

Interesting are these population figures on the State of Iowa:

1836 .....	10,531
1838 .....	22,589
1840 .....	43,112
1846 .....	97,588
1850 .....	192,214
1854 .....	326,013
1860 .....	674,913
1870 .....	1,194,020
1880 .....	1,624,615
1890 .....	1,912,297
1900 .....	2,231,853
1910 .....	2,224,771
1920 .....	2,404,021
1930 .....	2,470,939
1940 .....	2,538,268
1950 .....	2,621,073
1960 .....	2,736,408

## Monona County

Monona County is a name of Indian origin. Its meaning is uncertain, but it has been suggested it possibly might be "peaceful valley." The name of the county was designated by the General Assembly, having been set off and established by an act of the legislature in 1851. Before this it was a part of the county of Benton, and included a range of townships bordering the present eastern county line.

In 1851, after being separated from Benton County it was attached to Polk County for revenue and judicial purposes. In 1853 it was attached to Harrison County for these same reasons.

The county was organized in 1854 by the authorities of Harrison County and in the autumn of that same year the county seat was located by the commissioners appointed by the legislature. They gave the place selected the name of Bloomfield, but there being another town of that name in the State, it was changed to Ashton. The county seat remained in Ashton until the spring of 1858, when, by vote of the people, it was removed to Onawa.

In 1865, the eastern tier of townships, in the original county, was ceded to the county of Crawford under chapter 87, Ninth General Assembly.

The first white man to remain any length of time in Monona County was Aaron Cook who spent the winter here in 1851 herding cattle. The first permanent settler was Isaac Ashton, after whom the old now non-existent town of Ashton was named, who settled here in 1852, two miles north of the present town of Onawa.

The Iowa State and County Directory of 1892 lists 294 public schools in the county which were attended by 4,745 pupils.

### Population of MONONA COUNTY

1854 — 202	1880 — 9,055	1920 — 17,125
1860 — 832	1885 — 12,147	1930 — 18,213
1865 — 1,096	1890 — 14,515	1940 — 18,238
1870 — 3,654	1900 — 17,980	1950 — 16,303
1875 — 5,967	1910 — 16,333	1960 — 13,872

## Onawa and Blencoe

Onawa, the county seat of Monona County in north west Iowa, is located in the west central part of the county. It is situated at the junction of highways U.S. 29 and 75, and State 175 and 37. It is surrounded by rich farm lands of the far-famed Missouri River Valley. There are two schools of thought as to the origin of the name "Onawa." The romanticists say that the town was originally named "Onaway" after an Indian prince famed in the "Song of Hiawatha," and that the name means "wide awake."

Old settlers of a more practical turn of mind insist that the name is a conversion of a phrase used by early pioneers who camped on the site of the early settlement and were "on their way" or "on-a-way," to the western gold fields. However it may have come to be called by its present name, we know the city was laid out in the summer of 1857, and has grown and prospered in its ideal situation between the Missouri and Little Sioux Rivers.

### Population of ONAWA

1900 — 1,933	1910 — 2,026
1920 — 2,256	1930 — 2,538
1940 — 3,438	1950 — 3,498
1960 — 3,168	

The town of Blencoe is located seven miles south of Onawa in the southwestern part of Monona County. It was laid out in the summer of 1881 by the Missouri Valley Land Company and the plat for it was filed for record September 23, 1881. Previous to this, however, business had been transacted at this point, Robert Crego opening a store on the site of the elevator in the fall of 1869, where the post office was also located.