time during the morning he left the wagon and I had a short conversation with him. He told me how his gun was loaded, and told me that he "was going to get at least one blue bellied Yankee". He later returned to his wagon before it left the grove. I think he was the only "Copperhead" who left the wagons at the grove.

Excitement ran high at the grove, and there were many wordy altercations. I saw one Mrs. Starkweather, a loyalist, become engaged in a quarrel with a woman wearing a Butternut badge who was sitting next to her. During this quarrel Mrs. Starkweather tore off the other woman's badge, and in return Mrs. Starkweather's dress was torn to strips. Later, after the shooting, I saw Tom Moorman, a merchant of South English and who will be mentioned later, call her into his store to select a dress from his pattern in his store. She did so, and he cut off and presented to her the necessary amount for her

to make a new dress.

At the conclusion of this dispute Ed said to me that there would certainly be serious trouble before the day was over and that we had better go to his home for our rifles, and we started immediately. When we reached his home we discovered that we had not enough bullets and Ed and I molded a supply and loaded our rifles, while my sister Susan tied the patching on the bullets. We then hurried back to South English. There were then no fenced roads and we took the shortest and best path. As we toiled up the hill Ed said, "Boy, make every shot count." We entered the town through an alley running north and south through the block and immediately west of the Amos Fluckey saloon. This alley has never been cleared of its original growth of hazel brush and our purpose in taking this route was to conceal our guns. When we reached the street running east and west through old South English, we crossed this street and concealed our guns in the bar room of the Dan Phelps hotel which then stood on the south side of the street, on which is now Lot Seven in Block One in the Original Plat. The Amos Fluckey saloon was straight across the street north of this hotel, and the J.F. White store was immediately east of the Fluckey saloon. A Republican speaker was addressing a small group of people near the Phelps hotel, and Ed and I mingled with the people in the hotel bar room and on the street until the two loads of Copperheads from the grove appeared.

The two wagons mentioned above left the grove and drove south to the main street of South English on a road about eighty rods west of the hotel. They turned east on the street leading towards the hotel, apparently with the intention of leaving town on the road running south from the corner east of the hotel. The men in the wagons were now all armed and flourishing their weapons.

Eighteen loyalist men had concealed their rifles in the hotel barroom, and seeing the Copperhead forces approach we hurried to secure them. It appeared to me that there might have been some concerted plan as to where our men were to station themselves as they scattered through the crowd which had gathered. But I was then a boy thirteen years of age and if such an arrangement had been made I was evidently considered too young to be told of it. I recall that at least one went to a window on the second floor of the hotel. I stayed with Ed and we ran across the street north and a little east and stationed ourselves in front of the J.F. White store. With us at this station was Jim Moorman, a son of Tom. Jim had been shot through the leg in battle and was now on crutches. Owing to his lame condition he had not time to go to the barroom for his rifle, but was armed with a four barrel revolver. He and Ed were in uniform.

As the wagons approached our station some one in the wagons shouted "Cowards." A loyalist in the crowd answered "Copperheads." Then came "Abolitionists" and its reply, "Traitors." Tom Moorman came running up from his store in the block east of the hotel, carrying a revolver. This revolver was accidentally discharged and I saw the bullet strike the ground. Cyphert Talley rode in the first wagon in a standing position armed with a gun in one hand and knife in the other. When Moorman's revolver was discharged he immediately opened fire, apparently shooting at Ed Cabler and Tom Moorman, they



# TALLEY WAR (continued)

being in uniform. One of Tally's shots took effect in the neck of a horse ridden by Dr. Arthur of North English. Tally was then about forty feet from us. I saw Ed Cabler take careful aim, saw the flash of his gun and heard the roar of its discharge, and for good or for bad, the soul of Cyphert Tally stood before his maker. The gun and knife fell from his nerveless grasp and his body fell with blood trickling from a wound in his forehead and down over his beard. Death must have been instantaneous.

During the fracas I discharged my rifle once, but I think without effect. Sam Knight, apparently forgetting his resolution to get one blue belly, jumped from his wagon as soon as the shooting started, and ran up the hazel brush alley by which Ed and I had entered town. So far as I could learn he continued on his course until he arrived at his home near Green Valley.

