

decided to have a village named North Henderson beside the rails. It was laid out in 1871 by Wm. H. and John T. Brown, sons of Allen S. Brown, one of the pioneers of the township.

Mr. Goff moved both his store and his house to the new site. It has been told that he had so little faith in the future of North Henderson that when he moved his store from Ethel to the railroad, he left it on the wheels used for hauling it across the country until it was definitely decided that North Henderson was to be a station on the railroad.

The town of Shanghai City, Kelly Township, like the town of Ethel was denied the railroad. The residents of the city planned to move to North Henderson, but since Alexis was established first many of the businesses and inhabitants moved there.

The store brought into the village by Mr. Goff is now gone but will be remembered by many as the harness shop operated by Cam Dickerson. His home, which he moved in from Ethel, is the one on the corner northeast of the Zion Church and is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sims. The first new building in the village was always known as "the hotel" and served for that purpose for many years under several ownerships. It was built in 1871 by Mr. Joseph H. Humes, a native of Pennsylvania who became one of North Henderson's leading citizens of that era. In more recent years this hotel was made into apartments. It has recently taken on a new face and has added much to a better view on Main Street with improvements made by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Jim McKenzie.

Village Flourished

The village flourished in the 1800's having at that time two general merchandise stores, two drug stores, two hardware stores, two implement dealers, two grain merchants, one lumber yard, one restaurant, one harness shop, one shoe shop, one furniture store, one millinery store, one blacksmith and repair shop, one livery stable, one hotel, one barber shop and four doctors.

The I.O.O.F. Hall was constructed in 1876 at the cost of \$1600. The first floor was used as a public hall and the second floor for the exclusive use of the order which was said to have been quite strong at that time. In 1880 this township built a town hall at a cost of \$785. The same building is still used as the voting place for this precinct of North Henderson Township.

The Methodist Church is the oldest church organization in the township. The congregation organized in 1840 in the log cabin of David Bruner. Rev. Asa McMurtry, a circuit minister whose territory included parts of several counties including Mercer, served this church. Rev. McMurtry sometimes required a month to make the rounds of his churches. Services were held for some time in this log cabin with David Bruner the lay minister.

The first church was built in 1864 in Section 26. In 1874 this church was moved into North Henderson and a parsonage was completed in 1876. The church was sold to the Swedish Lutherans in 1887 and a new site was selected for a Methodist Church. It was erected during 1887 and dedicated March 11, 1888. In 1891 a new parsonage was built. On November 27, 1898 the church burned just before the morning services. The present church was built and was dedicated on August 20, 1899.

In April of 1961, the Christian Education Building was started and consecration services were held in October of that year. The