#### Overview: Curriculum Information and Sample Lesson Plans for Bondurant

By: David Munn Carstensen, Allana Lopez, and Alexus Williams

As part of the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) partnership with the City of Bondurant, we created a curriculum on behalf of the Bondurant Historical Society that would be appropriate for local school-aged children. We have worked to do 3 things: 1) Compile a list of resources on Bondurant history and summarize their contents for teachers in Bondurant who are interested in using this information in the classroom, 2) Create a list of different activities that can be used in the classroom for elementary and middle grades, and 3) Design an activity pack for the Bondurant Historical Society, school libraries, or Bondurant library to hand out for those interested in learning about Bondurant history while completing fun activities and games.

We assembled two resources. First, "Teacher Resources" lists Bondurant history resources with summaries for how the content can be used in the classroom. Hyperlinks can take the reader to different websites and documents. The second, "Sample Lesson Plans" includes the list of different activities for the classroom and pictures of the activity pack shown below. The titles of some of the slides are hyperlinks to different documents.

Included in this document is a classroom activity that engages with reading comprehension. The poem used comes from Bondurant's own *Centennial Book* and can be printed out and distributed at will. The document also lists different ways this activity can be adapted to take up more time or increase or decrease the difficulty depending on the classroom.

Also included in this document is an activity pack. In the style of a newspaper article, the first page details some important history of the town and its founder. A crossword puzzle follows and can be answered from the information inside the article. The word search at the end of the document has a word bank with Bondurant-themed key terms. The intentions for this activity pack are to have an assortment of activities that can be printed out at will by the Historical Society or the libraries to hand out to children or those interested in learning more about Bondurant. The end of this document lists the bibliography of sources used to compile PowerPoints of teacher resources and classroom activities.



"I've Seen Many A Gale"

House built by Hennegers in 1868

I've seen many a gale and windstorm, Tornadoes and cyclones, too.

My age keeps me from standing quite as straight and tall, And my joints aren't as good as new.

But I've seen families come and go along

This country roadway, And seen gravel replaced by a blacktop road, Which is better the people say.

I stand firm upon a rock foundation. Where I overlook the fertile land.

And I can see the nearby farmers Toiling hard with roughened hand. I'm over 100 years old, and was built with square headed nail.

I've sheltered newlyweds and newborn babes Inside, and did not fail.

To keep them safely through the years From kindergarten, till they were on their own.

The only makeup I have used is paint And I need no brush or comb.

Many crops have been harvested on this land, And many people could be fed,

From the grain produced on the rich farmland Which is now the Harry Murrow homestead.

Important definition: gale: a very strong wind

<b>Before you begin</b> , read the title. What can you predict about the text based on the title?	From what point of view is the story being told?

What is the text mainly about?	According to the text, what is the meaning of toiling?
Which adjective best describes the author?  regretful  lonely  proud  irritated	Circle the detail below that best demonstrates the author cares for his town:  I stand firm upon a rock foundation, where I overlook the fertile land.  I've sheltered newlyweds and newborn babes inside, and did not fail.
What evidence from the text best supports your previous answer?	What might the author mean when he says: I'm over 100 years old, and was built with square headed nail.

#### Part 2:

Create your own poem using the stem "I've Seen Many A \_\_\_\_\_" Your poem should be about what you see around Bondurant and how the town might change in the next 100 years.



Figure 1 Alexander Conley Bondurant, 1829-1899

lexander
Conley
(A.C.) Bondurant, the
man who founded the
town of Bondurant,
Iowa, was born on
September 1, 1829, in
Sangamon County,
Illinois. Alexander
grew up in a large

family. His parents, Joseph and Martha Bondurant, had eleven total children, ten of whom survived to adulthood. The early life of Alexander C. Bondurant was quite typical for a rural midwestern child in the early 1800s. In the summer months, he assisted his father and siblings in the cultivation of the farm, and during the winter season, he attended the local district school until he had familiarized himself with such studies as are essential to business success. Alexander's childhood left him with a love of farming, so, upon reaching adulthood, he made a pact with his brother, Thomas. The two brothers both wished to become farmers, so they agreed to work together until they could gather enough money to each buy land.

