

HISTORY OF THE FORBES-FOBES
FAMILY
IN SCOTLAND AND HOLLAND
IN SIOUX CITY, IOWA

HISTORY OF THE FORBES - FOBES FAMILY IN SCOTLAND AND HOLLAND

ORIGIN OF THE NAME AND LINE OF DESCENT FROM FIRST ANCESTOR OF RECORD TO BEGINNING OF FOBES FAMILY IN AMERICA.

The surname of Forbes was derived from the lands called Forbes on the river Don in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. (See Burke's Peerage, p. 609) The ancestors of the Forbes clan are supposed to have come from Ireland in remote times. Some traditions indicate that the name Forbes was applied to the clan perhaps as far back as 870 A. D. There are several traditions involving the family and the name with the Beast of the Forest, a ferocious wild hog quite common in Europe in early times. Live specimens are in the San Diego zoo. The battles with this forest beast became family tradition. There is a tradition of an ancestor going FOR the "BEEST", the name thus becoming FOR-BES. The name is pronounced with two syllables in Scotland. We may wonder if the land of the forest beast didn't become the land of the FOR-Beast, then Forbes, just as the words wind hole became window. The Lord Forbes coat of arms had three boars heads.

John of Forbes, the first of his surname of whom there is any record was a personage of rank and distinction during the reign of king William the Lion, king of Scotland 1165-1214. Surnames were not commonly used prior to this time.

Fergus of Forbes, son of John, was granted the first charter of record to the lands of Forbes, dated 1235, from Alexander, Earl of Buchan.

Duncan Forbes had a charter of the same lands from Alexander III, king of Scotland about 1271. Recording of charters to lands began in this century.

John of Forbes held three lands, - (1) Forbes, from the crown, (2) Edinbanchory, (3) Craiglogy from the Earl of Mar. He was sherrif of Aberdeen. His wife's name was Margaret.

Sir John Forbes succeeded to the estate before 1387 and by further acquisitions increased the family possessions. He was knighted about 1390. He died in 1405. He had four sons - (1) Alexander. (2) Sir William of Kinaldy, who married Agnes, daughter of William Frazer of Philorth, with whom he got the Pitsligo estate, and was ancestor of the Lords Pitsligo. (3) Sir John who got Tolquhoun by marriage with Margery, daughter and co-heir of Sir Henry Preston of Formatin, and was ancestor of the Forbeses of Tolquhoun, Foveran, Waterton, and Cullondon. (4) Alaster Cam who got Brux by marriage with the daughter and heir of Sir Henry Cameron, and was ancestor of the Forbeses of Brux.

Sir Alexander Forbes, first Lord Forbes. (See British Dictionary of National Biography, Vol XIX p. 376.) In 1407 he accompanied Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, and Sir Walter Lindsay in an expedition to England to tilt with Lord Beaumont and other English knights. Wyntoun calls him a knight of Mar, and praises the worthy manner in which he and his comrades upheld the honor of their country on the fields of chivalry. In 1419 he formed one of the contingent of Scottish knights who with their followers responded to the appeal of Charles, dauphin

of France to Scotland for help against the English. He took part in the war then going on, and was present at the battle of Beaugé, March 22, 1421. He visited James I of Scotland when in captivity in England. He was made a Lord of Parliament as Lord Forbes about 1442. He married Elizabeth, daughter of George Douglas, Earl of Angus. (Read "Marmion" by Sir Walter Scott.) She was a grand daughter of Robert II, king of Scotland, her ancestry running back 20 generations through Robert Bruce famous for perseverance after watching the seven efforts of a spider. Other ancestors of Elizabeth included King Duncan I, killed by Macbeth, King Alfred the Great, and the first kings of both England and Scotland. Alexander Forbes died in 1448 leaving five children

