

A History of Cedar City, Iowa

Elsie M. Tietz

Foreword

My mother, Elsie M. Tietz (born Elsie Marie Randall), stopped work on this book shortly before she died in 1994, having collected the information in it over perhaps many years. In addition to her own memories and the memories of people she talked to, she did considerable research in newspapers, books, diaries, and other sources. When she died, this material was left behind in a manilla folder, along with the photographs and photocopies of some pages from these other sources.

To make her material into a book, I have had to make some changes. For example, many of the photocopies of newspaper articles were of poor quality—some marginally legible—and their dimensions in most cases made it difficult to include them in the form she had them in her notes, so I have copied the text from the photocopies rather than trying to include them in their original form. Similarly, her photocopies of hand-written pages from diaries were difficult to read, so I have copied the text rather than including the photocopies.

Some other changes to her original format were also necessary to accommodate a smaller page size, as she had taped pictures to sheets of legal-size paper and written notes beside them. Preserving her original format on 8½ by 11 paper would require shrinking everything down to the point where important detail would be lost. Where the original notes simply included photocopies without comment, I have added a sentence or two here and there to introduce them, and in some places where her original writing was not in complete sentences, I have changed wording slightly or added punctuation for clarity.

Her sheets of notes were not divided into chapters, but they were organized as if they were, so where subject matter changes in her notes, I have broken the text into chapters with titles that seem appropriate. It appears that she added some material after she started numbering the sheets, so the

reader will find "flashbacks" in places, where events are not in chronological order, and in some cases material is repeated, even with identical phrasing. I have not attempted to reorganize the material to correct this, though I believe she probably would have if she'd had more time to organize the material, but, then, I don't believe she ever expected her notes to become a formal book, either.

Nevertheless, this book is hers. The research is hers. The stories are hers. They have just been converted into the form I believe she would have liked to see had she had time to finish.

John C. Tietz
April 7, 2015

Preface

This story began as a part of my family's history. As work progressed, it became clear that it is also a part of the family histories of quite a number of other people. Many people have contributed to this effort, and there are probably many more who will think of things that should have been included.

Cedar City was a triangular-shaped area on the northeast side of the Cedar River. When the township lines were drawn, Cedar City was a part of East Waterloo Township. In 1866, residents of the area petitioned the County Board of Supervisors to redraw the boundary and make Cedar City a part of Cedar Falls Township. This was done. The line was relocated on Leversee Road, now the west edge of the Waterloo airport.

A bayou that extends north from the Cedar River cut the area into two parts. To the east of this swampy area, William Dean had the land surveyed and plotted. It was to this section that my grandfather, David Mettler, came in 1883 and traded a team of mules to Del Johnson for a house and some land. The eastern area is the subject of this story.

The land to the west developed later and was incorporated as North Cedar. Its history is still to be written.

Elsie M. Tietz
Circa 1994

Chapter 1

What was Cedar City?

For 114 years, Cedar City was an independent neighborhood, from 1856, when Dean had a portion of it surveyed and platted, to 1970, when it became a part of the city of Cedar Falls. When the county was divided into townships, the Cedar River was considered a natural boundary, and Cedar City was in the East Waterloo Township. In 1866 the residents asked the County Board of Supervisors to redraw the line and make Cedar City a part of Cedar Falls Township. The line was drawn from the Mt. Vernon Township line south on Leversee Road. That line is now the west edge of the Waterloo Airport. Cedar City was bounded on the east by Leversee Road, and on the north by Mt. Vernon and Union Township lines. The triangle was completed by a line along the Cedar River, at varying distances from the river, back to Leversee Road (extended), now in George Wyth State Park.

The first resident of the area was Paul Somineaux, a French-Canadian trapper-hunter. He built a shack as his base and returned there at times. He died in 1851 and was buried in the swampy area west of Janesville Road (now Big Woods Road).

Cedar City lies in the flood plain on the northeast side of the Cedar River. Early settlers heard from the Indians about the "big waters." Following a winter of heavy snow and a period of warm weather, or after a series of heavy rains, the Cedar River overflows its banks. The "Dump Road" acts as a levee, holding the water back. When the water gets high enough it either washes out the road or comes a short distance north. The force of the flow washes out roads, uproots trees, and floods homes and farms. As late as 1935, following a particularly devastating flood, suit was brought against Black Hawk County and the city of Cedar Falls to have the "Dump

Road" cut and a bridge installed to ease the pressure. The case went to the Iowa Supreme Court, which ruled that since the embankment had been in existence for more than fifty years, and since no protest was made at the time it was constructed, no protest could be brought in 1935.

The flood in the spring of 1905 or 1906 was a bad one.

The following account is taken from *Biographical and Historical Record of Black Hawk County, Iowa*, Inter-State Publishing Co, 113 Adams St, Chicago, IL 1886.

CEDAR CITY

The first settler on the site of Cedar City was Paul Somaneux, who built a cabin there in 1847-'48. The town is located near the east bank of the Cedar River, on south half of sections 6, 89, 13, and was laid out in 1856 by William M. Dean. Prior to the advent of railroads, it was a town of some importance. In 1865, it had a population of about 200, and had a hotel, a schoolhouse, two breweries, two stores, etc. When the railroad was built, however, its business was drawn to the neighboring town of Cedar Falls, and now there are but

few evidences remaining of its former prosperity.

Just west of Cedar City, on the flat, is where Newell and his companion camped when returning from the Upper Cedar in the spring of 1845; and when Somaneux decided to make a claim, he could find no more suitable spot than where Cedar City now stands. He lived here, accordingly, when not engaged in trapping, till 1851, when he died. Mr. Newell has recorded that the honest Frenchman sent for him when he felt death approaching, and, with Newell, went carefully over his little accounts with the few neighbors at Cedar Falls.

Cedar City has been prominent only since the advent of the railway, from the notoriety derived from the attempted murder of Byron Wright by Almira Stickles.

It is not likely that the town can regain its former thrift, owing to the fact that Cedar Falls has

ample room to spread out on the south side of the river, and it will remain only as another little landmark of the restless energy of 1856, that marked out town plats all over the West, where town lots would not sell to amplify their projectors' bank account.

The following is from *Fifty Years—Historical Record of Cedar Falls* published by Peter Melendy, page 93.

EARLY HOTELS.

From 1855 to 1865 Cedar City and the east side of the river had three full fledged taverns, or inns, to accommodate the larger number of teamsters and others who came to the end of the Illinois Central railroad with their farm produce and received goods for return trip.