Of course firing became general immediately upon the discharge of Moorman's revolver. The crowd upon the street contained many persons wearing the Butternut badge. This perhaps prevented a general fire from the men in the wagons as they might be shooting down their own friends, wives and children, if they fired broadcast into the street. We believed that more than Tally had been killed or wounded in the wagons, for they immediately drove to the farm home of Dr. Miller, one-fourth of a mile away to the south, and an hour later might have been followed by the trail of blood spilled from the wagons.

One Wes Funk acted as a marshal for the Copperhead forces. He wore a large red sash, draped over one shoulder and under the other arm, and on his breast was pinned the hated Butternut. After the wagons had left he attempted to rally the Copperhead forces remaining in South English. Jim Moorman, crippled as he was, grabbed the horse's bit and shouted "G—D—-you, give me that badge." Funk started to obey but was not fast enough and Moorman tore the badge from his clothes. After this there was apparently no

further effort to re-organize those men in town, but it was feared that the wagons might return from the Dr. Miller home. Lieut. Henry Downes, who was married to my cousin, was dressed in his officers' uniform, being home on a furlough. He took charge of the situation and organized the loyalist men, armed and unarmed, into a company and patrolled the streets, restoring order. From a distance it would appear that a large armed force was in charge. I am satisfied that the instant shooting of Tally took the organized Copperhead delegation, from town, and this organized patrol prevented their return.

I cannot recall, if I ever knew, the names of all the men who had rifles concealed in the bar room. To the best of my recollection they included Put Sprague who was a chum of Ed Cabler's, Eli Sprague, a brother of Put's, Lieut. Henry Downes above mentioned, a Mr. Sloan, Dave Glandon who later died in the army, Seth Sweet, who had enlisted in the army but rejected for physical disability, Jim Moorman, who being crippled could not get the rifle in time as stated above, and Amos and Aaron Fluckley.

Before the Copperhead Army had been dispersed by Governor Kirkwood, it sent word to South English demanding the surrender of the men who had killed Tally under threat of burning the town. But the town was then well guarded by recruits from the surrounding country and no attempt was paid to the demand.

Later they sent word that if Ed Cabler ever came to the Black Hawk Mill, over on the Skunk River, he would not return alive, and it was many days before Ed ventured over there. Word also came that they would get him some night at his home, and for a long time Ed and I slept in the second story near the head of the stairs, armed with good hickory clubs and our loaded rifles, while pickets were furnished by the neighbors to guard the ground and give warning of the approach of an enemy. But none ever came, and Ed finally died a natural death.

In later years when Put Sprague visited Ed I have heard him speak of Ed shooting Tally.

and while Ed never admitted it in so many words he never denied it. Also, in our hunts up and down the English, Ed and I often practiced "Shooting Tally."

I do not think he ever regretted his part in the affair. The country was in a highly inflamed state and under the eloquent appeals of Tally the disaffection was spreading. Rewards had been offered for traitors, dead or alive, and I am satisfied that Ed felt he had performed as high a patriotic duty as ever he had on the field of battle. And I think he always believed, as did I, that a general riot was avoided and many innocent lives were saved by his prompt action.

State of Iowa, Iowa County, ss.  
I, R.B. Sears, being first duly sworn, say that I have read the foregoing statement, and that the matters therein recited are true as I verily believe.

R.B. Sears  
J.L. Swift,  
Notary Public.

State of Iowa, Iowa County, ss.  
I, Sam Slate, being first duly sworn say that I was born in 1865, and that I have lived on the farm adjoining the farm occupied by Edward Cabler all of my life. I was intimately acquainted with Edward Cabler during all of said time and until his death, and have often hunted with him.

During the earlier years Edward Cabler always carried his gun when on the road and when not actually engaged in his work, and he was always an expert shot. He spent a great deal of time in hunting deer and wild turkey, and I never knew of

him missing when shooting squirrel or shooting at a mark. He retained this ability very late in life.

I have often heard my father speak of the Skunk River War, and know that it was the common understanding among the people of my neighborhood that Edward Cabler was the man who fired the shot that killed Cyphert Tally.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 1922.

Sam Slate  
Subscribed and sworn to before me by Sam Slate this 2nd day of June, 1922.

