

Boone County, Iowa Timeline

Important Dates in Boone County, Iowa History

Compiled by Charles Irwin and Larry Adams

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- 1803: Part of the Louisiana Purchase from France.
- 1805: Part of Louisiana Territory.
- 1812: Part of Missouri Territory.
- 1820: Missouri admitted as a state, rest of territory without government.
Missouri Compromise - Congress decides that everything north of Missouri will be non-slave area.
- 1834: Iowa made part of Michigan Territory.
- 1835: U.S. Dragoons (including Boone County's namesake Col. Nathan Boone) travels through Boone County, exploring the Des Moines River Valley.
- 1836: Iowa made part of the Wisconsin Territory.
- 1838: Iowa made a territory.
Robert Lucas - First Territorial Governor of Iowa.
The first Iowa legislature met.
- 1840: Capitol located in Iowa City.
- 1843: Col. L.W. Babbitt resides in Boone County for 1 ½ years near present day Moingona before moving to the Council Bluffs area.
- 1846: Iowa became a state.
Charles Gaston, first permanent settler of Boone County, Built a cabin near present day Madrid.
Milton Lott, a 12 year-old boy, freezes to death escaping from an Indian raid.
The Delander party from Sweden settles at Swede Point (now Madrid).
- 1847: Boone County established - the county remains part of Polk County for judicial, voting and revenue purposes.
- 1848: First white child born in Boone County, Henry Hull.
First mill erected at Elk Rapids. Opened in 1850.
First medical doctor, Dr. James Hull, to practice medicine in Boone County.
- 1849: Boone County organized.
First school in Boone County, located 1 1/2 miles southeast of Boone, near Honey Creek.
First murder in Boone County, Lewis Jewett, stabbed John Pea to death over the love of a woman.
First post office in Boone County established, Belle Point, Douglas Township.
- 1850: Population of Boone County was 735.
Missionary Rev. J.H. Burleigh forms a Methodist religious organization, which eventually becomes the Marion Street Methodist Church.
- 1851: First township established in Boone County.
County seat formed at Boonesboro (Western section of Boone).
The towns of Elk Rapids and Swede Point are plotted.
- 1852: Townships organized.

- 1855: First steam mill in county, built by Boles Brothers at Elk Rapids, moved to Swede Point in 1870.
First school in Boone.
Making of roads.
- 1856: First newspaper, The Boone County News, published in county.
- 1857: First court house completed.
The name of the town Swede Point changed to Madrid.
- 1858: Richard Achilles Ballinger, U.S. Secretary of Interior from 1909-1911, born in Boone County.
- 1860: Population of Boone County was 4,232.
Catholic Church established in Boone County.
- 1861: The beginning of the Civil War, Boone County sent 517 men to the war effort.
The Baptist Church organized in Boone.
- 1864: First banking institution in Boone County started in Boonesboro by John Y. Smith and J. W. Black; known as Smith & Black's Bank,
- 1865: The end of the Civil War.
The City of Boone established.
The Boone Methodist Episcopal Church established.
- 1866: The name was changed from Boone to Montana.
Ogden and Moingona were formed by the railroad.
Presbyterian Church established in Montana.
The railroad arrived in Montana.
- 1867: First coal mine opened west of Boonesboro.
Railroad station established at Beaver.
County Farm organized.
Curtis Dwight Wilbur, U.S. Secretary of the Navy, 1924-1929, born in Boonesboro.
Grace Episcopal Church established in Boone.
- 1868: New court house built for \$38,000.
German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church established.
- 1869: The Swedish Evangelical Mission Church established in Montana.
- 1870: Population of Boone County was 14,581.
- 1871: The name of the city of Montana changed to Boone.
The Universalist Church established in Boone.
- 1874: The Ogden Reporter first published.
- 1875: Ray Lyman Wilbur, U.S. Secretary of Interior, 1929-1933, born in Boonesboro.
- 1876: The Christian Church established in Boone.
- 1877: First Fire Department in Boone, called the Neptune Hose Company.
- 1878: The first Lowell School built in Boone.
Washington School built in Boone.
- 1879: Boone Blank Book Company established in Boone. (Closed in 1989).
- 1880: History of Boone County published by Union Historical Company, Des Moines.
Population of Boone County was 20,838.