Cedar City was an early village north of Cedar Falls. It is not to be confused with East Cedar Falls, or the Miner School neighborhood, which occupied the triangle between the north bank of the Cedar River and the Illinois Central Railroad, nor with the Fourth Avenue neighborhood, which is between the railroad and the Dump Road. North Cedar is a much later development.

Cedar City is bounded on the south and west by the bayous which were formed when the cut-off dam forced the river into a narrower channel. The railroad forms a convenient eastern boundary, but the school district extended far beyond.

The following is from *Peter Melendy* by Luella Wright.

Peter Melendy

From the Winslow House a stagecoach set out every morning for Waterloo and Cedar Rapids. Early on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings, another stage departed for Fort Dodge and intermediate points by way of Iowa Falls, and on alternate mornings, Sunday excluded, Greenberry Luck picked up his passengers on the Winslow stoop, cracked his whip, and, by way of the old "Ridge Road", headed eastward for Independence and Dubuque. Once a week, weather permitting, a fourth stagecoach crossed on the ferry and turned northward on the old "Dump Road" to Frankfort by way of Janesville and Waverly.

These coaches, jammed with passengers and mail, and covered wagons, loaded to overflowing with poultry, household goods, and farm tools with perhaps a box of rose roots, herbs, or lily bulbs tucked under the driver's seat, constantly reminded Peter Melendy of the moving panorama of the Main Street of his boyhood in Cincinnati. Already in his mind's ear he heard the whistle of locomotives in the valley of the Cedar.

The following is from *History of Black Hawk County, Iowa, Vol. I* by John C. Hartman, Supervising Editor, 1915.

It is a known fact that there are three kinds of townships—the congressional, the civil and the school. The congressional township is always six miles square, more or less, and its location is designated by a certain number north of a base line and a certain number of range east or west from a prime meridian. The object of these congressional townships which, by the way, have nothing to do with the congressmen, is to afford the means of description whereby land at any place may be definitely located. By means of base lines and prime meridians and by consecutive rows of six-mile-square tracts of land extending east and west called townships and similar squares extending north and south called ranges it is possible to tell just where any parcel of ground is located, where the rectangular system of survey prevails. There is another system of surveys, where the land is described by metes and bounds. The original thirteen colonies, Texas and some other parts of the country were surveyed by

this early system.

The civil townships are civic divisions, having relation to election precincts. School townships relate to school interests. Where there are sub-districts, the school district really comprises the whole township and the directors of the various sub-districts compose the board of education. Among the duties devolving upon the county judge in the early days was that of carving the county into civil townships and this has been done in Black Hawk in a great many cases without regarding the congressional township lines, principally because the Cedar River flows diagonally across the county and the presence of this dividing line in one township would be inconvenient to the people, especially the voters, in the days when there were no bridges. Washington was the first among these civil divisions which did not correspond with the congressional lines.

TOWNSHIP CHANGES

On January 9, 1862, all that portion of Congressional Township 87, range 11, lying south of the Cedar River, then a portion of Spring Creek Township, was attached to Big Creek Township, and all that portion of township 87, range 12, lying on the east side of Cedar River, then a portion of Poyner Township, was attached to Spring Creek Township, but in June the latter action was revoked and the land given back to Poyner. *On January 9, 1867, the board, on petition of citizens, ordered that that portion of East Waterloo Township known as Cedar City be annexed to Cedar Falls Township.* [Emphasis added]

Chapter 2

Bozarth and the Sorghum Mill

Little information is available regarding the businesses in early Cedar City.

In Orange Township in the mid-1850's, Mr. Samuel White built a home of timber hauled from Cedar City, at which place there was a small steam sawmill.

In Grandfather's diary, an entry in the margin on August 1, 1884, noted that the "Novelty Works burned at night."

The sorghum mill seems to be the best known business. The following entries from Grandfather's diary (1884) indicate, if not the beginning, at least a major expansion of the mill:

Feb. 21 Sold my rock to Bozarth.	his smoke stack
May 18 Masons commenced on Bozarth's	July 5 Bozarth finished raising his smokestack
June 18 Worked for Bozarth getting boiler in	[Aug.] 21st plastered in forenoon & laid rock for Bozarth in afternoon. A very nice day
June 26 I worked for Bozarth	
June 27 Worked for Bozarth at brick laying	[Aug.] 22 Finished laying rock for Bozarth
July 4 Bozarth commenced to raise	

The 1886 *History of Black Hawk County* notes:

Bozarth & Son have a sorghum factory at "Cedar City," a suburb of Cedar Falls. It is an extensive concern, of large importance to the agricultural community.

"Bozarth" was Clinton Bozarth. He was joined by all three of his sons, Granville, John, and Wilfred. Figure 2.1 shows his picture.