7. James, second Lord Forbes, (See Dictionary of National Biography, Vol XIX p. 376) had in 1456 a license to fortify his castle of Drumminor otherwise called Forbes, then the chief seat of the family. (The name Castle Forbes has since been transferred to Putachie.) He married Edigia, daughter of William, first Earl of Marischiel. He died in 1460 or 1461. There were four children, - (1) William the third Lord Forbes The present Lord Forbes is descended from him in a direct line. He is referred to in later paragraphs. (2) Duncan, married Christian, daughter of Mercer of Ballief, and was ancestor of the Forbeses of Corsindae and Monymusk. (3) Patrick of Corse, Aberdeenshire, from whom sprang the Forbeses of Craigievar and the Earls of Granard. (4) Egidia married Malcolm Forbes of Tolquhoun.
8. The Hon Patrick Forbes was armour bearer to King James III of Scotland, who gave him the estate at Corse. He founded the house of Forbes of Corse.
9. David Forbes, called "Trail of the Axe"
10. Patrick Forbes, married Marjory Lumsden.
11. William Forbes, an early adherent of the reformation, married Elizabeth Strachan, daughter of the Laird of Thornton. There were six children, - (1) Patric, Bishop of Aberdeen, born 1564, died 1636. (2) William (3) Rev John Forbes, minister of Alford, Aberdeenshire, and Delft Holland. (4) Alexander. (5) James. (6) Sir Arthur Forbes, settled in Ireland, ancestor of the present Earl of Granard. (See Burke's Peerage, p. 474) The coats of arms of four branches of the Forbes clan can be seen in Burke's Peerage.
12. Rev. John Forbes 1568(?) - 1634. (See dictionary of National Biography, p. 401. and a history of Scotland by Andrew Lang Vol II p. 481-488) Rev. Forbes was educated at the university of St. Andrews where he took the degree of M.A. in 1583 and was ordained minister of Alford in 1593. He soon rose to distinction in the church, and when the proceedings of the synods of Aberdeen and Moray against the Marquis of Huntly, the pillar of Romanism in the north, were interfered with by the privy council, he was sent by them to London to seek redress from the king. This was King James VI of Scotland who became King James I of England in 1603. In their letter to King James they state that Forbes had been specially chosen because of his fidelity and uprightness, and his sincere affection born to the kingdom of God, his majesty's service, and peace of the land. He went to the court in 1605, was graciously received by the king, and succeeded in the object of his mission. In July 1605 he was appointed moderator of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of Scotland. These assemblies had been held each year but the king through whom we have the King James I.

of the bible, had come to the conclusion that the Presbyterian church was becoming too strong, so he, being an Episcopalian, had issued an order as king that no more assemblies be held. He said that the non-conformists should conform, otherwise he would harry them out of the land or else do worse. He was sowing the wind with both hands, and his measures against the Catholic priests brought on the gun powder plot. He has been referred to as the wisest fool in Europe at that time. He had prorogued the previous year's assembly because it would have interfered with a meeting of commissioners to consider union of the two countries. On September 27th 1604 he issued an order forbidding the preachers to gather conventions without the royal consent. Having heard that the ministers meant to meet, he forbade this action on June 20th, 1605. In July James again put off the assembly. The ministers had reason to believe that he intended to put an end to their assemblies. They felt that whatever the consequences a firm stand must be taken.

The royal commissioner, Straiton of Lauriston, went to Aberdeen and attempted to dissuade the gathered preachers, nineteen in all, from disobeying the king. However they were resolute, although the moderator of the last assembly was not present to hand on the golden chain of continuity. They had elected Forbes moderator and another man clerk when Straiton, the royal commissioner, interrupted their proceedings. They asserted themselves to be a lawful assembly which Straiton denied. He bade them quit the assembly, under pain of horning, a severe Scotch legal procedure, and they obeyed, adjourning to a day not appointed by James. When Forbes and others were summoned before the privy council to answer for their disobedience, they declined its jurisdiction as the matter was spiritual, and offered to submit their conduct to the judgment of the church. For this Forbes and five others were imprisoned, tried for high treason, found guilty by a packed jury and banished from the king's dominions for life.

Forbes was a man of high standing and considerable estate. It is fair to assume that he knew the power and intent of the king, as the king was over the church, and to assume otherwise was radical for those times. Yet he apparently felt that the royal control of ecclesiastical affairs had no moral or ethical basis, and existed only by reason of long established custom. He calmly and deliberately decided to give up home, estate and position for the principle of separation of church and state. We have that today through just such bold sacrifices.

In the year 1215 king John was forced to sign the Magna Carta which provided that a man was entitled to a trial by a jury of his equals. Forbes being a man of estate, was tried by a jury whose members were similarly situated. The king threatened to confiscate their estates if the man was found innocent. He was found guilty. However he had the courage to stand up and defy king and council in defence of his position and the historian says that what he told them made their "hairs to stand on end". His estates were confiscated and he was exiled.

After taking an affecting farewell of their friends, the exiles sailed from Leith for Bordeaux November 7th, 1606. On reaching France Forbes visited Boyd of Trochrig at Saumur and then went to Sedan. For some years he appears to have travelled much, visiting the reformed churches and the universities in which many of his countrymen then held professorships. In 1611 he was settled as pastor of a British congregation at Middleburg, Holland, and in the following year he and his brother Arthur, then an officer in the Swedish service, spent several weeks at Sedan with their distinguished kinsman Andrew Melville. Soon after this he was released from banishment on terms which he could not accept. In 1616 he was in London for several months and saw king James who promised to revoke his sentence of exile but he never did.