J.L. Swift,  
Notary Public.  
COPY

Webster, Iowa, June 5, 1922  
I, Seth Sweet, living in the above town, say that I have read the statement of R.B. Sears regarding the death of Cyphert Tally. That I am the same Seth Sweet mentioned in said statement. That I was in front of Amos Fluckley's saloon on the north side of the street when Tally passed in the wagons.

I believe the matters received in said statement are true.

(Signed) Seth Sweet.

## Unwritten Talley War Incidents

After the shooting incident in South English on the afternoon of August 1st, 1863, it was deemed imperative that word be gotten to the governor of the state as soon as possible. Decatur Higgins, a farmer living about two miles west of South English and probably one of the township officials, furnished a

horse to ride to carry the news to Iowa City. There was no wire service to South English at that time.

This information has been handed down from generation to generation, and the name of the rider of the horse has been lost. We are told that the horse was of little value to its owner after such a long hard ride.

Although there had been some threats of violence in Keokuk County and a militia had been organized there was no supporting arms from the government in the immediate vicinity. Following the August 1st incident in South English, Lee Moore, a lad of 16 years, was sent to Washington, Iowa, with a team and wagon to get "a load of arms." He made the round trip without stopping.

In regard to the incident of the butternut badge and the lady that had her dress torn off at the rally where Talley was speaking, we have received word that the two ladies were sisters. Ann Wiseman and Mrs. Starkweather viewed the question of the day at different angles. Emotions were evidently running high that day.

George Cyphert Talley was well enough known in the South English area that he was often referred to by his first name. It so happened that the wife of



The Scouts: Junior Robison, Mark Brock, Joe Chapman, trumpeters, and Denny Croston

drummer, gave the flourish for unveiling the Historical Marker.



The Marker set in concrete on



This shows the location



George Morgan, a South English businessman, was ill and in bed at the time of the political rally being held on August 1st. She was being cared for by a neighbor girl. The girl, sensing the commotion in the street, was outside when the shooting occurred. She ran into the house exclaiming: "They shot George!" Mrs. Morgan, thinking it was her husband, was almost beside herself with hysterics but after some difficulty the neighbors succeeded in quieting her.

The incident of the shooting in South English on August 1, 1863, is often referred to as the Skunk River War. There was considerable support for Talley and his political views up and down the Skunk River valley. After the fatal shooting at South English emotions ran high among those supporters. It is said that one man donned his sash with the butternut badge, mounted a horse and rode up and down the streets of Martinsburg, daring any 'black' republican to oppose him.

With calling the troops of the militia to duty in South English it was necessary to secure food and shelter. We are told they were fed at a house that was located just north and east of the present farm home of Bardette Bowman.

The decision of the Keokuk County Historical Society to erect an historical marker at the site where George Cypert Talley was killed on August 1, 1863, brought to light many facts that were not known previously to the South English residents. The situation can partly be understood because the old timers were anxious to forget, and the younger ones never heard the whole story. We are referring to Mr. Talley and his family. Most people of this community knew that he was a gifted orator, but did not know that he was married and had a family of five children.

At the unveiling of the marker a number of his descendants, including a grand-daughter, were present to witness the ceremony.

The grand-daughter stated that her father was the oldest child (9 years) of four boys and one girl. After the death of her husband Mrs. Talley attempted to keep the family together but forty acres, one mule and a plow was not sufficient. Some of the children were raised in other homes.

#### Talley War

We quote from the 1880 History of Keokuk County:

"One of the horses attached to the wagon was wounded, which caused the team to run, and probably avoided more serious consequences. The only other party seriously wounded was a man by the name of Wyant, who recovered."

South English Preparing for Two-Day event

Annual Homecoming Jubilee September 14, 15. Many expected to attend.

South English's annual homecoming celebration will be held at the city park in South English on Friday and Saturday, September 14 and 15, when hundreds of former residents of the community and friends are expected to attend.

Under the direction of Mayor E.E. Cook, a full two-day program has been outlined for the occasion, headlined by the appearance of Dan W. Turner, candidate for governor of Iowa on Saturday afternoon.