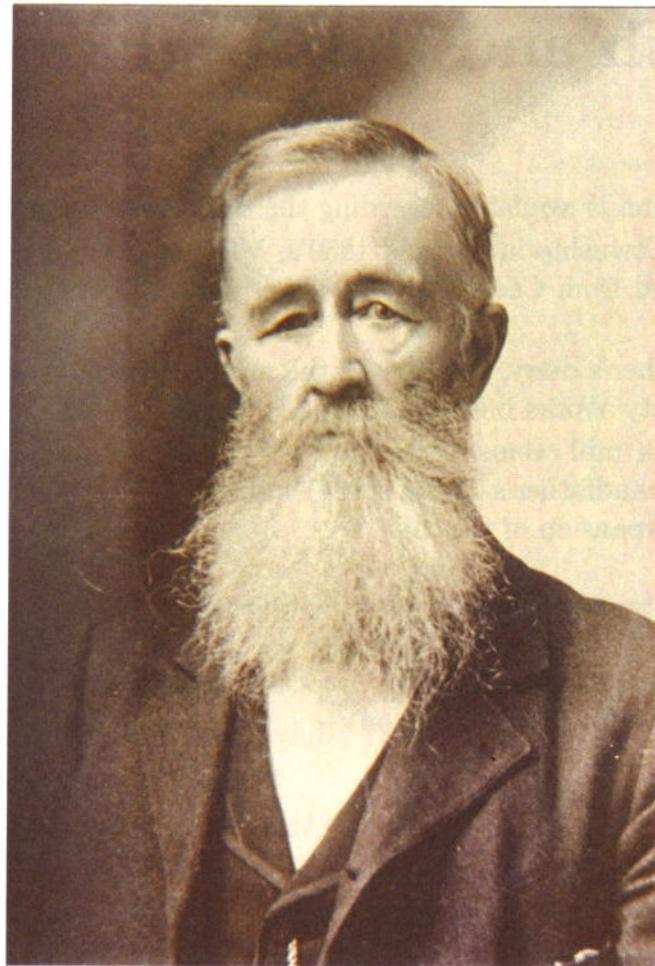


Figure 2.1: Clinton Bozarth

The operation (Figure 3.2) was a large one, at one time employing as

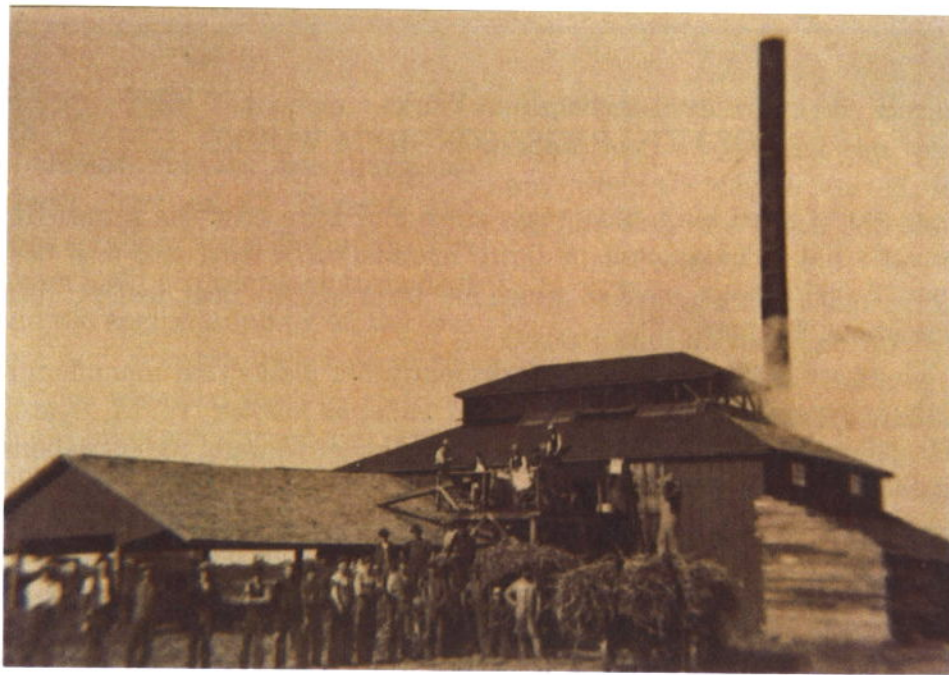


Figure 2.2: Bozarth's Sorghum Mill

many as twenty-six men. It was here that Al Bundy lost his arm. It is said that he was in such a state of shock after the accident that he just stood and laughed.

Someone convinced Mr. Bozarth that with minor changes in his equipment, he could produce condensed milk. This proved to be a disaster. An attempt to return to the production of sorghum was less than successful and the mill ceased operation about 1894. The mill buildings were gradually torn down over several years.

The residence was occupied early by the Lewis Olney family. By the time I was old enough to remember, a family by the name of Chapin lived there. In the 1930's, Floyd and Anna Moore owned the house. They moved to Texas in the early 1940's, leaving the house to be rented or sold. An explosion, probably in the heating system, set the house afire. The land was sold to the Fishers, who built a small house on the site.

The following quotation is from *Fifty Years—Historical Record of Cedar Falls* by Peter Melendy.

Sorghum Works.
BOZARTH BROS.' SORGHUM WORKS.

These works were built nine years since and have cost the proprietors about \$8,000. The amount of syrup manufactured each year has been about 35,000 gallons, most of which has been sold to local dealers: total value about \$14,000.

There are besides Bozarth's works four other plants that manufacture sorghum syrup in the vicinity of Cedar Falls, as follows: W. M. Beatey, 8000 gallons; Joseph Burk, 9000 gallons; Daniel Newall, 10,000 gallons, and Morgan Bros. 30,000 gallons. Total 92,000 gallons.

The following two 1934 newspaper articles refer to the mill.

Fifty Years Ago

C. Bozarth & Sons have made about 30,000 gallons of syrup since they started their works this fall, and we will venture to say that a nicer article of the kind cannot be found in this or any other country.

The sorghum works of C. Bozarth & Son just completed, and now in full operation, turning out eight to ten hundred gallons of syrup per day, will repay a visit. The substantial stone building is 33 by 76 feet, supplied with a thirty horse-power engine, the manufactory being splendidly equipped throughout. Thirty persons are

kept busy with the work. They use over fifty tons of cane per day, and will have all, if not more than they can handle, the yield being abundant and profitable to growers. A saving of two-thirds in fuel is made by mixing one bushel of slack to four of pressed cane, called bagasse, which is cut up by an ensilage cutter. The syrup looks very nice and the proprietors are well pleased with the results. Mr. Bozarth thinks that the large amount of bagasse that they are turning out could be profitably used by our paper mill, and we understand they are about to give it a trial.

Fifty Years Ago

James Sullivan was quite seriously hurt at C. Bozarth and Sons sorghum works Saturday. The steam had been nearly all turned off and the engine stopping on the center. Mr. Bozarth took hold of the balance wheel to start it, and setting it off center turned and put on more steam, not noticing that anyone had hold of the wheel. But Mr. Sullivan took hold of it on the op-

posite side from where Mr. Bozarth stood, and was pulling the wrong way, when the engine started, taking him over the wheel and wedging him between it and the bed plate, stopping the machinery. Mr. Bozarth shut off the steam and took the injured man out, thinking he was killed. He revived, however, and examination revealed that he had three ribs and his collar bone broken.

Figure 3.3 shows the extended Bozarth family, lined up in front of the sorghum works, about the year 1871. The numbers written below the people were added to identify them, as follows:

1. John Bozarth
2. Wilfred Bozarth
3. Mrs. Deborah Belliss (Mother of Mrs. Wilfred Bozarth)
4. Mrs. John Bozarth
5. Mrs. Wilfred Bozarth
6. Nellie Bozarth (with doll)
7. Ray Bozarth
8. Mrs. Granville Bozarth
9. Clinton Bozarth
10. Bess Bozarth

Figure 3.4 is a photo of the residence portion of the sorghum mill, taken about 1910.