After a ministry of ten years at Middleburg where he was greatly respected, he became pastor of the British church at Delft, Holland, the port from which the Mayflower sailed in 1620. In 1628, Charles I influenced by Laud began to interfere with the worship and discipline of the English and Scotch churches in the Netherlands, and Forbes was ultimately removed from his charge. He died in 1634 aged about 66. He was held in honor by the reformed churches abroad for character, talents and learning, and was revered by many of his own countrymen as one who had suffered for righteousness sake. He was the author of several books and sermons.

He married Christian, daughter of Barclay of Mathers. His sons Arthur and John were colonels in the Dutch service. One of these is reported to have afterwards fought on the side of the covenanters. A third son Patrick became bishop of Caithness. Patrick was in Scotland in 1638 and signed the national covenant in the presence of the general assembly held in Glasgow in that year. In an account of the assembly it is stated that Mr. Patrick Forbes was so much more gladly received than his father before him had been "ane sufferer for the truth of Jesus Christ." To him the moderator said these words, "Come forward, Mr. Patrick. Before, ye were the son of a most worthy father, but now ye appear to be the most worthy son of ane most worthy father" In later years when he was appointed bishop in the Episcopal church, the Presbyterians referred to him as the "degenerate son of ane excellent father". Son James became minister of Abecorn. All three daughters married in Scotland.

13. The history of Plymouth County, Massachusetts contains the following "The Fobes family is of Scotch ancestry, descending probably from Rev. John Forbes who was moderator of the general assembly of the church of Scotland holden at Aberdeen July 2, 1605. His son John came to Plymouth with the remnant of John Robinson's church in 1636". Many of the Pilgrims who came in the Mayflower, and the boats that followed later, lived in Holland before coming to Massachusetts. Many lived in Leyden, which is near Delft where Rev. John Forbes took up his pastorate about the time that the Mayflower left. They apparently had to come through Delft to board the boat at Delft Haven. It is natural to suppose that John Forbes the younger was acquainted with the pilgrims who came in the Mayflower and with those who were left in Delft. The thirty five thousand in Holland who were forced out of Britain by religious intolerance had much in common and we may assume that John Forbes chose to cast his lot with Rev. Robinson's flock at Leyden and to come over with the last load in 1636 which was two years after his father died.

It is a matter of history that the pilgrims left Holland because their children were growing up to be more Dutch than British. Many British had difficulty with the Dutch names and the Dutch with the English. Inter-marriages became a worry. The letters V and F are used much the same in Dutch. After thirty years in Holland Forbes became Vobes. When he came to Plymouth or to Duxbury just across the bay, he was among people who knew him in Holland as Vobes. In 1954 an exchange student from Holland told her hostess in California about bathing in the "Line" river. Her Kiwanis hosts were puzzled, and asked her where this "Line" river was. She blushed and explained that this was as near as her Dutch tongue could come to pronouncing the letter R. She soon learned to say Rhine. Apparently Forbes became Fobes the same way. If they pronounced it Folbes it would sound like Fobes.

Here are some of the traditions that have survived to this day as stated in letters from living descendents, - "Father told me that the family left their country because they would not serve under the king, and I got the impression that the name was changed from Forbes to Fobes

at that time." - - "My father told me they were rebels to the crown. Their estates were confiscated." - - "My father used to say that they left their country for their country's good." - - "I do not know how we came to have the coat of arms. I am sure that my father believed it to have come from father to son for many generations." - - "Tradition says that the family came from Holland to this country, although of Scotch descent." - - "The family has it's coat of arms, a picture of which is in the possession of cousins living in Ohio."