The committee chairmen for the two days' celebration, who are working under the direction of Mayor Cook, are as follows: Speakers, J.F. White and Miss Helen Clark; entertainment, Mrs. May Lester; concessions, R.P. McLain; ball games, W.E. Dunn; grounds, Charles Sprague; auto parking, Don Buchanan; dining room, Mrs. E.E. Cook; and decorating, J.F. White.

The program on Friday morning, starting at 10:30 o'clock, will be opened by Virgil H. White, chairman of day, with music by community orchestra directed by Dave Van Aiken and the invocation by the Rev. R.L. Brown, pastor of the South English, Webster and Keswick Methodist Episcopal churches. South English's child prodigy speaker, William Brock, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brock, will give the address of welcome and Vernon Price is to contribute a solo. The speaker of the morning had not been selected yesterday.

Following music by the community orchestra in the afternoon, two small girls, Joy Lee Dunn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Dunn, and Mary Radebaugh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Radebaugh, will give a tap dancing performance. Selections will be sung by the Keokuk county 1933 championship farm bureau quartette of Iowa, comprising men of the South English community, who include: Orlo Ruth, George Grove, Glen Grove, and Homer

Kerr. The speaker of the afternoon will be Ernest H. Fabritz of Ottumwa, Democratic candidate for congress from the fifth district.

Presiding as chairman of the day Saturday will be Roy Bedford, What Cheer. Music, furnished by community orchestra at the opening of the morning program and the Rev. John D. Brower, pastor of the South English Church of the Brethren, will give the invocation. There will be an address of welcome. During the noon hour the Keswick community band will contribute music.

The farm bureau quartette will sing several numbers again Saturday afternoon, with former Governor Turner's address and music by the Keswick band concluding the entertainment from the speaker's stand.

Each afternoon there will be kittenball games on the school grounds. There will be a tournament with eight teams entered, Keswick, Kinross, Harper, South English, Striegel, Shannon, Van Fleet and Grant. Keswick and Kinross play at 2:00 o'clock Friday afternoon, with Harper and South English playing at 3:00 o'clock. The winners of these two games will meet in one of the semi-final games at 4:00 o'clock. Preliminary games will be played between Striegel and Shannon at 2:00 o'clock on Saturday and Van Fleet and Grant at 3:00 o'clock, with the other semi-final game, between winner of these games at 4:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The two semi-final winners will then vie for the tourney title at 5:00 o'clock Saturday.

Concluding the two-day entertainment, there is to be a dance in the South English opera house Saturday night, with the "Music Masters" playing.



Standing on the Marker's right is Harold White, a grandson of J.F. White who was a prominent businessman in South English during the Civil War. On the Marker's left is Mrs. C.H.

Hastings, a grand-daughter of George Cypert Talley. Others present are descendants of Mr. Talley.



It is quite probable that this huge burr oak tree was large enough to shade John Houston as he constructed his cabin in this new land. Three feet above the ground the diameter of the tree is 34 inches.



Many people attended the



Paul Shelby is standing in a

City to Oskaloosa. It has long





This early threshing scene was recorded in this photograph by C.D. Mahannah. It was probably taken on one of the Ruth farms just south of South English. Among those listed as being in this picture are: John Borden, Joe Coffman, Ray Coffman, John Brewer, Frank Borden, Charles Ruth, Mike Lineweaver, Dan Ruth, Dan Coffman and Virgil Coffman.



Floyd White is shown with his steam engine and threshing machine. He is standing with his hat in his hand. The others have not been identified.

N.E. Record  
Sept. 27, 1900

#### NORTH ENGLISH MARKET

Hogs	4.80 at 5.10
Fat Steers	4.50 at 5.00
Butcher Stock	3.00 at 3.75
Corn new, 25 cents; old, 35 cents	
Oats	18 1/4 at 19 cents
Rye	40 cents
Barley	30 cents
Eggs	12 cents
Butter	12 1/2 cents
Potatoes	40 cents
Onions	60 cents
Apples	30 at 35 cents

John Groves and family expect to move back to the place from Campbell, Minn. Mrs. Groves will be on Hammill Gemmill's farm and Mr. Gemmill will move to Keota, where he has purchased lots and will soon begin the erection of a fine residence.