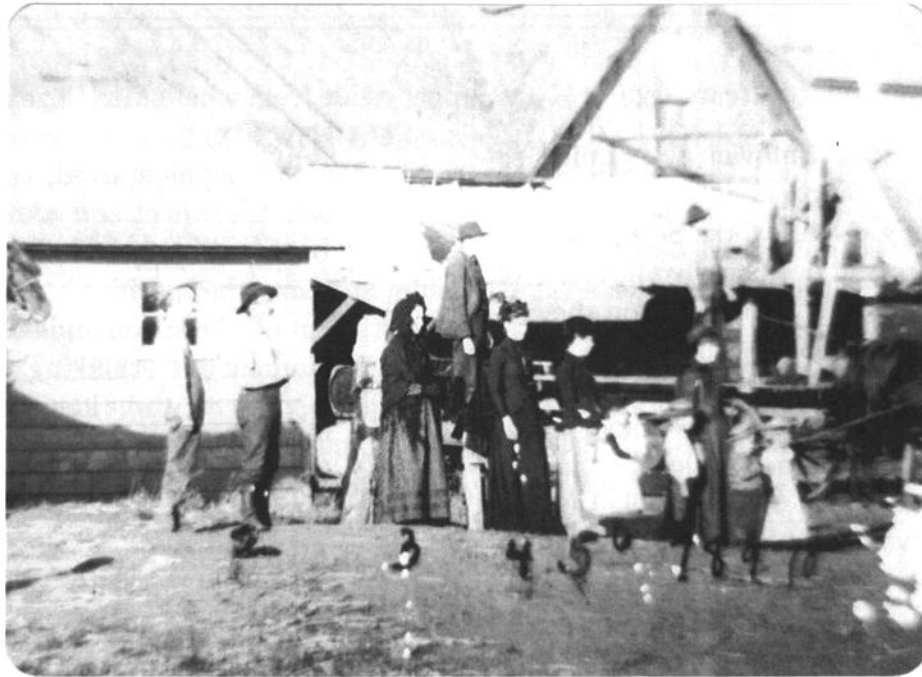


Figure 2.3: Bozarth Family at the Mill



Figure 2.4: Residence Portion of the Sorghum Mill

Chapter 3

Floods

The following account is taken from *History of Black Hawk County, Iowa, Vol. I*, by John C. Hartman, Supervising Editor, 1915.

HIGH WATER

The year 1858 had gone down in the history of Black Hawk County as an exceedingly wet year, perhaps the worst so far as known to white men. There are geological evidences of higher water at some remote period and also the Indians told of "big waters" years before the first settlers came to the county. In 1858 the rainfall was heavy throughout the year; overland transportation was next to impossible, which made the base of supplies on the Mississippi River hard to reach. At Cedar Falls the river was the highest and completely covered Cedar City on the opposite side of the river. A two-story building was swept away and was seen drifting past Waterloo. At the latter place nearly two hundred feet of the Dubuque & Pacific Railway embankment was swept away and the water poured in torrents through two of the ravines on the west side, inundating the lower portion of the town. Below the town the river overflowed its banks to a great extent. Two weeks after the first flood another heavy storm occurred, which created a worse flood than the previous one. Again, two weeks later, another freshet occurred.

On July 19, 1858, two young ladies, named Case and Corson, were drowned in the Cedar at Waterloo. On the 20th James Dyer was drowned

in the bayou near Cedar City and about the same time another man drowned while attempting to cross the river at Gilbertville. Boats were used in the streets of Waterloo and Cedar Falls. Mail was distributed by boat, a raised platform constructed on Commercial Street to accommodate the mail sacks.

Floods have always been a fact of life in Cedar City. They have occurred anytime from the January thaw to the end of June. With melting snow or a series of heavy rains, the river returned to its natural channel. The Dump Road was usually washed out, other roads completely ruined, and much crop land would be under water. Every time, there would be rumors that the dam had gone out at Nashua, though this seldom happened.

The flood which occurred in March, 1884, was evidently a minor one. In the spring of 1905 a major one rose in a rush, giving the residents very little time to prepare. My folks took their cows and pigs to a neighbor's land on higher ground. They put the chickens in the haymow and moved the family upstairs. There wasn't time to take up the rugs; the organ was put up on chairs. The water came into the house in sufficient depth that my father and my mother's brother were able to go through the house in a canoe.

The following account is from the diary of David V. Mettler, from March 1884. The numbers to the left are dates.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>21. Cloudy damp weather. River rising. Raining in Evening. Also rained in night</p> <p>22. Cloudy in morning. Cleared off in afternoon. Was over town River high. Ice gorged in River above Cut-off dam.</p> <p>23. Nice day, but water just booming. People moving out of their houses. Water raised in ford part of night 3 in an hour after part 1½ inches an hour.</p> | <p>24. Meter coming up a half inch an hour in morning. Commenced going down about noon. Fell all night—gradually.</p> <p>25. Cloudy in morning. Commenced raining about 10 A.M. Came from N.E. People moving back in their houses. Water still falling</p> <p>26. Very nice day. Water gone way down.</p> |
|---|---|



Figure 3.1: April 1, 1933



Figure 3.2: Saturday, April 1, 1933, Independence Ave, Cedar City



Figure 3.3: Saturday, April 1, 1933



Figure 3.4: Saturday, April 1, 1933



Figure 3.5: Tuesday, April 4, 1933, Independence Ave, Cedar City



Figure 3.6: Flood of 1933. Exact Area Unidentified.

Chapter 4

Schools

The following newspaper accounts are from the *Waterloo Tribune*, December 15, 1927.

OLD CEDAR CITY SCHOOL BOASTS PROUD HISTORY

—
Oldest Residents Do Not
Remember Building

CEDAR FALLS, Dec. 14—
(Special): Thursday evening at
7:30 dedication exercises in the new
\$5,000 fireproof school of District
No. 1 will take place. The pub-
lic is invited to attend the program

and inspect the building.

The program as announced will
be as follows:

Instrumental selections, read-
ings, exercise by Primary depart-
ment, dialogues by children, song
by the school, address by County
Superintendent A. E. Jewett.

The school has been accepted by
the board and first classes were held
in the new building Monday of this
week.

This building replaces a school built at least 60 years ago. The exact date has not been determined and even long time residents do not know when it was built. For years there has been need of a new building there, especially in cold weather. In the attic of the old school, one can see cracks and open spaces which never made it necessary to install a ventilating system in the school and on very cold days it was impossible to heat the building so the children could study in comfort.

Henry Olbrich, city clerk, says he has lived here for 72 years and he doesn't remember when the school was built. He says it may have been built while he lived here but he doesn't remember it. As far back as he can remember there has been a school there and it is believed that the old building was the first one built.