This picture is now in California. It is the Lord Forbes coat of arms, varied somewhat, but with the old motto "GRACE ME GUIDE", the three boars heads, an armoured knight, and crested with a deer head. It is a beautiful pen and ink drawing in colors on parchment brittle with age, with frame in a state of decay. Due to color photography and the much appreciated generosity of the owner, some other branches of the family now enjoy owning copies. On the drawing is a suspended drape on which is inscribed "The armorial ensign of the name of Fobes"

The present Lord Forbes stated in a letter dated July 23, 1952 that the librarian of Aberdeen University had checked their records which showed seven children of Rev. John Forbes, two of whom, John and Arthur were Colonels in the Dutch service. Lord Forbes went out of his way to help us get information from Scotland. He politely returned money sent to him. We owe him many thanks. In a letter of January 28, 1921 he wrote, "Please convey a most cordial greeting to my fellow clansmen from their chief, and tell them that if any of them happen to be in the old country and I can be of any assistance to them that I hope they will not hesitate to call on me." At the suggestion of Lord Forbes, an effort was made to check records in Holland. The gracious personnel of the Royal Library at The Hague under director Dr. L. Brummel spent three months in a search. Arthur Forbes was mentioned several times but no record of John Forbes was found. They stated that during the war the greater part of the archives of the Dutch war department were lost. No charge was made but money sent was applied on purchase of books describing the great flood of 1953, published and sold for flood relief by those worthy people.

The following information is taken from Mitchell's history of Bridgewater, Winston's history of Duxbury and from Pioneers of Massachusetts. John Fobes, one of fifteen young men who landed in Duxbury, Plymouth county, Massachusetts in 1636 is the first of this family to land on American soil. He was a tailor of Duxbury, and appears in the court records of August 5th, 1636, and is put down as a proprietor. In 1637 he was known to be at Powder Point, also at Green Harbor. It was about this time that he married Constant Mitchell, sister of Experience Mitchell, who came from England in the third ship Ann in 1623, and who removed from Plymouth to Duxbury in 1631. He was granted land at Powder Point and built a house there and lived there five years. His name appears among the list of men who were able to bear arms in 1643. He moved to Bridgewater in 1643, was one of the original proprietors and became one of it's prominent citizens. He died there in 1661-2.

In the records of the colony of Plymouth there are two entries regarding John Fobes. (1) Vol III p. 200 June 13, 1660 - "In answere unto a request made to the court by the widdow Vobes requesting some supply of land in respect unto the conditions of an indenture made betwixt Mr. Isacke Allerton and her husband John Vobes lately deceased, the court gives liberty that any for her may looke out some land for her supply and a competency wilbee granted and confirmed unto her."

(2) Vol IV p. 18 June 3, 1662 "Captaine Willett is appointed by the court to purchase land of the Indians, which is granted unto such that were servants and to others that were ancient free men etc. Their names are as followeth;" - The 24 names include John Vobes.

The children of John Fobes were John, Edward, Mary, Caleb, William, Joshua and Elizabeth. Son John died in Sandwich, Mass., in 1661. Deacon Edward Fobes was born in Bridgewater, Mass., in 1651. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Howard. In 1681 he was one of the constables of Bridgewater. He was summoned to serve on the jury three times 1684-9. In 1691 he was on a committee to mark out a road for the town. He was part owner of a saw mill. All nine children were born in Bridgewater. Their names were Elizabeth, John, Mary, Bethiah, Hannah, Ephraim, Joshua, Benjamin, and William. Deacon Edward died 1732.

Deacon Caleb Fobes went to Norwich (Preston) Connecticut. He owned land in Norwich in 1672. In 1684-5 he was one of the constables. He had several grants of land from the Indian sachem Uncas, chief of the Mohegan Indians. He was church deacon, selectman, town treasurer, and committeeman on land and highways. He married (1) Sarah Gager, and (2) Marcy Huntington by whom he had the following five children - Sarah, Mary, Caleb, John & Elizabeth.

William Fobes married Elizabeth, daughter of Constant Southworth in 1667, and settled in Little Compton, Rhode Island, and was with Captain Church in King Phillip's war. He was born in 1649 and died Nov. 6, 1712. His second wife was Mrs. Martha (Pabodie) Simmons whom he married late in life. He had two daughters, - Elizabeth and Constant (Mrs. John Little) and possibly others.

Joshua fought with Capt. Michael Pierce in Scituate, and was killed at Rehoboth in 1676.

Many families have their genealogies showing the line back to John Fobes of Duxbury. This is compiled only to show the Forbes ancestry farther back. Some of the clan have changed the name back to Forbes for convenience or to be correct, Judge Charles Edward Forbes who willed his fortune to found the Forbes library at Northampton, Mass. was one of these. But those of us who cling to the shorter name can feel that the name is linked to the beginnings of America. Many things American came by way of Holland with the pilgrims. So did our name. It is a distinctly American name for one of the oldest American families.

About 50 descendents bearing the name Fobes are recorded as revolutionary soldiers, among them Gen. Abner Fobes, and Rev. Perez Fobes chaplain of Washington's army. Many descendents have been men of ability and distinction in many lines of activity, but no list is attempted here.