The following Eastern Stars went to Sigourney Friday evening to visit the lodge at that place: Mr. and Mrs. O.F. Baughman, Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Parkes, Mrs. J.H. Lester, Mrs. O.W. Sheaffer, Miss Anna Walker, Miss Nell Newsome and Miss Myrtle Strong. O.W. Sheaffer went with the crowd as chief guide.



The Liberty Band, of Liberty Township, is of interest to many in South English because some of its members later played an important part in the development of this town. John Grove remembers when his father, Joe Grove, drove their band wagon with a hitch of four horses, bays with white stockings, to neighboring towns to play for celebrations. Front row: Henry Lineweaver, Walter Troutman, Sigler, Frank Wenger, George Barnhart, and another Sigler. Back row: Joe Swank with bass drum, Joe Troutman, 'Big H' Lineweaver, Homer Wenger, John Ruth, John Wenger and Dave Bonalog.



S.E. Herald, Nov. 3, 1893  
Agent Srock sold 123 tickets to the World's Fair. This is a good showing for South English. She patronized the fair well. (The fair was in St. Louis)

James E. Keiser and family of Woodford county, Illinois, came in on Wednesday's morning passenger. They will make Keokuk County their future home.

Dec. 18, 1893

#### PROGRAM

of the Literary to be given next Friday night.

Rec. Daisy Swails  
Dec. W.H. Gemmill  
Dialog - Milo Miller, Lucil Sheaffer, Lizzie Hardenbrook, Mattie Allen, Jennie Guthrie, Vina Teeters, Jennie Harper.  
Dec. Carrie McAfferty  
Duet Addie and Lottie White  
Dialog - Lucil Sheaffer, Clarence Black, Leo Richards, Minnie Lawler, Gertie McWilliams, Addie White, Blanche Miller, Rubbie Richards.

Essay J.A. Moore  
Dialog - Walter Thompson and Charles Miller.

Rec. Jay Jenkins  
Dec. George Horn

Dialog - William Fitzwater, Albert McAfferty, Miss Jennie Rust, and Miss Meda Thompson  
Debate - Resolved that there is more pleasure in pursuit than in possession.

Affirmative - J.A. Moore, Seth Talbot, Alosco Moore

Negative - W.H. Gemmill, J.W. Noffsinger and Roy Evans

Fri. Oct. 12, 1894

Miss Ida Parnell is teaching the Franklin School this fall. Mr. Willie Gemmill will teach it this winter.

A sidewalk was built this week running east along the park to W.H. Smith's corner, then turning north, crossing the railroad and extending to the M.E. Church. It is a grand improvement and one that we all appreciate.

Aug. 10, 1894

Mrs. O.W. Sheaffer assisted by Mrs. F.A. Westenhaver, Mrs. James Lester, Mrs. C.G. Shanafelt, and Mrs. W.W. Lawler entertained the ball boys with their girls and a number of friends at an ice cream supper at the Sheaffer home Tuesday evening of this week. Quite a number were present, and the evening was very pleasantly enjoyed by all. In behalf of the ball boys we extend to these ladies their most sincere thanks.

Early telephone lines were mainly set up by each individual group of neighbors. The wires connected each home and then extended to the switchboard, or "Central" where the other groups also connected. Building the lines was held to minimum expenditure by the neighbors doing the work. An amusing incident occurred during a line-building. One of the farmers was hauling the telephone poles in his wagon. At certain intervals a pole was taken from the wagon and laid by the side of the road to be set there. The distance was determined by so many rotations of the wagon wheel. In order to count the rotations of the wheel a big splash of tobacco juice was spit on the hub. Everything was working fine until the driver stopped to chat with a neighbor. When he started to proceed down the road he exploded with an oath(deleted)! He had



This picture was taken by Young's Art Studio. It appears to be a picnic in the woods.

Theodore White and Frank Euler are among the group. Probably in the early 1900s.



O.W. Sheaffer are among the group. Note Tile Factory in right back ground.

This group is on the porch of the Theodore White home. It was dated 1903. Frank Euler and



Mr. and Mrs. Radebaugh are seated in the chairs. Standing, are their children: Kate, Zetta and James.