Settled in Fifties

Mrs. Curlis Ford advises the Tribune that she has been a resident of this community for 72 years. Her parents settled in Cedar City in 1852 coming here by covered wagon. She is of the opinion that the school was not standing when she came here altho she is not sure.

She thinks it was built soon after her arrival here. She attended the Cedar Falls township district school and was never a student at the Cedar City school.

History records that Paul Soma-neux, a Frenchman, took up the first claim in this part of the county and that was just west of Cedar City in 1847. He selected one of the best places of land in the county in those days. Eight years later William Dean laid out the city and lots began to sell. There were several stores there and business grew. The city was on the old wagon road from Independence on the north side of the river. In fact, the main road north of this part of the county lead north from Cedar City.

E. A. Randall, member of the school board of Cedar City, says Cedar City had a promise of being a real city until the railroad came thru from the east, being built in here from Dubuque. He says the railroad stopped at Cedar Falls and this was the division for several years. He attributed the fall of Cedar City to the advent of the railroad. The old Dubuque & Sioux City road was later extended westward from here. When the road came to Cedar Falls, Cedar City trade came here and the stores there soon gave up the ghost.

The Old School

The poet once described a school in a manner fitting to the old Cedar City school when he wrote:

"Still sits the school house by the road.

A ragged beggar sunning.

* * *

"Within, the master's desk is seen

Deep scored by raps official.
The warping floor; the battered
seats,
The jack knives' carved initial.

* * *

"It's doors worn sill betraying
The feet that creeping slow to
school,

Went storming out to playing."

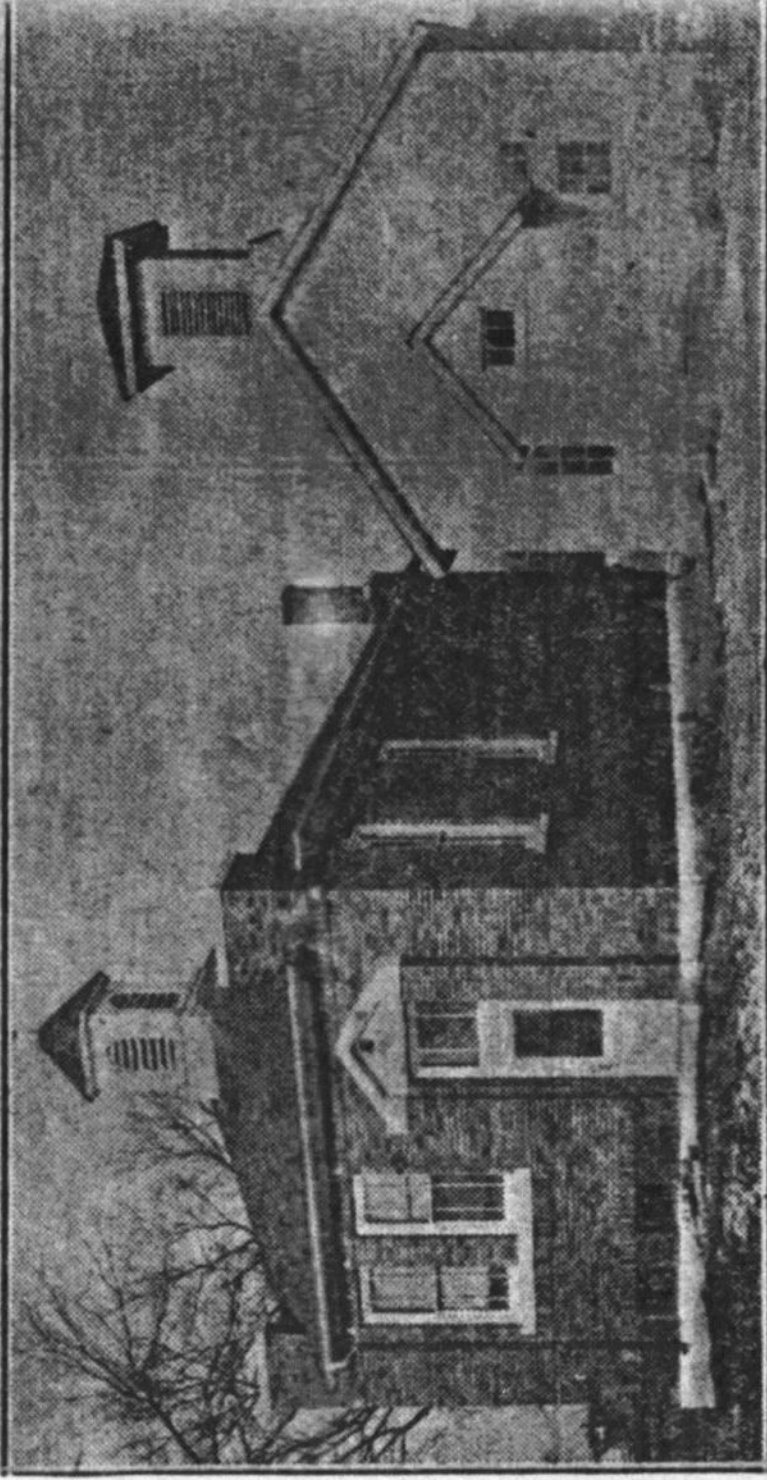
Another article in the paper spoke of a school program:

Christmas Program at Cedar City School

—
Five members of the Sons of Veterans and the Auxiliary to the Sons went to the new school building in Cedar City last evening and presented the school with a framed copy of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the gift of Mrs. E. A. Randall, before a large audience gathered for the children's Christmas

program. Those who went were John Thompson, commander of the S. O. V.'s who gave a short talk; Mrs. Elbert Hiskey, head of the Auxiliary, who made the presentation speech; J. H. Smith, who was master of ceremonies; Lloyd Snider, who recited Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; and Mrs. W. W. West, Mrs. Grace Bolte, teacher of the school, received the first and gave appropriate thanks.

70 Years Bridged by Old and New Cedar City Schools



Grandparents and parents of some of the students in the modern brick structure which Cedar City district No. 1 of Cedar Falls township dedicated to education this fall attended the building it replaced. The school, shown above, beside its successor, was built in 1857 and had been in continuous use until this. The new building cost the district about \$5,000.

Figure 4.1: Picture from December 15, 1927, *Waterloo Tribune*

Cedar City school was old. According to my grandfather's diary, it underwent major repairs in 1884. Grandfather was a member of the board. At the time I attended the school, the building had two rooms. The south part was the classroom; the north end was for storage: the coal bin, a kindling pile, extra seats, and all the other paraphernalia. Evidently this back room was once used for a classroom. The plaster (what remained of it) still had the black paint which made it a blackboard. In cold or rainy weather we were allowed to play in the back room, and, of course, we played school.