This sketch is compiled in the hope that some descendents of John Fobes may find it interesting to know their remote background. It may encourage them as school students or as older students of history to take more interest in that subject. It may inspire others to study Scotch and ecclesiastical history. Those who do will get more out of the first part of this account.

When the compiler of this began his research he did not know the name of his great grandfather and certainly did not expect to go back through 21 generations and seven centuries. The hunt has lead to many very pleasant associations and friendships.

Our line of descent is John¹ Edward² John³ John⁴ Edward⁵ John⁶ John⁷ Frank⁸ Harry E.⁹ (Born in Chicago April 22, 1881)

Persons desiring copies of this in future years should write to son John D. Fobes, care of Fobes and Gray, 3227 Verdugo Rd. Los Angeles 65.

Harry E. Fobes

April 1955

Sioux City Journal
July 25 - 1954

Story Of Andy Forbes, Gold Miner, Real Estate Speculator and Livery Stable Operator.

This is a saga of Andy Forbes, Scotch immigrant lad who came to this country at the age of 11, experienced the high adventure of the California Gold Rush, the Chicago Real estate boom and pioneer Sioux City; made and gave away several fortunes, and died a saddened and disillusioned man at age 64 in a farm home near Sioux City.

By Willis F. Forbes.

In Sioux City's early days when a young man went courtin' he didn't drive up in front of his best girl's home in a gleaming red convertible--or even a hot rod jalopy.

In those days he went to the town's livery stable and rented an elegant buggy drawn by a team of high spirited horses. And if that young man happened to live in Sioux City between 1868 and 1874 it was to Andy Forbes' livery stable he went to hire a rig.

Andy's livery stable was located at the northeast corner of 5th and Douglas st. His main barn, which housed some 75 blooded carriage horses and scores of gleaming pleasure carriages, was situated where the Hansen Glass and Paint Co. building now stands. His stable yards covered the entire block which included ground now occupied by the First National Bank, the War Eagle building, the Call Bond & Mortgage Co. building and all other structures now standing on that square block of property.

The town livery stable in those days was a very important business establishment, if one can believe the Sioux Daily Times which on July 18, 1869, in column 4 on page 4 says "There is perhaps no other establishment that can be taken as a reflex of the intelligence, cultivated taste, and prosperity of a city as its livery stable.

Andy must have placed an appreciated 'ad' in the Daily Times or have done the editor some other favor, for the article went on at great length to extoll the virtues of the Forbes stables. It continued: "It is safe to assert that the livery stables of Andrew Forbes, on the corner of 5th and Douglas sts, present as fine an array of blooded stock, matched teams and well trained roadsters as any similar establishment in the western states. His carriage houses are filled with a seemingly endless variety of carriages, elegant barouches, new style buggies and other vehicles. He has recently added two large additions to his already extensive stables. Mr. Forbes informs us that he is about to add two additional buildings in order to keep pace with his growing business. But that wasn't all. The Times editorial apparently believed in laying it on thick. It continued: "When it is taken into consideration that Mr. Forbes came here less than two years ago and that during this brief period he has built up a business that would supply the demand of other places three times our size and age, it evinces the cultivated and recreative tendencies of our people and their appreciation of the healthful pleasures experienced and to be derived from holding therein over fast and spirited roadsters, when the latter are attached to elegant and costly buggies and Mr Forbes keeps just such outfits as we have alluded to.

Andy Forbes was equipped to handle winter driving problems too, for on Nov. 25, 1869, the Sioux City Times on pg. 4 reported: "Mr. Andrew Forbes, the enterprising livery stable proprietor on Douglas st. has just received a splendid lot of elegant sleighs. The youth of our city can always find a fashionable turnout at our friend Forbes.

Well, who was this Andy Forbes? First of all, let me interject, he was my paternal grandfather. --probably the least of his accomplishments.

According to the Sioux City Times, Andy Forbes' livery stable was quite an institution and Andy, himself, must have been quite a guy. All that I knew about my grandfather was what I had heard from my family--stories that had been told and retold and apparently improved with the telling. My father had some choice ones. And every time he told them they were better than before. He told them so many times that I think he believed them himself. Maybe they WERE true! Far be it from me to question my father's veracity. So I began investigating for myself. In the mean time my father had passed away. I queried my mother, my older brother and anyone else I thought might shed some light on my ancestral history.

From our family Bible, I obtained the date of grandfather's death. It was May 4, 1888. I found his obituary in the Sioux City Journal of May 5th. that year. It gave some facts but more important to me, it ended with this comment: "Andy Forbes was dead--genial generous Andy Forbes". So old Andy (a Scotsman) was generous! On later investigation, I discovered that those words were not idle comment. Duve'll come to that later. How about some statistical facts?