- 1881: City of Pilot Mound formed.
Kate Shelley crossed bridge to warn passenger train.
- 1882: The town of Sommersville (Berkley) established.
- 1883: Boone County Bank opens in Boone; becomes Boone State Bank in 1911.
The name of town of Sommersville changed to Berkley.
- 1884: Drilled for oil in Douglas Township.
Electricity first put in Boone home.
- 1885: Water system installed in Boone.
Public library established in Boone.
- 1887: The City of Boonesboro annexed to become a part of the City of Boone.
- 1890: Doud Packing Company established in Boone by J.M. Doud and Royal, as
a result of community effort to recruit industry.
- 1891: The Gospel Tabernacle Church established in Boone.
Boone Valley Coal & Mining & Railroad Co. established at Fraser, became
Newton & Northwestern, then Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern.
- 1893: The towns of Luther and Fraser are established.
- 1894: The Madrid Register News first published.
- 1896: Mamie Doud Eisenhower, the wife of President Dwight D. Eisenhower,
was born in Boone.
- 1898: F.W. Fitch opens a barber shop in Boone and begins manufacture of
Fitch shampoo; opened plant in 1909; moved to Des Moines in 1917.
President McKinley visited Boone.
Beginning of the Spanish-American War, Boone County sends 57 people
to the war effort
- 1899: The end of the Spanish-American War, three Boone County residents die
in service to their country.
- 1900: Construction begins for Eleanor Moore Hospital in Boone, a gift of
S. L. Moore, a Boone banker.
Hospital becomes Boone County Hospital in 1917.
The plot for the town of Boxholm filed at court house.
- 1901: The C&NW Des Moines River Viaduct, High Bridge, completed.
Ericson Public Library built.
The first Page School built
- 1902: Biographical Record of Boone County published by S. J. Clarke
Publishing Company of Chicago.
- 1906: The Boone News Republican first published.
- 1907: Champlin Memorial Masonic Temple built in Boone - gift of Banker
Frank Champlin.
Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern Railroad electrified, builds power plant
at Fraser.
City State Bank, Ogden, incorporated under present name.
- 1908: Boone Commercial Association formed, later renamed the Chamber of
Commerce.
- 1909: The Quinn Wire and Iron Company founded in Boone.
- 1911: Wells dug for city of Boone.
- 1913: Present Boone High School built.

- 1914: Two volume History of Boone County published by Pioneer Publishing Company, Chicago.
The beginning of World War I.
- 1915: Ogden High School built, currently being used as a middle school
- 1917: United States entered World War I, 830 men are inducted into military service by the local induction board.
- 1918: Present Boone County courthouse is completed.
The end of World War I 45 Boone County residents die in service to their country.
- 1924: Ledges State Park dedicated south of Boone.
- 1926: Hawkeye Savings and Loan Association is formed.
- 1927: Boone Junior College established.
- 1928: Secretary of the Navy Curtis Dwight Wilburn visits Boone.
- 1929: Stock Market crash.
- 1929-38: The Depression.
- 1933: Citizens National Bank opened in Boone.
President Roosevelt declares bank holiday.
- 1934: City State Bank, Madrid, organized.
- 1938: DeShon Chapter, DAR places Dragoon Trail marker on Division Street in Boone.
Fareway Stores, Inc. started in Boone.
- 1939: Bryant, Lincoln, Lowell schools built in Boone.
- 1940: Population of Boone County, 29,782.
Present Boone City Hall completed and dedicated.
- 1941: The United States enters WWII, Boone County sends 2,786 people to the war effort.
Highways 30-169 paving joined at Ogden.
- 1945: The end of WWII, 103 Boone County residents died in service to their country.
- 1950: Korean Conflict begins.
Population of Boone County, 28,139.
- 1952: Eisenhower announces his candidacy for President.
- 1953: The end of the Korean Conflict.
Ogden's coal mining industry closes down.
- 1954: DeShon Chapter, DAR, places marker in front of Mamie Doud Eisenhower Birthplace.
- 1955: Franklin School built.
Addition to Boone High School.
Addition to Boone County Hospital.
Washington School torn down in Boone.
Last passenger trolley run of Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern Railroad.
Jordan, Luther, Napier and several rural school districts merge to form the United Community School District.
Ogden's new Howe Elementary School opens.
- 1956: 2500 greet President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower in Ogden the couple

