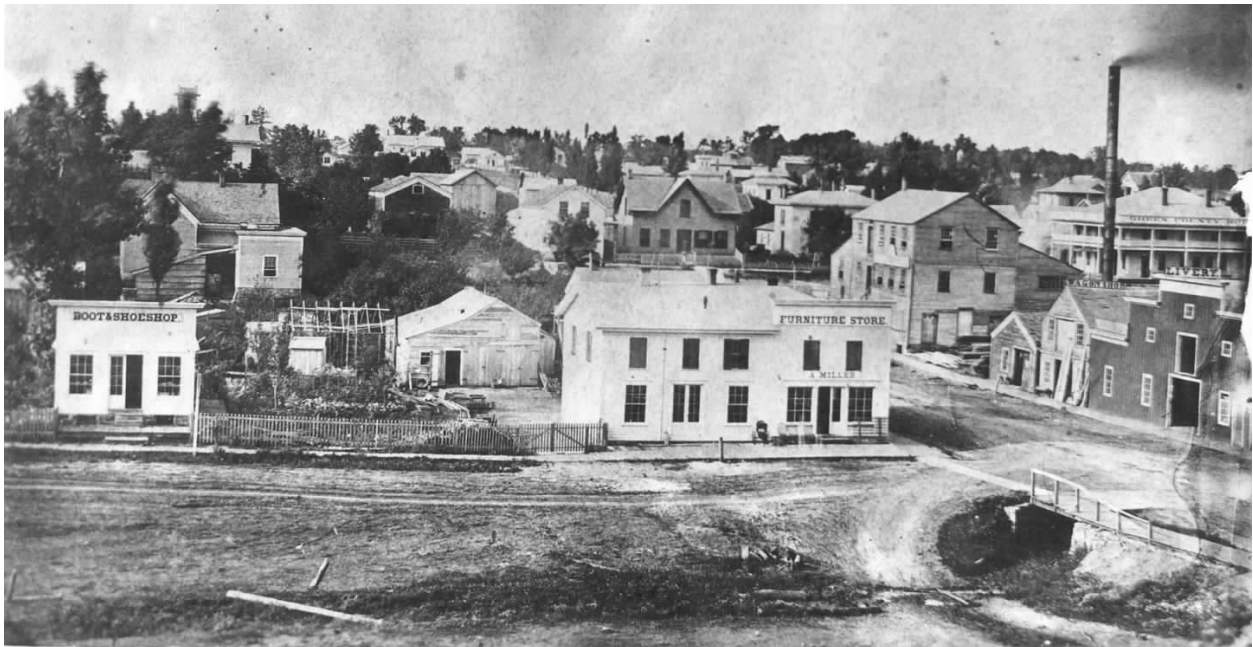


## Leaving Green County in the 1870s

While I was composing the columns about the 1909 Green County Homecoming, I was also reading the newspapers from 1870. Because of the homecoming, I noticed the number of people who were leaving or visiting Green County in 1870. I shall share some of that information with you here to show where those people were going at the time. You will notice that the former residents left for many different locations and for various reasons.

It was announced in the January 26 Monroe Sentinel that E. T. Gardner had sold his beautiful place to A. Ludlow and was preparing to quit his law business and move to Texas. He planned to leave a few days afterwards to locate some land. Gardner, however, returned to Monroe after spending only two months in Texas.

E. E. Woodman, who had moved to Iowa made a call on the editor in February, who said that Woodman looked “natural.” He was engaged in the construction of a portion of the McGregor & Missouri Railroad between Mason City and Algona.



The people who left Monroe for various other places in 1870 would have memories of this scene taken before the Baptist Church and Center School were built in 1870 and 1871, respectively. This photo, which appears on page 60 of the Pictorial History of Monroe, is one of the earliest photos of Monroe.

J. T. Dodge moved many times during his life as he helped to construct railroads. He planned to move his family to Minnesota in April. “Mr. Dodge seems to be indispensable to the great railroad interests of Minnesota.”

The Sentinel stated on April 27, “Doc. Stephenson, for a long time a citizen of Green County, and who is well known by most of the people hereabouts, started last Monday for Missouri with his family. Good luck attend them in their future journey, and success await their future.”

Then it was reported on June 8, “Wm. H. Ball, the County Treasurer, started last week for Dakota with a good team of horses and a fast sailing prairie schooner. Mr. Ball intends to remove to that far-off land as soon as his term of office expires in the county.”

Chas. Dixon left early in September for the northern part of the state with some wagons, made by Scannell & Dixon, to sell. The editor added that Dixon intended to settle in those parts.

Unlike E. T. Gardner’s experience in Texas, William Porter returned to Monroe on a visit in September. He encouraged his relatives to emigrate. “He represents matters in a flourishing condition in that State.”

Two articles in the September 21 Sentinel showed that people were leaving frequently. Fredolin Oprecht had sold his meat market and expected to move to Iowa in a few weeks. Dr. Reichenbach sold his residence and also expected to leave in two weeks.

An article from October 12 informed the readers that William Parks, who was an old resident of the county, intended to start within a few days for Missouri. He was to engage in selling agricultural implements, seeds, and more. He would also be into purchasing stock. The editor added, "Mr. Parks is a first-class man, and we are sorry to part with him.

From the same paper was an article about Anson Kinyon, who had previously been a resident of the southeast part of the county. He had recently visited the editor after having moved to northern Missouri about a year prior. He told the staff "that he made a lucky strike, and is well pleased with the country and its prospects."

Another article appeared on November 2 that stated that Charles Lytle and Charles Vaughn had returned to Monroe from Texas. "They have had a contest with the ague, most of the past summer, and report that all the Monroe boys in that country are afflicted with the same disease. The climate of Texas is not considered healthy for emigrants."

There were three articles in the paper the following week. The first said that Thomas Hall, who had been from Green County, but now lives in Chicago, "is paying his old 'stomping ground' a visit. Mr. Hall reports the wool business very dull in Chicago."

Another article said that former Green County resident G. W. Staver paid a visit from Nashua, Iowa. "Mr. Staver interested us considerably in his accounts of Chickasaw county. He reports that times are quite close, and business dull; but that things are bound to go ahead. Railroads are in rapid course of construction, and mill property is improved. He says the potato crop is short, and they are worth 75 cents per bushel. Wheat is below an average crop. He tells us that all the Green county people in his vicinity are doing well."

The third article read, "We received a pleasant call from Mr. John Graham, on Monday. Mr. Graham is still engaged on the Northern Pacific Railroad, and has returned to this place to remove his family to Minneapolis. He tells us that twenty miles of track are laid east from Puget's Sound, and that the same distance, twenty miles, are laid from this end of the route westward; also, that over 300 miles of the road are graded, ready for the iron. He thinks it will take five years to finish the work."

The December 14 issue of the Monroe Sentinel reported, "We acknowledge a call from E. E. Miner, formerly Lumber Dealer in this place, now of Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Miner tells us there is a steady growth of business in that section, and though times are a little hard for money matters — which affects trade some, the country is in a prosperous condition and land is bringing a fair price. Judging from the appearance of Mr. Miner, Kansas climate is healthful."

From December 28: "D. Porter, formerly Homeopathic physician of this place, now living in California, is making a short visit among his old friends, in his former home. Mr. Porter's health has greatly improved since he removed to the Pacific slope; and we believe he intends to return very soon."

If these are some of the people who had left the county in 1870, one can only imagine how many more had left before the 1909 homecoming. Like today, it seems the residents of Green County felt the same closeness 150 years earlier.