Alexander and Thomas found employment breaking prairie land with ox teams, and after many years, saved up a large enough fund to invest in farming land. Thomas purchased a quarter section of Government land in Piatt County, Illinois, and began the development of a farm, but Alexander decided to join the tide of emigration from Illinois to Iowa. In 1857, at the age of 28, Alexander Conley Bondurant came to Polk County and made a claim to three hundred and twenty acres in the southwest corner of Franklin Township (although some accounts state that he originally purchased 166 acres, paying \$1.25 per acre). He cleared the land, turned up the untilled soil, and laid the foundation of what became the largest holdings in the county, eventually covering an area of twenty-five hundred acres with a beautiful

home, surrounded with all the environments of luxury and comfort which wealth, good taste and refinement could suggest.

The town of Bondurant isn't named after Alexander just because he built a lovely house; Alexander C. Bondurant is remembered for the many generous donations he made to his community. Very soon after his arrival in Franklin Township, he helped organize a church that was meeting in a schoolhouse in the nearby community of Altoona. A.C. Bondurant donated 40 acres of land to this congregation, the proceeds from which were used to build a proper church building. Some years later he established a church in Bondurant itself and "offered the use of thirty acres of land, which, each Spring, was planted with corn, cultivated and gathered by members of the church." The building that housed this church served many purposes for the growing town of Bondurant. The church used the top floor for their services on the weekends, but during the week, this space was used as a classroom for Bondurant's first school. The building's bottom floor held a small post office and general store. To help this small downtown area grow, Alexander C. Bondurant offered small plots of land to any business looking to open, which resulted in the rapid growth and prosperity of the town. Stores, shops, factories, grain elevators, hotels, a bank, and a newspaper were soon established, and when the Chicago Great Western railroad company began to survey the area, Alexander made sure the new train line came through his growing community by offering the company some of his land free of charge. In 1892 the Chicago Great Western Railroad opened a new station on Alexander Bondurant's land and named it after him in recognition of his gift. This new station attracted new people to the area, and on December 23, 1897, the Town of Bondurant was officially incorporated and named after the man who had done so much to help its growth.

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Across	Down		
2: What is the first name of the founder of Bondurant?	1: What state is the founder of Bondurant originally from?		
4: The Great Western Railroad surveyed the land and helped in the founding of Bondurant.	3: " and Fireflies" is the title of the art piece outside of Bondurant Gateway Park.		
7: The year Bondurant was established as a town.	5: Before becoming a town, the area known as Bondurant was apart of Township.		
9: The county where the founder of Bondurant was born.	6: The name of the county that Bondurant resides in.		
	8: In what year was the founder of Bondurant born?		