The south room was large, heated by a stove in the northwest corner and lighted by kerosene lamps high up in brackets on the wall. The lamps were used only when there was an evening meeting, program, basket social, spelldown, or other important community affair. There was a platform the full width of the front of the room for the teacher's desk usually but useful also as a stage for plays.

There was an entry hall with shelves for lunch pails and hooks for coats. It was unheated. Bathroom facilities were outside and to the north of the building, the boys on the east side and the girls on the west. A pump was located in the yard and water brought inside in a pail. We felt very modern when we obtained a crockery water container with a spigot. The common dipper gave way to individual drinking cups, mostly the collapsible kind which were kept in the student desks. Many of the desks were wide enough to seat two students. It was always an anxious time till one found out who his seatmate would be.

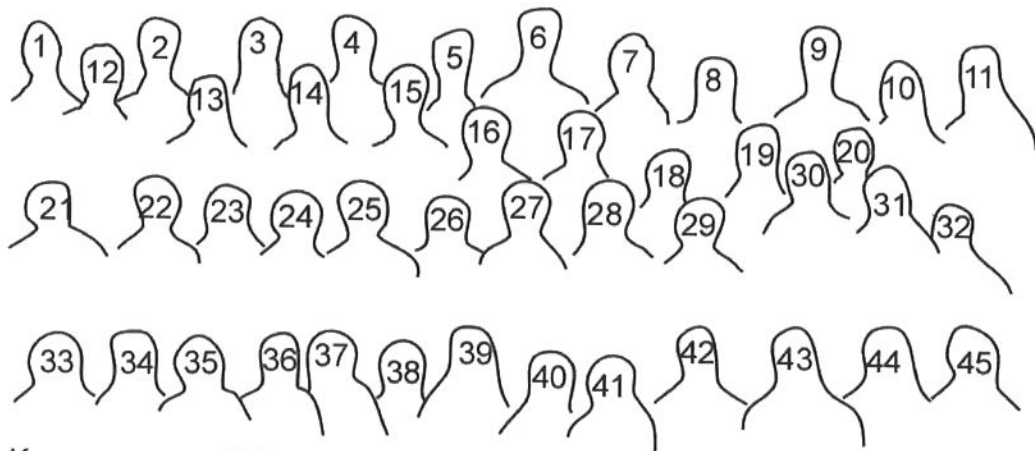
The following are excerpts from the diary of David V. Mettler, from the year 1884. In a few entries the handwriting was ambiguous. In particular, it isn't clear what "bully" means in the August 1 entry, and the awkward phrasing of the September 15 entry may be from misinterpreting a word.

<i>March</i>	
10: Blustery but not very cold. School election today. Went to school election & was elected Director for one year. Rained in the night.	very bully. Novelty works burned at night.
<i>July</i>	
21: Took seats up in school house. Terrible hot day. A big rain & wind in the evening.	2: A very heavy rain and wind from S.W. Hail east of us.
22: A hot day. Knocked the plastering of the school house	3: Sunny cool day.
26: Got joists ready to put in.	4: Lathing on the school house. Cool day. Nice to work in.
27: Sunday. Rained in morning.	5: Lathing. Cool weather. Rained at night.
28: Working at schoolhouse	6: Lathing on S. H. A nice day.
29: Mrs. McMullen was here.	7: Lathing on S. H. Nice weather
30: Tore down chimney at school house.	8: Finished lathing. A nice day. Cool and invigorating.
31: Building chimney on school house.	
<i>August</i>	
1: Pleasant morning. Working outside house. Did not feel	<i>September</i>
	15: Board of directors met at our 10 am at school house. A big rain.
	16: Commenced cleaning S.H.
	17: Cleaning school house
	18: Put in lights
	<i>October</i>
	6: School commenced. A nice day.

Figure 5.2 is from 1890. It was copied from an original owned by Blanche Byers Juhl and was dated and some members identified by Carl Howe. Figure 5.3 identifies those students whose names could be determined.



Figure 4.2: Class Picture



Known names: 2-Frank Harmon, 3-Stena Andersen, 5-Tiny Purdy, 6-Elmer Purdy, 7-Lena Andersen (married Hans Haurum), 8-Johnny Larson, 9-Maude Ellison (teacher, married John Bozarth), 10-Adelia O'Dell (married Albert Byers), 11-Lily Jarvis (married George Garrison), 12-Burt Purdy, 13-Dan Mettler, 18-Jessie Fellers, 19-Senia Larsen, 22-Earl O'Dell, 23-Larry DeWyre, 24, Carl Howe, 25-Pete Andersen, 28-Will Fellers, 33-Philip DeWyre, 34-Bert Fellers, 35-Tom Fellers, 36-Shelly (youngest of 3 brothers), 38-Ray O'Dell, 41-Edith Mettler (married E. A. Randall), 43-Harry Thomas, 44-Lee Roberts

Figure 4.3: Identification of Known Class Members

4.1 Recess

The back room at the schoolhouse was storage space—the coal bin, kindling, etc., unused desks. The walls had some plaster left and some of it was painted black. It once served as a chalkboard. In bad weather we played outdoors—games like ante-over. The group divided into two groups, one on each side of the building. A ball was thrown over the roof. The boys were better at this than the girls. Somebody on the other side would get it, and they would come around the ends of the building and catch as many of the opposing side as possible.

Another game was pom-pom pull away. Opposing teams formed lines. One line would approach the other chanting “Pom-pom pull away. Come

away or I'll pull you away." There would be a chase with as many caught as possible. Then it was the other team's turn.

"Here I come" was fun because it took some acting. There were two teams. One group would decide on something that could be acted out, like eating lunch. They would approach the other team chanting, "Here I come." The other team would answer, "Where from?" Answer: "New Orleans." Question: "What's your trade?" Answer: "Lemonade." Answer: "Show us some." Then members of the team would act it out. As soon as somebody guessed what they were doing, the chase was on, and those caught were taken by the other side.

When the weather was nice in the spring or early fall, some of the girls played with paper dolls. Everyone had a shoebox full. The dolls were made of cardboard figures, and clothes were adapted from Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs. Some girls used tissue paper or crepe paper for original costumes. Library paste was not always available. Flour and water paste was more common.