Here they are as they have been compiled from the Journal's obituary, the family Bible and other sources of knowledge. Andy Forbes was a descendant of the Scottish Clan Mhorquinn which took its name from the Aberdeenshire parish of Forbes. The Clan's war cry was, Cath Ghlinn Eurann. (The Battle of Glen Eurann). Also "The Lonach Highlanders." The official badge was and still is, Bealaidh, a broom. The Forbes Clan according to Media Research Bureau, which furnished this information, was of the nobility. It dates back to John of Forbes who seems to have been a man of some importance in the time of William, the Lion, That was way back in the early 12th century.

There were many Forbeses after that. To be sure, for the Forbeses were a reproductive clan and from the records it seems that they were always ready for a fight. The Forbeses served in the war against Richrythe vth. when one of them was raised to peerage by James I as Baron Forbes. That was about 1442. Then there was Alexander IV Lord of Forbes, who was in arms with this clan to revenge the murder of James III, but after the defeat at Tillymoss, he submitted to James IV. John, VI Lord Forbes, stood high in the favor of James V from whom he got many charters. This could go on apparently without end, according to the genealogical research bureau which furnished this report.

But let's get back to Andy Forbes, my grandfather. Andy, seemingly endowed with no heritage from his noble ancestry other than a hankering for adventure and the intestinal fortitude to go in search for it, was born in Perth, Scotland, in 1824. He came to this country at the age of 11 months with his parents, two brothers and two sisters. The family settled in Waukesha, Wis.

But young Andy wasn't content to sit still. When the news of the gold strike in California in 1849 arrived, young Andy was off. He made his way to N.Y. where he shipped as a deck hand on a sailing vessel bound for San Francisco by way of Cape Horn. In due time he arrived at the city by the Golden Gate.

From there on the record is somewhat obscure, but in due course of time Andy emerged a rich man. He owned a large ranch in Alameda County, served for a period as sheriff of that county and spent much time in San Francisco where shrewd men were making fortunes overnight.

O, yes, Andy acquired a wife, Lucretia Horner who bore him 4 children: Emma Andrew (my father), Josephine and Anna. Lucretia Horner, my grandmother had a son by a previous marriage. He was JOHN M. HORNER, of whom you will hear much more later.

There seems to have been marital difficulties (we'll say that Andy was to blame) for the marriage ended in divorce, Andy gave her a substantial cash settlement, took the three older children, Emma, Andy (my father) and Josephine Horn, for overland travel in those days was by stagecoach, which was long, uncertain and hazardous especially for one who packed a roll--and according to the stories I heard Andy was well heeled.

Andy returned to Waukesha where in due course of time he married Jennie Egbert a music teacher, widow with one son. Attracted by stories of opportunities for investment in a new midwestern city called Sioux City, Andy and his new wife set out for the land of opportunity arriving here in 1868. Before long he was in the livery stable business. The Sioux City Journal of May 1888 in Andy's obituary notice said: "He established a wide circle of friends here and Andy Forbes for a number of years was one of the best known characters in town.

The Forbeses were reported to have been the owners of the first piano in Sioux City. It was shipped here by river boat from New Orleans. The following poetical tribute to Andy Forbes is contained in a well worn book of John Brennens poems published in 1878 by Geo. D. Perkins, printer and binder. The book was given to me by Fritz Hagy. The poem is entitled Andy Forbes' Prayer.

'Twas winter in the new northwest, 'Twas late in February too;
Border did his level best to blow the worst he ever blew,
The human breathings rose and fell, in icy pellets on the snow--
Such cold would freeze the fires of Hell, if it could only strike below.

And ye who live in southern climes, or round the blazing parlor stove,
Who pass the dreadful winter time in games of chess and tales of love
Ye little know--and at the best can but a faint idea form
Of winter in the new northwest, when comes the dreadful prairie storm.

The earth is covered deep in snow, the sun obscured, the heavens black,
And like the whirlwinds rise--and woe, to those unsheltered in their track.

And like the darkness that of old In Egypt over spread the land,
The man unsheltered from the cold Can feel the darkness with his hand.

Well, such a blinding blizzard blew upon the day of which we write
The place, the valley of the Sioux, the time an hour before the night;
The persons--heros, I should say--Two men whose spirits never flag,
Auld Andy Forbes," and Dr. Ebragg,

No ear was near to hear them shout, No shed nor sheltering cottage near;
And if there were I strongly doubt, that they could either see nor hear.
And so they sought the last resort in danger--they resolved to pray
And if the prayer was wondrous short, 'twas deeply earnest in its way.

