



### **Douds Railroad Depot 1907**

The Douds railroad depot was built about 1907, replacing one that was built in the 1860's.

The first trains were those of the Keokuk, Fort Des Moines and Minnesota RR, reaching Douds in September of 1860.

For a six month period ending June 30, 1869, 616 passengers, 346 tons of wheat, 187 tons of coal and 10 tons of butter/eggs, among many other commodities, were transported.

The depot officially closed in November, 1972 with the line abandoned soon thereafter.

Faced with destruction of this historic structure, local citizens formed the Douds Historical Preservation Association, Inc. in 1974 to save the depot.

With the personal interest and generosity of Leon Yates, owner of Douds Stone, Inc., the Van Buren Foundation, local businesses and individuals, the association moved the depot to its present location in Yates Park on land donated to the association by Mr. Yates.

The depot with its unusual architecture is only one of four depots that have been saved and restored in Van Buren County. It serves as a railroad and mining museum and a tribute to those local industries and businesses past and present.



### **Valley No. 3 Country School 1928**

The Valley No.3 country school, originally located in Sec. 16 of Chequest Twp., was built in 1928, replacing one destroyed by fire in the spring of 1928.

The school continued to function until 1966 when the last of Iowa's country schools were forced to close and consolidate with neighboring districts.

Students listed as attending school in 1928-29 were: Donna & Elizabeth Smith, Lewis Vineyard, Harold, Cleone & James Zeitler, Luzon & Russell Brooks, Grace Grubb, and Henry Hudson.

Following closure as a school, the Chequest Township Trustees assumed ownership of the building and it continued to be used as an election polling place until 1990.

Faced with deterioration and lack of need, the trustees, on Sept. 21, 1995, deeded the school to the Douds Historical Preservation Assn., Inc. The Association moved the structure 6 miles to land it had purchased in Memorial Park in Leando in the fall of 1995, preserving the structure for future generations to enjoy.

The new school's first teacher in 1928, Harold Harryman, Douds, and one of its first grade pupils in 1928, James Zeitler, RR, Douds, were instrumental in saving this historic structure.



### **Mt. Moriah Methodist Church 1892**

There have been three Mt. Moriah Methodist Church buildings on this same site. The first church was built on the site in the year of Iowa statehood, 1846, and was of log construction. That structure was replaced in 1867 by a brick structure which sustained heavy damage by a storm and in 1892 the present structure was built to replace it. The present structure served a Methodist congregation until 1958 when it was closed. The building and lot were deeded to the Mt. Moriah Cemetery Assn., Inc. following closure. After years of care on a very limited budget, the Mt. Moriah Cemetery Assn. deeded the church, in July, 1997, to the Douds Historical Preservation Association, Inc. so total restoration of the structure could become a reality.

The country church is located 2 miles north of Douds at 14889 120<sup>th</sup> St. and is unique in several aspects. It is also one of the only surviving country churches in Van Buren County in near original condition located on the original site of a church/cemetery combination.

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**Our museums are open during special events and are available for individual or group tours by calling Jim Pedrick (641) 936-4485 or Jon Finney (319) 293-3209.**



## Oak Grove No. 8 Country School 1872

The Oak Grove school, located at 15818 Iowa Oak Grove Ave., Douds, served students K-8 from 1872 until 1959. An addition to the school was completed in 1908 to accommodate the growing number of students in the district.

In 1981 the Douds Historical Preservation Assn., Inc. leased the Oak Grove Country School and grounds from the Van Buren Community School District, since that time a complete restoration of the building has been completed with the latest restoration in 2014.

In 2018 the Van Buren Community School sold the property to the Douds Historical Preservation Assn., Inc.

A restored 1895 country church stands a new yards north of the school giving the two the distinction of being the last surviving country church/school combination site in the county.

## HISTORY OF THE DOUDS HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Douds Historical Preservation Association, Inc. was founded and incorporated on July 22, 1974 by Cyrus Greenfield, M.H. Finney, and Jon P. Finney.

The first officers and directors were: Cyrus Greenfield-President, Jon P. Finney-Vice President, Clyde Loomis-Secretary/Treasurer, M.H. Finney-Registered Agent and directors Royale Peacock, Robert Witt, Jim Dick and Rex Richardson.

The association was founded to establish and develop historical interests in the Douds-Leando community.

The association became a public charity under IRS section 501(c)(3) effective May 15, 2010 with contributions being deductible for income tax purposes.

Present officers and directors of the association are: Jon P. Finney-President/Treasurer James A. Pedrick-Vice President/Secretary, and directors Lynn Golden, Dwain Greenfield, Jim Dick, Laura Crist, Don Pool, and Robert Witt.

## FOUNDING OF DOUD'S STATION

The town of Doud's Station plat was filed on Dec. 12, 1866 by brothers Eliab Doud and David Doud, Jr., who settled here in 1843 following their departure from Ohio.

The town name was given by the officials of Keokuk, Fort Des Moines and Minnesota Railroad before the platting of the town. It was later shortened to Douds following the establishment of a post office on November 1, 1869.

Lots were laid out between the railroad and Des Moines River on each side of the old territorial road that connected Fairfield, Iowa and Memphis, Missouri.

The land on which Douds sits was acquired from the Sauk and Fox Indians in the second Black Hawk purchase in 1837. There were already many settlers in the area by this time with Portland, on the south side of the river, an existing village.

The Doud brothers stipulated in their deeds that the property deeded would revert back to the donors should any saloon or other place for selling or disposing of intoxicating liquor be established on them.

## FOUNDING OF PORTLAND

A plat for the town of Portland was filed on February 27, 1838 by Samuel Holcomb, Robert Lagett, David Maggard, Williams S. Burgefs, Zepheniah Holcomb and John Tolman, those having settled there several years earlier on the south banks of the Des Moines River.

A ferry operated between Portland and Douds until 1898 when the first river bridge was built, in opposition to many in Portland who thought a bridge would mean the end of the business community in Portland.

By action of the Van Buren County Board of Supervisors upon receiving a petition on October 12, 1883, the name of Portland was changed to Leando.

# Welcome to...

# Douds-Leando Iowa



Main Street-Douds

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

\* Douds-Leando School Alumni  
4th Friday/Saturday in June  
Everyone Welcome

\*Douds Field Day  
4th Saturday in June  
Parade, Games, Shows

\* Douds Pancake Day  
2nd Saturday in November  
All you can eat at one sitting!

Compliments of.....

**DOUDS HISTORICAL PRESERVATION  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**"PRESERVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE"**

**Douds, Iowa 52551**