#### **Early Bondurant Word Search**

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#### <u> Word Bank</u>

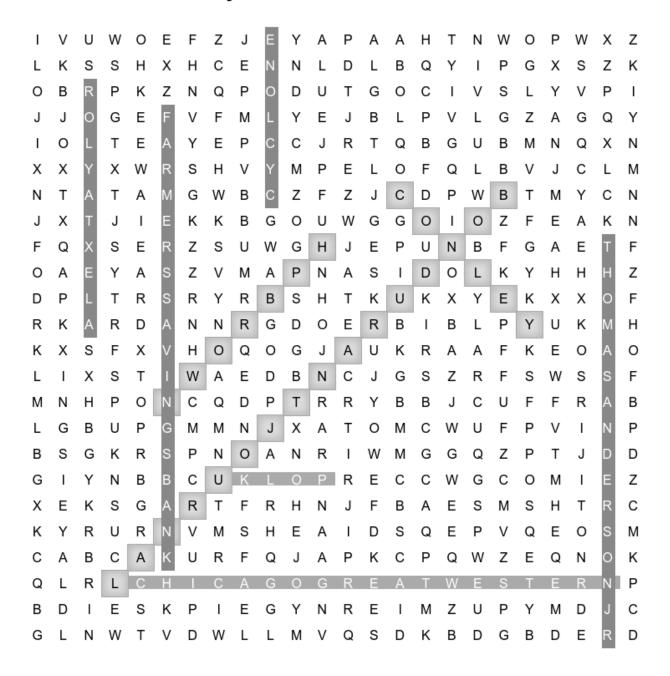
- 1. Conley Middle name of Alexander C. Bondurant, the founder of the town of Bondurant.
- 2. Polk The county Bondurant is located in.
- 3. Alex Taylor Principal of first school in Bondurant.
- 4. Thomas Anderson JR. First individual buried in Bondurant Cemetery.
- 5. Cyclone On May 24th, 1896, a large cyclone swept through Bondurant, destroying many homes and farms.
- 6. Chicago Great Western The name of the first railroad line to come through Bondurant.
- 7. HP Brown Name of the first grain buyer in Bondurant.
- 8. Bondurant Journal Name of Bondurant's first published newspaper, ran from 1911-1915.
- 9. Farmers Savings Bank First bank in Bondurant, opened in 1895.

#### **Answer Key**

Name:

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Word Search Maker

### **Early Bondurant Word Search**



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# Curriculum Information and Sample Lesson Plans for Bondurant



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## Reading Comprehension Assignment



"Tive Seen Many A Gale"

Street Staff to 19

- For seen many a gails and workstorm.

  Tomaction and colleges, too.

  Wu age teeps me from standing quite as straight and tall.
- My age leagur no monthly as good as new.

  And my points even't as good as new.

  But I've seen termine come and go along.

  This popultry roadway.

gale: a very strong wind

- And seen gravel replaced by a blacktop road.

  Which is before the people say.

  I stand from upon a risk boundalow.
- I stand from upon a risck foundation, Where I suerhold the ferrite land. And I rain see the rearrly formers. Tolling hand with roughened hand.

Important definition:

- I'm over 100 years old, and was built
- with opport healted hall.
  I've shallened newlywelds and newborn butters (reside, and did not fail.)
- To keep them safely through the years. From brudespirler, till they were on their sen. The only makeup I have used is point. And I need no brush or comb.
- Styry rings have been harvested on this land, And many people could be fed. From the graw produced on the rich familiand Which is now the Herry Surrice hamesteed.

Before you begin, read the title. What can you predict about the text based on the title?	From what point of view is the story being told
	-

What is the text mainly about?	According to the text, what is the meaning of toilling?
Which adjective best describes the author?  regretful  lonely  proud  irritated	Circle the detail below that best demonstrates the author cares for his town:  I stand firm upon a rock foundation, where I overlook the fertile land.  I've sheltered newlyweds and newborn babes inside, and did not fail.
What evidence from the text best supports your previous answer?	What might the author mean when he says: I'm over 100 years old, and was built with square headed nail.

#### + ~

## Writing Poems based on "I've Seen Many a Gale"

**Activity A.)** Have students create their own poems using the stem "I've Seen Many A \_\_\_\_\_", as seen in "I've Seen Many A Gale."

**Activity B.)** Following the theme of taking pride in one's hometown and community, have students write a poem about what they see around Bondurant and how it might change in the next 100 years.

#### + ~

## Writing Poems based on "I've Seen Many a Gale"

Activity C.) This lesson focuses on understanding rhyme schemes. Using the poem, "I've Seen many a Gale," guide students through the rhyme scheme (ABCB). Have the students work in pairs (or as a class) to add another stanza to the poem, one that fits the main idea and follows the ABCB rhyme pattern.

