

TO: ALLAN HALL
FROM: NORLEY HALL
DATE: 1 MARCH 2003

Dear Allan:

Enclosed you will find the pictures I promised to send you. Sorry I am so slow getting around to it - I am not sure if that is the result of old age or laziness.

The house was built by both Edwin and Edward Hall. It is my understanding that when Edward returned to Des Moines after coming to Utah, that he and Edwin divided their holdings, Edward taking all the western holdings and Edwin the eastern holdings-including the house.

He had a huge glass dome built on top of the house and, being a spiritualist, he would hold seances there. He is reported to be able to make a table rap on the floor, and to make hands appear. Of course that is just family legend.

In the other picture the dam is depicted and the grist mill also.

I researched the birth place of the twins and found where the mix-up on their birth place occurred in the records. It seems there is both a Waterbury, New Hampshire as well as a Waterbury, New Haven, Conn. Whoever wrote the statistics for the family down had switched (probably because of the New Haven) locations. I am glad you caught it. I now have a revised version of the history where it has been corrected.

Norley Hall
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(801) 489-6516
norley@redrock.net



729 Taken from below the Center St. Dam looking NW.
The dam was built by the Hall Brothers in 1853 when
they constructed the famous Empire Mill which is
shown on the left river bank. They sawed logs,
ground grain and carded wool in this facility. It
burned in 1875. Notice the dropoff in the water is
not as great as the dam we have today. 8 ft

Notes of Paul Ashby who donated
this collection of prints.





SAW AND GRIST MILLS.

The first mill within the limits of the county, as it was before the townships taken from Warren were restored, was erected in the Fall of 1848, by Captain Allen, who was associated in the enterprise with J. D. Parmelee. This mill was on Middle river, and was popularly known as Parmelee's mill. It was first operated for sawing lumber; and the following year facilities were added for grinding wheat.

The first mill in the Northern part of the county, was erected on Big Creek, Madison Township, by George Beebe in 1849.

William H. Meacham erected in 1847, the first mill in the county proper. It was built in what is called East Des Moines, and was operated as a saw mill by horse power. On the same site, the steam mill of J. S. Dean was afterwards erected; and the fine mill of Shepard & Perrior now occupies the same place. At the time Mr. Meacham was running his horse mill, a little saw mill was in existence at the place on Walnut Creek where the railroads now cross that stream. Edward and Edwin Hall built a water flouring mill on the same site on which the mill formerly run by Mr. Williams, now known as the Empire Mills of Jack & Toner, is standing.

B. F. Allen constructed a dam in 1848, two miles above the town on the Des Moines river. It was washed away in 1849.

Hezekiah Fagan erected a mill on Walnut Creek in 1849. Subsequently he was associated with Mr. Fitzsimmons, in operating this mill and another one which they built on Raccoon river.

In 1849, B. F. Allen and C. C. Van built a steam saw-mill South of Coon; and the same year Cole, Winchester, and Dean erected the first steam flouring mill on the East side, now known as Shepard & Perrior's mill.

Previous to the building of mills in the county, it was necessary at times, to take grists overland nearly two hundred miles to the mills in Southeastern Iowa. During these protracted trips for bread, much suffering was often endured, not only by the persons who executed the long journey in bad weather; but by the families who were waiting at home for the needed sustenance.

The property known as the Farmer's Mills, East Des Moines, was first built by Daniel Stutzman for a woolen mill. It was transferred to Skinner Brothers for a plow factory; thence to Wheeler, Henry & Depew, for Hominy mills; thence to Joseph Williams, and Ed. Keeler, who changed it to a flouring mill, with two run of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet burrs, giving it a capacity of two hundred bushels per day. The hominy and corn departments, operated by J. D. Williams have the same capacity.

Eagle Flouring Mills, operated by steam, were established in the city by D. A. Tyrrell in 1873. The building is a three story brick. The establishment grinds from forty to fifty thousand bushels of wheat per annum.

Capital Mills, B. C. White proprietor, commenced running in 1865. The building is a three story brick; and the capacity of the mill is one hundred bushels per day.

The Flouring Mills of Gulick & Dye, East Fifth street, have been in successful operation for some time.

Ayres' steam mills, built in early times, in the town, were consumed by fire.

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perhaps
Albert

*Centennial History of
Polk County, Iowa.*

*by J. M. Dixon -
Des Moines - 1876
(call num. Iowa P. L. C.)*

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

KNOW YE, 'That in pursuance of the Act of Congress, entitled "An act to raise for a limited time an additional military force, and for other purposes," approved February 11th, 1847,

in Captain *Paylor's* Company *George W. McLain* Maryland and District Columbia Volunteers,

having deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** a **WARRANT** in *his* favor, numbered

23,723 for 160 acres
THERE IS THEREFORE GRANTED BY THE UNITED STATES, unto

Edward Hall, and Edwin Wall assignees of said George W. McLain, and to their heirs the North West fractional quarter of the North East quarter, and the North fractional May of the North West quarter of section four, in Township twenty eight North of Range twenty four West, in the District of Columbia Subject to sale at Iowa City Iowa containing One hundred and seventy three acres and thirty four hundredths of an acre.

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** by the **SURVEYOR GENERAL**, which said tracts have been located in satisfaction of the above mentioned War-rant, in pursuance of the Act of Congress above mentioned, approved February 11th, 1847. *Excess paid for* **TO HAVE AND** *as per Receipts Receipt Numbered 1682* **TO HOLD** the said *parts of said* section of land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said

Edward Hall and to his

heirs and assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Zachary Taylor

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the **SEAL OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE** to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON**, the

first day of *June*
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and *fifty* and of the **INDEPENDENCE**
OF THE **UNITED STATES** the seventy-fourth

BY THE PRESIDENT: *Z Taylor*

By

Thos. Ewing Sec'y.

Mary

Recorder of the General Land Office.

44 Copied Dec. 30, 1848.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

KNOW YE, That in pursuance of the Act of Congress, entitled: "An act to raise for a limited time an additional military force, and for other purposes," approved February 11th, 1847,

John McAllen private
Captain Mills Company first Regiment Pennsylvania
Volunteers,

having deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE a WARRANT in *his* favor numbered

27,905 for 160 acres

THERE IS THEREFORE GRANTED BY THE UNITED STATES, unto

Edwin Hall and Edward
Hall assigns of said John McAllen and to their heirs, Lots numbered
two, three, and four of Section four, in Township seventy eight
North of Range twenty four West of the fifth principal Meridian, in
the District of lands subject to sale at Town City Iowa containing One
hundred and seventy one acres and seventy one hundredths of
an acre,

according to the official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tracts have been located in satisfaction of the above mentioned War-rant; in pursuance of the Act of Congress above mentioned, approved February 11th, 1847. ^{taxes paid for as} TO HAVE AND ^{for record receipt (September 1848)} TO HOLD the said ¹ ~~parts~~ ^{of said} section of land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said *Edwin Hall and Edward Hall and to their*

heirs and assigns forever, *a tenants in common and not joint tenants*

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, *Zachary Taylor*

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the SEAL OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the

first day of June

in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and *fifty* and of the INDEPENDENCE
OF THE UNITED STATES the seventy-fourth.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

By

Margaret

Z Taylor
Thos Swingle

Sec'y.

Recorder of the General Land Office.

1834764