4.2 Winter Fun

After a hard snowfall, followed by a period of melting, the ditches along the sides of the roads would be filled with water. A short period of freezing would cover these ditches with a thin layer of ice. By sliding gently on your feet, you could start a wave motion, the ice moving over the water. This was "rubber" ice. If your feet left the ice and you came down hard, the ice broke, and you had to hurry home before your legs froze. But it was fun and a real challenge.

The big bayou back of our house froze over. We were careful to make sure the ice was thick enough to bear our weight. The small backwater we called the little bayou did not freeze solid. There were springs in the bottom of it. When the ice on the big bayou was thick enough, it became the skating place for the neighborhood. I never learned to skate but had fun sliding. While the boys were cleaning the snow off the ice in one place, some of us took our sleds up to the Illinois Railroad track and slid down the embankment and out onto the ice.

In the year before World War I, Cedar City school was used by Iowa State Teacher's College (I.S.T.C, later known as the University of Northern Iowa) as a demonstration rural school, and student teachers were assigned there.



Figure 4.4: At Old Cedar City School. Among those shown are Elsie Randall, Elbert Randall and Teacher Ruth Fagan



Figure 4.5: Winter at Old Cedar City School. Among Those Shown are Helen Dewey, Bennie Towsley, Vona Sargent, Lucille Gallogly, Laura Garrison, Blanche Byers, June Morton, Edna Randall, Alberta Byers and Nellie Baker



Figure 4.6: From the Autograph Book of Adelia O'Dell (Later Mrs. Albert Byers). Picture of Pauline Raab Is a Copy of a Picture in Historical Museum



Figure 4.7: Elsie Marie Randal (Married Charles H. Tietz) on Steps of Old Cedar City School Following Eighth Grade Graduation, May 1919

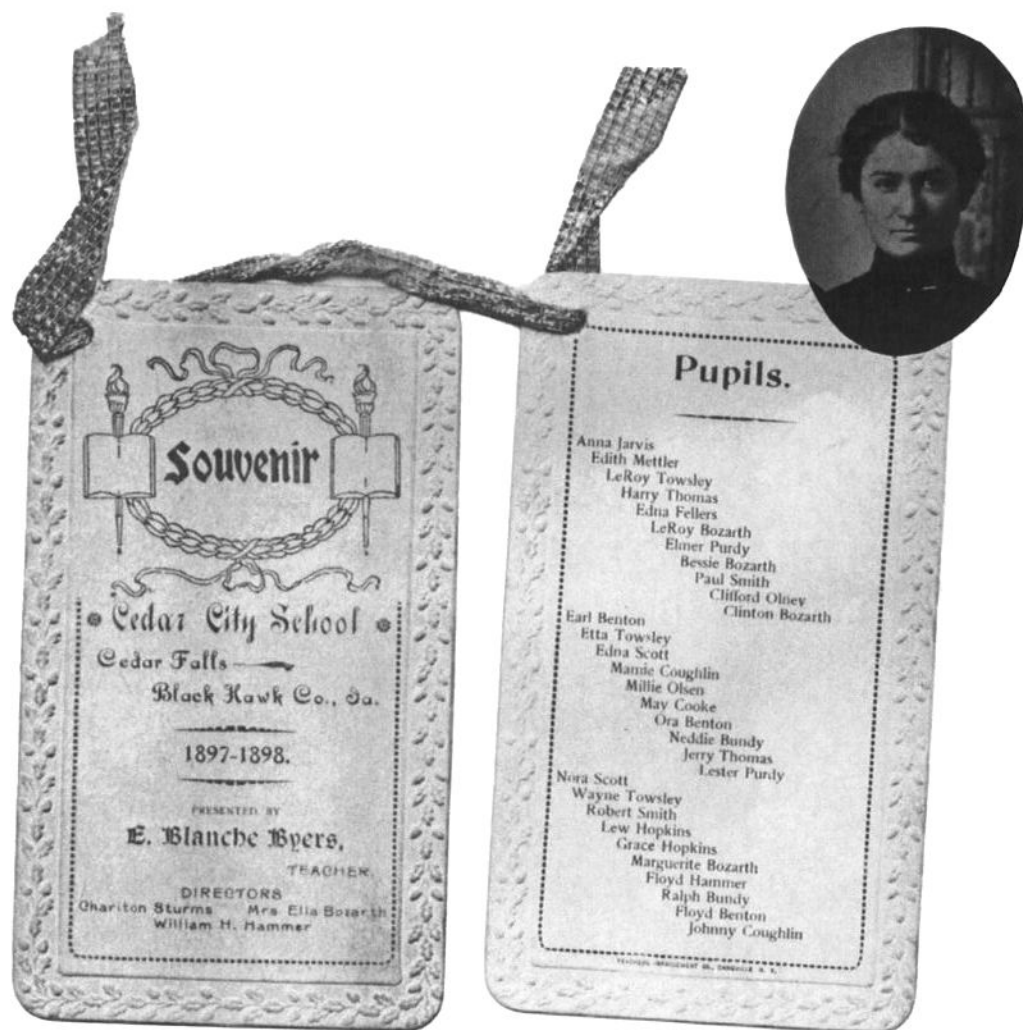


Figure 4.8: Souvenir Presented to Students by Teacher, E. Blanche Byers. Her Photo from Family Group Photo.

One of these was Helen Granger (Mrs. Clifford Isley). Charlotte Foster was the teacher at that time. Macy Campbell, Leclair Eells, A. C. and F. E. Fuller were some of the rural education and extension department faculty involved in the school. Doris White brought her Physical Education students over to teach us calisthenics in the classroom and games on the playground.

Several times students from the school were taken to the college campus. The building we used was the little white building which stood north of the Women's gym, where the new library is now. At that time, it was all one room with bleachers for observers on the west and south sides. (When I was a student at I.S.T.C., this building was the college laundry on the south and Hovey's bookstore on the north. Finally, in the 1940's, it was the nursery school, which both of my children attended.)

In 1917, someone from the extension service at Ames came to the school to teach the older girls and their mothers about cold-pack canning. We had one of the first 4-H clubs in Black Hawk County. Three girls, Edith Forsyth, Neva Olney and I, were a team and gave demonstrations of cold-pack canning at the Cedar Valley Fair in Cedar Falls. We won a free trip to the Iowa State Fair, where we also put on our demonstration. Later in the fall, we performed at the Dairy Cattle Congress and won \$10. We each got three dollars and used the other dollar to buy our teacher a gift.