#### + ~

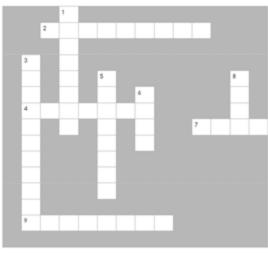
## Activity Based on <u>Edwin Bailie's "The Story</u> of the History of My Community"

**Uses:** This essay shouldn't be presented to students as a history of Bondurant, but can be used to introduce a discussion on sources of information. This essay can also be used to help teach about **primary sources** and **secondary sources**.

Questions: Edwin's essay is a secondary source built from primary accounts, what do students make of that? Do students trust Edwin's information? Why or why not? Can students find records of any of the individual's or events mentioned?



### Crossword Puzzle + Bondurant Info



Across	Down 1: What state is the founder of Bondurant originally from?		
2: What is the first name of the founder of Bandurant?			
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lexander (AC) Bondurant the man who founded the town of Bondurant. Iowa was born on September 1, 1829, in

Sangamon County. Illinois. Alexander londurant 1800-1800 grew up in a large

family. His parents. Joseph and Martha Bondurant, had eleven total children, ten of whom survived to adulthood. The early life of Alexander C. Bondurant was quite typical for a rural midwestern child in the early 1800s. In the summer months, he assisted his father and siblings in the cultivation of the farm, and during the winter season, he attended the local district school until he had familiarized himself with such studies as are essential to business success. Alexander's childhood left him with a love of farming, so, upon reaching adulthood, he made a pact with his brother, Thomas. The two brothers both wished to become farmers, so they agreed to work together until they could gather enough money to each buy land.

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## Word Search + Answer Key

#### Early Bondurant Word Search

#### Word Bank

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- 2. Polk The county Bondurant is located in.
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- 4. Thomas Anderson JR. First individual buried in Bondurant Cemetery.
- Cyclone On May 24", 1896, a large cyclone swept through Bondurant, destroying many homes and farms
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- HP Brown Name of the first grain buyer in Bondurant.
- 8. Bondurant Journal Name of Bondurant's first published newspaper, ran from 1911-1915.
- 9. Farmers Savings Bank First bank in Bondurant, opened in 1895.

#### Answer Key

#### Early Bondurant Word Search

### Other Potential Activities to Consider:

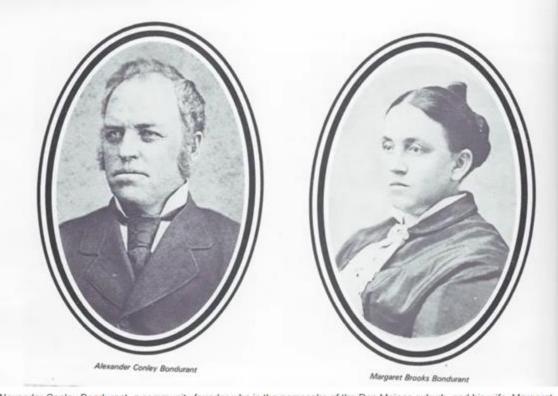
- Bondurant Coloring Pages (AC Bondurant, Grain Silos, Railway Station, Lake Petocka)
- Connect-the-dots pictures (same examples as above)
- Letter scrambles

## Teacher Resources

## Bondurant Descendants Article from Des Moines Register

- Published September 23, 2022 by Chris Higgins
- Discusses Bondurant Family
   Association descendants of Jean
   Pierre Bondurant
- Group meets every year, typically in a place with a connection to a Bondurant
- Alexander Bondurant was the great-great-great grandson of Jean Pierre Bondurant





Alexander Conley Bondurant, a community founder who is the namesake of the Des Moines suburb, and his wife, Margaret. Special To The Register/Bondurant Historical Society

