

## BRIDGEWATER.

The land on which Bridgewater was located was originally owned by O. A. Howard, who cultivated it as a farm. At a very early day Mr. J. B. Cox built a mill on the One Hundred and Two River where Bridgewater was afterwards situated. In 1870, Page, Warren & Phelps, contractors of the Branch Railroad, bought the Howard tract of land and laid off the town of Bridgewater. The One Hundred and Two River near Bridgewater makes an elbow toward the west. At this bend in the river there are two railroad bridges within about one thousand feet of each other with a county bridge located between them, bridging the water of the One Hundred and Two three times. The bridges being placed in close proximity to each other, naturally suggested the name of the town. William Elrod & Son built the first house in the town, and opened a general stock of merchandise. John W. Walker was the first postmaster in Bridgewater. Nelson Wilson, in 1871, moved a building which was a little west of the site, into the town, and opened a stock of mixed merchandise. Mr. Miller built a saloon in 1871, but failing to receive a majority of the votes of White Cloud Township, he did not obtain a license, and so the saloon was not opened.

Meanwhile, Dr. P. H. Talbott had granted the right of way through his land on certain conditions, which resulted in the location of another town called

## ARKOE.

about one mile north of the old town of Bridgewater, which was consequently abandoned. Dr. P. H. Talbott and S. K. Snively laid off the town of Arkoe, September 15, 1874. Judge John Brady surveyed and platted the town. Dr. Talbott found the name in reading the work entitled "Twenty Thousand Miles Under the Sea," and selected it as the name of the new town. There was no public sale of lots. Lot 1, block 3, was presented by S. K. Snively to W. G. Turner. Dr. P. H. Talbott then sold two lots, lots 4 and 5, block 8, to Nelson Wilson for fifty dollars. Nelson Wilson moved a building from the former site of Bridgewater to Arkoe, and opened a store of general merchandise. This was the first building in the new town. Mr. W. G. Turner erected the second building in 1875, and put in a stock of mixed merchandise. C. A. Dewey built a dwelling in 1876, the third building in Arkoe. Dr. W. M. Sammis put up a building in 1877, and still uses it as an office. Mr. S. K. Snively presented a lot to James Buckridge, who built a blacksmith shop in 1878. Mr. Buckridge was the first blacksmith in Arkoe. Nelson Wilson was the first postmaster. The first death in Arkoe occurred July 18, 1880, a son of William Early. The first child was born January 28, 1881, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Bragg.