Both of my brothers and all but one of my sisters attended school in the old building. The youngest sister wasn't old enough to start till 1928, after the old structure was torn down. My father, E. A. Randall, was on the school board when the new building was constructed.

The two newspaper articles from the *Cedar Falls Record* that follow appeared in 1940. The first, from August, mentions my sister Evelyn, and the second, from the November 20 edition, mentions me.

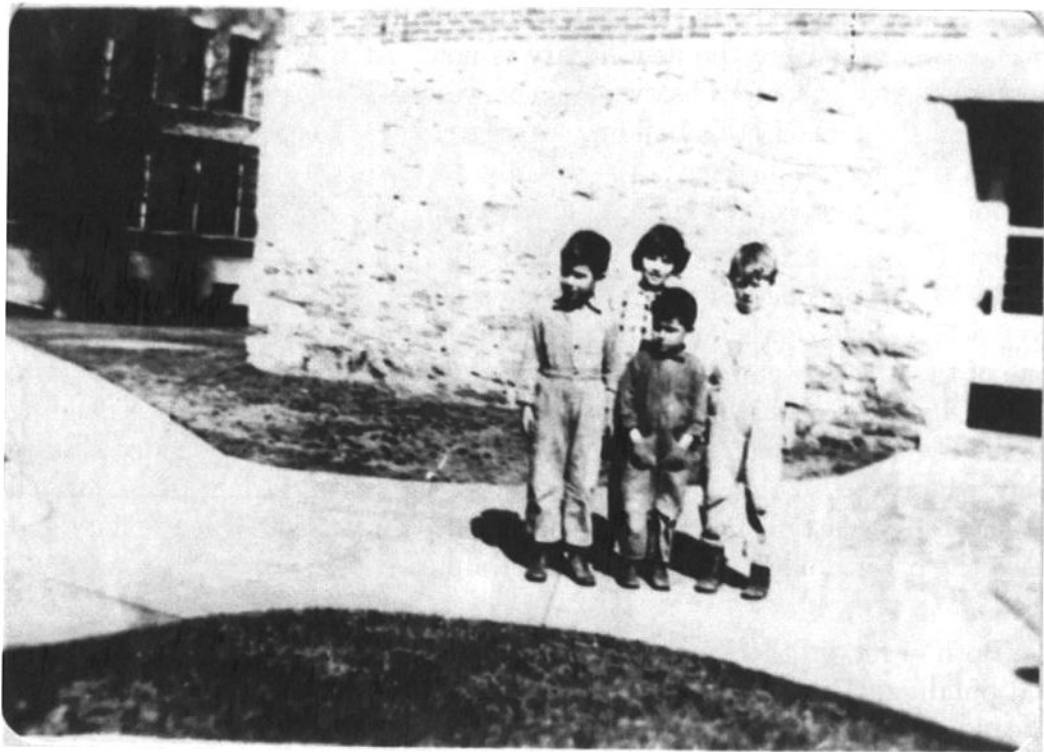


Figure 4.9: Cedar City Students at I.S.T.C. Aennett and Roger Friis, Evelyn Randall, Albert Olmsted

CEDAR CITY SCHOOL OK

The Cedar City school system last night was reinstated as an accredited school by the action of its board in appointing Evelyn Sisson to the second of two teaching posts at the school.

The Cedar City school system was the object of controversy early this year when it was learned that it

would be ineligible for county financial aid unless its teachers met certificate requirements of the state.

Both Mrs. Sisson and Anna Moore, present teacher in the school, now hold accredited ratings from the state board of education.

The school board at its meeting last night also approved a tentative budget for the coming fiscal year.

Cedar City School Chosen For Girl Scout Troop 10

Cedar City has a Girl Scout troop with Mrs. Alfred Cowan and Mrs. Ray Ebersold the leaders. Thirteen girls are enrolled in the troop

which will meet each Monday at the school house.

Business Woman's department sponsors the troop and Mrs. Lloyd Fovall and Mrs. Charles Tietz are committee women. Some few of the troop members formerly belonged to Troop 10.

In 1947, the Cedar City Independent School District ceased to exist, and the students were bused to Miner School. An attempt was made to retain the school building for community affairs, but this did not prove to be possible, and the building was sold and converted into a home. My younger brother, Clarence Randall, was president of the school board when these changes were made and headed the community group which endeavored to keep the building.

Chapter 5

Closing Thoughts

My grandfather, David V. Mettler, a veteran of the Union Army, 14th Ohio Volunteers Infantry, came to Iowa in 1865, settling first in Butler County, then moving to a farm near West Union. In 1883, he came to Cedar City. He traded a team of mules to Del Johnson for the house and several acres of land situated between Independence Avenue and the "big" bayou. Any history of Cedar City from 1883 is necessarily a history of my family. My mother was born in this house in 1884.

Grandfather had been wounded in the Battle of Chickamauga—a bullet went into his instep and came out his heel. He was held prisoner of war at Sweetwater, Georgia. The wound never completely healed and eventually contributed to his death in 1903. My parents were married in this house, and all ten of their children were born here. Grandmother Mettler died here in 1917.

At one time we had two telephones, the Bell phone in my father's den and the Corn Belt line in the dining room. Since some of the neighbors had one line and some the other, we frequently found ourselves relaying messages. When the Corn Belt line was discontinued, many of the neighbors came in to use the phone even when no one was at home, until one day Dad came home to find a package of strychnine left by the phone. With our large family of children, this was a real danger, and the doors were always locked after that.

When electricity became available in Cedar Falls, my father wanted it, too. Since we were outside the city limits, there were certain things that had to be done. Dad talked to all the neighbors, trying to get their cooperation in building a line. One man said he wasn't putting any lightning in his house. None of the others felt the need for the service, so Dad paid for the poles and



Figure 5.1: Edith Mettler Randall in Front of Mettler-Randall Home with Children Elbert and Elsie. Taken About 1909–10. The Tree Was a Red Cedar



Figure 5.2: The House, Now 120 Independence, July 1975.

other expenses involved by himself. It wasn't long before the benefits were recognized, and the neighbors wanted to hook on.

I have found no reference to any church in Cedar City, though I suspect itinerant preachers may have held forth in homes or at the schoolhouse. My grandparents were members of the First Methodist Church in Cedar Falls. Dad's family were Baptists. We were brought up in the Baptist church. After Baptist Sunday School in the morning, we would walk in the afternoon to Miner School to the Mission Sunday School started by Paul Miner. When the white frame building was replaced by the brick structure, the Sunday School was discontinued.

I have found no record of a post office ever being established in Cedar City.