This is the cook house where Radebaughs cooked for the crew of men working in the gumbo pits. The gumbo was burned and used for ballast on



## History of the South English High School

With the westward migration of the white people, early Iowa settlers pushed across the Mississippi and constructed their log cabins wherever they found suitable land. Those who settled in this community called it Houston's Point. Later it was named South English. The first school we have any account of was taught by S.M. Glandon in 1851, in a building having no windows. In 1853, a Mr. Orr taught in one of the dwellings. He was soon succeeded by Sophronia Matthews who taught in the little log cabin at Mercy Fasold. "Aunt Mercy" would take her babe and stay with a neighbor during school hours, receiving for the use of her home, her fuel and tuition of her three children.

In 1855 the town of South English was surveyed. During the same year the first school district was organized. The first board members were: Pres. - G.W. Morgan, Sec.-Treas. - Thomas Seerley and John Fuller. About thirty days after the election, tax levies were made and money raised to build a school house. Hugh Rodman donated a plot of land for the purpose. It was located about one block north of the corner of Monroe and Main streets on the east side of the street, now occupied by the Heald house. However, this plot was exchanged for 128 square feet of ground two blocks south of this corner and on the west side of the street. Here a one-room building was constructed under the supervision of John Fuller, local carpenter and cabinet maker, at a cost of some \$600. Native lumber, oak for the frame, walnut for trimming and basswood for wainscoting, was sawed by the local portable mill owned by John Wallace. The seats were long wooden slabs and desks along the sides were used for writing. The building was ready for use in the winter of 1855 and school opened with Manassah Flory as the first teacher. He received \$20 per month and taught two or three of the winter months. Thomas Seerley was the next teacher.

The school proved a popular community center, especially for Tuesday night "spellin' school". It also served for lyceum numbers, prayer meetings, church services, debates and political speaking. John Wallace, a singing master of considerable reputation, held sessions for the boys and girls.

In 1868 the building was sold to August Kleinschmidt who used it for a machine shop. It later was a Free Methodist meeting-house, then a saloon and was finally destroyed by fire.

The second school building was completed in 1869 and was a two-story structure with a room on each floor. It was constructed on the original site under the direction of William Harstock. The building was beautifully painted white with green shutters. The first school bell was purchased too. John A. Benson taught in the new building and added the subject of Algebra.

The railroad entered the town in 1879, taking part of the school ground for right-of-way. The school board decided to move the building, but after much controversy (the building was left blocking the highway for some time) it was returned, but was unfit for use. In 1883 the district was bonded for \$3000 to build a new building, where the school stands today. Will Smalley and Hugh McWilliams,

two-story, four-room building, the ground plan being 40 x 44 ft. One upper room was not finished until about twenty years later.

In 1902 the first two-year High School class was graduated. In 1907 a steam heating plant was installed.

With the increase in educational interest, the proposition for a new building was passed by the voters in 1917. For about \$22,000, O.H. Dunlap of Iowa City, contracted to construct our present building. The old building was remodeled and used as the east wing. The description follows: 1st floor - four grade rooms; 2nd floor - assembly (seating capacity 100), three class rooms, library and private office; basement - gymnasium, two dressing rooms and showers, manual training, home economics and furnace rooms. The assembly was provided with a stage equipped with scenery.

The high point in school attendance was in the years 1925 - 1927 - the high school with about seventy and the first eight grades, fifty or sixty. Many high school students were coming from country schools. Four teachers were in the elementary department with three high school teachers and the superintendent.

With the passing of the years, surrounding districts consolidated and the South English school was left with a decreasing enrollment. It was kept as an accredited course of study until 1949. The enrollment had dropped under thirty.

The high school was closed in 1949, some of the undergraduates going to Kinross, some to North English, and some to Webster. In 1956, the South English school district was reorganized into the English Valleys Community School District. The building in South English was used as an attendance center until 1965. It was later sold and used by a commercial establishment.

From 1902 to 1949, the South English High School issued diplomas to 368 people.



Basketball was played on an outdoor court.



The playground was fenced from the railroad ground.



The class to receive diplomas from the South English two-year High School for the first time, was that of 1902. Seated from left to right: Supt. C.L. Stimmers, Edith Shannafelt, Lella Horn, A. LeRoy Sprague. Standing: Coral Swails, Alma Kallous.