To pray the Doctor had forgot (if how to pray he ever knew)
So Andy sighed and smiled and squat upon his knees, to pray for two
And while he squat and trembled there, His early faith and Christian lessons
Came to his aid and Scottish prayer, went up in concentrated essence.

Quote Andy: Sinners squat and pray and ask Thy favors once a week,
I hear them every Sabbath Day As grace and righteousness they seek;
Now I for once a favor crave, Guid Lord, protect the Doc and me,
Our bodies from the blizzard save, Nor let us on the prairie dee."

As once the sun on Gideon stood, a righteous army to reward,

To give them light to shed the blood of men, and thus to serve the Lord. Even now the wintry sun stood still, the storm abated and the pair were rescued from impending ill, by Andy's concentrated prayer.

'Moral'

Live well, as Andy Forbes has done, Be grateful to the source of good, All mockery of Devotion shun, Pray not, if not in praying mood. But in the moment of your need, pray fervent, and on Heaven depend. The chance then is you will succeed, and save a heap of time and wind.

The livery stable business prospered, The Sioux City Times of Feb. 24, 1869, on pg. 4 carried this notice.

"Mammoth Livery Stable

Andrew Forbes enlarges his livery stable,

Present building 50 by 50

Addition will be 100 feet.

Accommodations for 75 horses and vehicles.

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But Andy's feet were beginning to itch again. He sold out in 1874 and moved to Chicago. Selling out was fortunate for Andy at least in one respect. A few years later the whole Douglas st. layout burned to the ground. The Journal of Apr. 9th. 1885 reported "Fire destroyed two livery stables on Douglas st. between 5th and 6th. It started in Shipley's stables at 5th and spread to Broadbent's. Eleven ponies belonging to Geo. Shipley were burned. All the horses at Broadbent's were saved. The Congregational Church suffered some damage. The Broadbent stable was owned by Geo. Kingsworth. Fire again ravaged the place in 1888.

Andy Forbes reached Chicago at the beginning of a period of wild speculation and it wasn't long before Andy was in the midst of it. At one time he owned considerable property in the down-town loop. But the west beckoned Andy again. This time it was Colorado where the rich mineral resources of that area were being discovered. Leaving his wife and children Andy set out for Colorado. He invested heavily in mining property and within a few years amassed another fortune. Meanwhile his music teacher wife in Chicago obtained a divorce and got possession of all the Chicago property.

It was about this time that John M. Horner, the stepson, asked Andy for \$60,000 and got it to start a sugar plantation in Hawaii. That was the last Andy saw of John Horner and his money. It seems that Andy's luck was running out for from that time on he suffered one loss after the other. Broken in health, alone and almost broke financially, Andy returned to Sioux City in Sept. 1887. He died the next May at the home of a sister, Mrs. Daniel Don, 17 miles south of Sioux City near Blyberg, Nebr.

My father drove out to visit him on Friday, sat up and talked with him all night and left on Sat. A.M. thinking that Andy was much improved. Two hours later he was dead. Cause of death was dropsy. The paper notice said "Previous to his death he had not lain in bed for 18 months, and the day before death he measured 53 inches around the waist. Old Andy and other members of the Forbes family are buried in the Floyd Cemetery.

O, yes, about that \$60,000 grudge--During that all night talk he told my father that he had received a letter from John Horner, in which he had stated that he was ready and able to pay the loan back with interest. The letter was never found and it is believed that it was probably buried with him. It is a family tradition that this \$60,000 was the foundation of a fabulous fortune and the beginning of the modern Horner Sugars Co. of Hawaii of which the Dole Pineapple is said to be a subsidiary. Whether or not there is any truth to it I do not know but seems to be established the money was

never paid back

"Retirement Closes Long News Career"

Bill Forbes ends 46 years Journal Service.

The man who is managing editor and executive editor has directed the heart of operations of the Journal news department for 17 years has called it a day.

When Willis F. ("Bill") Forbes covered up his typewriter and walked from his office last Saturday he brought to a close one of the most out-standing and varied newspaper careers in Sioux City history.

It was the end of a total of 46 years and 8 mos. of service with the Journal a period which included every task in the news department from bottom to top.

And more than being a news executive Mr. Forbes, over the years has found time to give of his talents to many community services and activities. He long has been the man who managed the campaign for the annual Goodfellow fund for which thousands of dollars are raised each year to bring cheer at Christmas time to the city's needy children.