- is in route to Boone for a visit.
- 1960: Iowa Attorney General Norman A. Erbe of Boone elected Governor of Iowa
Population of Boone County, 28,037.
- 1963: The zip code arrives.
- 1964: Boone fire destroys Fareway Store and damages Mondt Hotel.
Ogden Community Scholarship and Loan Foundation is established.
(259 OHS graduates have received \$225,000 in financial assistance since).
Four-lane highway 30 opens.
- 1965: Boone Centennial Celebration.
Boone Junior College merges with DMACC.
- 1966: Boone County Historical Society founded.
Ogden celebrates its Centennial.
Lorenzen estate provides \$100,000 to building indoor swimming pool at Ogden.
- 1967: The Iowa Arboretum established near Luther.
C&NW Depot in Boone demolished.
Don Williams Lake fills to capacity after heavy rains in June.
- 1968: Fort Dodge, Des Moines and South Railroad become a part of C&NW,
closes Boone office.
DMACC, Boone Campus, construction begins.
United Community junior/senior high school completed.
Voters approve a new junior/senior high school in Madrid.
Students move into new Ogden High School in December.
- 1970: Population of Boone County, 24,470.
- 1972: Kate Shelley Trail established in Boone County, 25-mile hiking trail.
United Community elementary school built.
Hickory Grove Rural School Museum established at Don Williams Recreational Area.
Highway 30-169 partial cloverleaf intersection opened at Ogden.
- 1973: FD DM & S Railroad Depot in Boone demolished.
Ogden Manor opens.
- 1974: The Ogden Reporter celebrates its 100th birthday.
Construction of Ogden's 500,000 gallon, landmark water tower begins.
Boone County Bicentennial formed as a two-year project to celebrate America's 200th Birthday.
- 1976: President Gerald Ford visits the Marshall King farm north of Boone.
Elmer G. Powers' diary, Years of Struggle, dealing with depression years in Boone County, is published.
Pufferbilly Days begin in Boone as an annual festival.
- 1977: Kate Shelley Railroad Museum established in Moingona.
Leonard A. Good presented keys to Ogden Mayor Gus Gliem for the new library he built and gave to the community as a Bicentennial gift.
- 1978: County adopts 911 emergency telephone system.
- 1980: Population of Boone County, 26,184.
- 1981: Ogden Fun Days celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

- 1983: Madrid celebrates Centennial.
- 1984: Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad has first year of operation over FDDM & S tracks, 11 mile railroad right of way purchased for \$50,000.
Northern Natural Gas celebrated 50 years in Ogden.
- 1986: Area receives national attention as train is derailed on High Bridge, caused by high winds.
- 1987: C&NW dedicates new Central Division Headquarters in Boone.
Closed in 1989. Used as a customer service facility until Feb. 1993.
- 1988: Historical Museum Society of Boone County opens museum at 1004 Story Street.
Ogden forms Vision '91 project
- 1990: Boone County Cultural Center and Historical Museum dedicated.
- 1991: Ogden named Rural Street Community.
- 1993: Luther celebrates Centennial.
- 1994: Boone County Sesquicentennial Commission formed to celebrate Iowa's 150th Birthday on a local level.
DMACC Boone Campus announces a major addition.