

## ◆ Early History of Reading Township ◆

A Graphic Story of Pioneering and the Political and Social Development of This Rich Agricultural Section of Northwest Iowa.

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(Continued from last week)

Mr. Collins bought a fifteen acre tract of land across the line west of Mr. Satterlee. He used this for feed-yards for hogs and cattle which he had bought from farmers. Many of the animals thus purchased by Mr. Collins often required finishing touches to make them premium sellers. Mr. Collins was an extensive live-stock buyer during those days and his acres of reserve were utilized for the promotion of Ireton's early meat marketing facilities. Slaughtering-pens comprized a portion of Mr. Collins' equipment.

### Settlers who Invested in Odd-Numbered Sections

Other recruits, aside from those mentioned before, who purchased land on the odd-numbered sections of (south) Reading township were Dittmer Brothers and those early settlers on section five. Henry Shimer purchased the s. e.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the e.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the s. w.  $\frac{1}{4}$  (240 acres) John Karr the n. e.  $\frac{1}{4}$ ; and L. W. Porter the n. w.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 5.

Shortly after Mrs. Henry Vlotho had gone west, did another Miss Dittmer follow the example of her pioneer sister, hie herself to the land of Reading township homesteaders, became the bride of John Vlotho and happily shared the activities of the home which Mr. Vlotho had established on the n. w.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 14 and the n. e.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 15, which he had bought from Close brothers.

Fredrick Vlotho also invested in a Close Brothers farm on section 15, the s. w.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , but Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Vlotho never made that farm their home.

Since Dittmer brothers had two sisters who enjoyed the luring and fascinating experiences of early settlers, it surely would be possible for them to derive the pleasures of a profitable enterprise by investing in Reading township lands also. Eventually, Fred Dittmer braved the trials of a pioneer, purchased the east eighty, e.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the n. e.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , of section 3-94-46. That place provided a home for his family during the time they were with their parents and Mr. and Mrs. F. Dittmer continued to enjoy its embracing vines and yielding crops after respective members of their family had established homes of their own in other localities.

Julius Benson. As Mrs. Benson, did she and Mr. Benson create another interesting abode. Also Florence Shimer, as Mrs. Demery, did her part in developing a splendid home which, for a number of years, was located in Canada.

The youngest daughter, Cora, never shirked family responsibilities. When Fred Moser sought a life companion, his interests centered on Cora Shimer and she, in turn, shared in the activities of Fred Moser's life career.

Influences of the older members of that thrifty family brought others of their kin to section three of Reading township. Martin Dittmer selected the remainder of the north half of section 3 on which to build his future abode and, at a later time, R. and W. Dittmer were given the land right to eighty acres in the midst of Martin Dittmer's north portion of section 3.

John Karr was the only one of the Karr brothers to select a location in (south) Reading and he chose the n. e.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 5.

Another recruit to grasp a farm brothers got a claim on it was in an odd numbered section of Reading township before Close Henry Shimer, who bought the s. e.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the e.  $\frac{1}{2}$  (80 acres) of the s. w.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 5. Mr. and Mrs. Shimer and family, Alta, Florence, Cora and Hanford, were among those who enjoyed and adored their abode until the members of that family became interested in the establishment of independent abodes.

Alta Shimer was the first of Mr. Shimer's family to be summoned to share an idealistic home, when she responded to the fond entreaties of