Diverse Fields.

He has given his energy to a diversity of fields. He has been a promotor of sports events, authored books on usage of words and conducted radio programs in that field. He has been active in Masonic Lodge work and has gained a reputation for his skill at woodworking, his favorite hobby. His one-sentence editorials have been syndicated as SPARKS over the nation.

These are some of his achievements for the public record. But to his staff his retirement is the end of an era. There is none in the news department of the Journal today who has not worked for Mr. Forbes, and none whose length of service equals his.

To the news men and women who have worked for him he has been "Bill" the boss whose office door was always open to them. He has been a sympathetic and gentle, yet exacting, tutor to those who began under him and has the satisfaction of knowing that many men he has trained have become successful in broader fields.

And to his staff he has ever been the stickler for accuracy in news as a profound student of the correct use of words. When the wrong word creeps in an item in the haste of meeting dead-lines it makes him wince.

He tried to give his people assignments that fitted their talents and pleased their preference. As he put it, "I think people happy in their work do better jobs."

A kindly boss he never-the-less, as some of his veterans learned, has the knack of courteously and firmly pointing out their mistakes.

Perhaps as fine a tribute as he has ever received from his staff was an observation made years ago by the late Editha K. Webster, long time Journal woman; editor who was quite a newspaper woman herself. "Bill," she said, "never put a pencil to a piece of copy but what he improved it."

A meticulous man for detail, he is well qualified for the various promotions he undertook and the systems he worked out. Long ago, he devised a system of election reporting and charts that still are used efficiently by the Journal and some other news media who participate.

His insistence on correct word usage led him to write a book, "The Right Word" in 1932, and a follow-up work "Adventures in Words" in 1944. Many Sioux Cityans will remember the daily and weekly radio programs he conducted for several years over station KBCJ under the title "Adventure in Words".

Sports fans remember him as the man who for two decades was in charge of the Sioux City Golden Gloves amateur boxing tournaments and the Hole-in-one golf tournaments sponsored for many years by the Journal.

Mr. Forbes was born in Sioux City and has spent all his life here except for a few years in childhood when his family lived at Granville, Iowa.

He made his way up the hard way. As a high school boy he helped in the Mail room of the former Tribune wrapping singles those copies of a paper which go to farther points where there is only a single subscriber. He also solicited circulation.

Mr. Forbes went to Morningside College where he graduated in 1920 with a bachelor of arts degree. But by that time he already had begun his career in the news field. He was college correspondent for the Journal in 1915 and did his job so well that he became a full time reporter the following year. He handled every news run and desk position on the newspaper and by 1922 had been promoted to City Editor.

After serving as City Editor until 1941 he became Sunday editor and assistant managing editor. On Jan 1, 1946 he was appointed managing editor. About a year ago he was given the honorary title of Executive Editor.

Mr. Forbes was one of the founders and first board members of the Jr. Chamber of Commerce and served as a member of the board of Directors of the Senior Chamber of Commerce for two terms.

He is a member of Landmark lodge 103 A.F. & A.M., Sioux City Consistory 5 and Abu Bekr temple of the Shrine, Greater Sioux City Athletic association, Sioux City Humane Society, Iowa Associated Press Managing Editors association and the National Associated Press Managing Editors Association.

The original Sioux City Sue contest was conducted by Mr. Forbes in 1946 and he also conducted the second such contest in 1950.

Flood publicity campaigns in 1952 and 3 also were a responsibility of Mr. Forbes.

WAR SERVICE.

During World War I, Mr. Forbes served overseas with the 47th Coast Artillery regiment and had been promoted to Sergeant by time of his discharge.

For 20 years, Mr. Forbes was in charge of Sioux City Golden Glove amateur contests, from which the profits were turned over to the Goodfellow fund and for 3 years he was a director of the Golden Glove Writers Assn. of America, serving as Vice President in 1957. He also was a director of the Journal-Tribune Charities, Inc. for 10 years.

In connection with his wood working hobby, in recent years, Mr. Forbes has developed a specialty of making plaques and name-plates which have become cherished gifts by a number of organizations, and friends.

He and his wife Myrtle, reside at 3068 Stone Park Blvd. and for the present expect to continue to live there and make some southern tours.

There's one of Mr. Forbes' accomplishments that is staying with the Journal. Twelve years ago he conceived the idea of a small daily newspaper panel with a pithy message or a succinct observation accompanied by a drawing. It has been syndicated and distributed nationally and internationally. It was called SPARKS, SPARKS. And it'll stay right on page one of the Journal.