

Early History of Reading Township

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Painters and Decorators

The need had arisen for a painter and interior decorator. Mr. John Hancock did the first painting jobs in Ireton. He was kept busy with exterior painting—that which protected the structures from the effects of Iowa's rains, snow, winds, etc. Mr. Langdon later came to the rescue of Mr. Hancock. Although Mr. Langdon was an exterior painter, he favored interior decorating. Consequently he was in a position to pick up the painting which Mr. Hancock had been compelled to neglect because of lack of time. Anyway, Mr. Hancock and Mr. Langdon, like the carpenters and masons, had shown their efficiency in that line. Those who came later and presented themselves for service in decoration activities were Mr. N. Coon, Ike Goin, Frank Buck, Ben Wilson, John Morrison and Fergusson & Shankland. Regardless of whether interior or exterior decorations were required, some one of the above mentioned persons was especially prepared to make the required beautifications. Many new buildings, as well as earlier structures, which might have had a "passing job" done before waited for the later "perfect finish."

At the same time that a few of those painters in planning designs they were also selecting from the horde a companion and help-group of young ladies of the neighborhood. N. Coon made his choice

from the P. B. Warfield home. The daughter, Allie, was later the bride of N. Coon. Mr. L. M. Black's daughter, Ollie, became the life-companion of Frank Buck. Zana Bruns, whose parents were among the earliest settlers, having located on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23-95-46, became Mrs. Ike Goin.

BOOSTER NOTE: This is the last segment of The Early History of Reading Township, that we have. The other issues were numbered consecutively, but this last of the copy had a To Be Continued notice at the end. We have no way of knowing how many pages of the book are missing.

May we say again, how we are indebted to Mrs. Harry Imray, daughter of Mrs. Ferguson, for lending us the Ireton Ledger's clippings of her mother's book.

The interest our readers have shown in the book surpassed expectations.

Thank you all.