## History of Bondurant from Bondurant Chambers of Commerce

#### Summary:

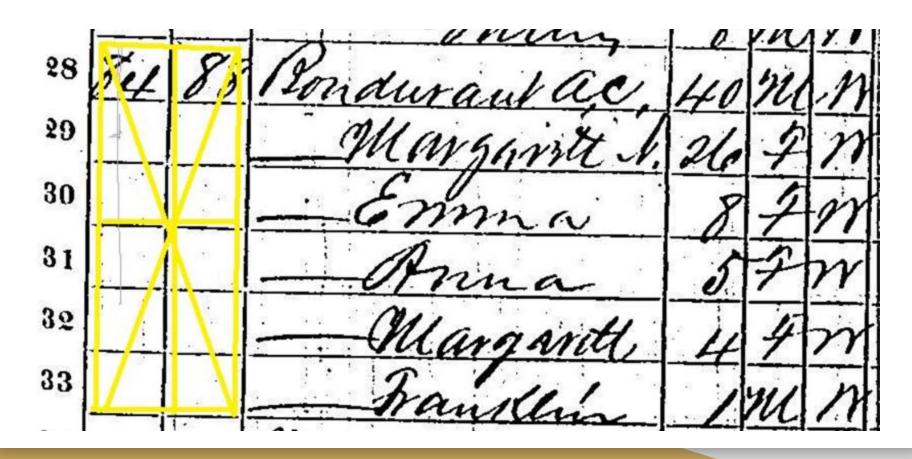
Looks at AC Bondurant's initial journey to lowa

Mentions Chicago Great Western Railroad and how "the land and town of Bondurant was laid...On December 23, 1897 Bondurant was incorporated."

Mentions the town's first commercial building and first school

**Click Here** 

### 1870 Bondurant Census



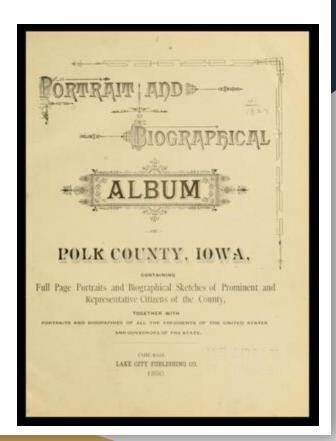
1880 Bon	durant Census		<u>Click Here</u>
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## Portrait and Biographical Album of Polk County, Iowa 1890

Click Here

Library of Congress Copy of Original Text

**Summary and Uses** 



## History of Bondurant written by AC Bondurant's grandson

Written by AC Bondurant's great grandson, Edwin J. Bailie

Written in 1924 at Bondurant High School

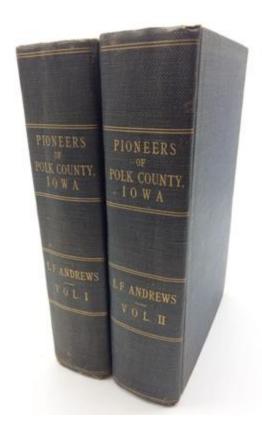
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**Summary and Uses** 

## Alexander C. Bondurant from Bondurant

Information from *Pioneers of Polk County, Iowa and Reminiscences of Early Day* by L.F. Andrews

<u>Click Here</u> (link to City of Bondurant website)



## Maps of Polk County, IA

Records of the ownership of all privately owned 1872 land plots in Polk County. 1885

### Excerpt from 1880 The History of Polk County, Iowa

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~iabiog/polk/h1880/f ranklin-twp.txt Published by the Union Historical Company, Birdsall, Williams & Co. 1880.

Very similar info to our other histories of Polk County, but this one is older!

According to the website, "The following biographies were scanned from the remnants of a book that apparently was a copy of *The History of Polk County, Iowa*"

### **Bondurant Cemetary**

Find a Grave – Alexander Conley Bondurant

Photos include a newspaper reporting the death of A.C. Bondurant

Find a Grave – Margaret Marilla Brooks Bondurant



-Find a Grave: Ss photograph and upload pictures of tombstones and/or census data for specific plots (community contributions); adding a project to it could have Ss exploring how burial practices have changed over time (even to today where info on the Bondurant website explains expectations for interment



## Works Cited for Images

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