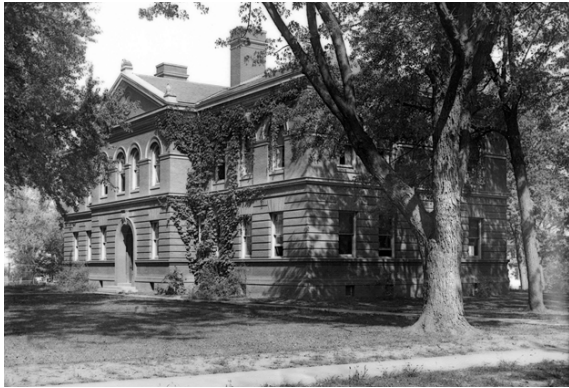


Historic Tabor

Home of Tabor College



Two buildings remain: Adams Hall, completed in 1902 (above), and the Music Hall, built in 1870.



The Congregational Church, dedicated in 1875, is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was designed by architect J.K. Nutting, known for the "Little Brown Church" in Nashua, Iowa.

Other Points of Interest also on Historic Register:

Tabor Park: Ten acres donated by town founder George B. Gaston, used by John Brown and followers as camp and drill site.

Tabor Cemetery: Over 20 conductors of the Underground Railroad are buried here, as well as numerous Civil War veterans.

Hunter School: one-room school house located just south of Tabor, built in 1901.

Tabor Historical Society

The Tabor Historical Society can trace its roots to 1894 when aging town mothers and fathers realized a permanent record of Tabor's founding should be preserved for future generations. Testimonies and reminiscences by John Todd, Samuel Adams, and other pioneers were recorded and are held by the society. Other artifacts include a comprehensive collection of Tabor College records, over three hundred family histories, and a photographic record of the town, including rare Ambrotypes of the Todd family taken in 1862.



Research and Records Room located in the Music Hall



The Todd House in 1902

The Tabor Historical Society is totally self-sustaining and receives no regular funding from state or federal agencies. We are recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so your gifts are tax deductible. Thanks for your support!

The Todd House

Underground Railroad Station
Tabor, Iowa



National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service Network to Freedom Site
Tabor Anti-Slavery District

Owned and maintained by the
Tabor Historical Society
P.O. Box 584, Tabor Iowa 51653

Open by appointment
712-629-3164
Group rates available

email:
taboriowahistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Tabor Historical Society: Lighting the Way!

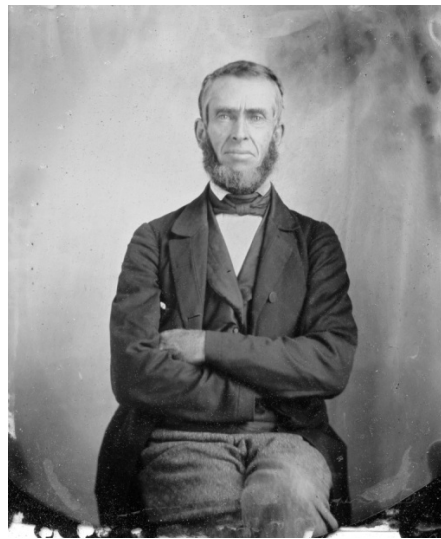
Reverend John Todd

John Todd was born into a Presbyterian Pennsylvania family with deep roots in the American experience—his grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War. Todd was ordained in 1844 at Oberlin College, Ohio, one of the few colleges in the nation that admitted all regardless of gender and race. The school was known for its strong anti-slavery stand. John met his future wife, Martha Atkins, at Oberlin where she was studying music.

Todd was pastor in Clarksfield, Ohio, when George Belcher Gaston, a young man who had worked as a 'farming missionary' with the Pawnee Indians in Nebraska, convinced Reverend Todd that an 'Oberlin of the West' could be established in sparsely populated Southwest Iowa. Todd agreed, and in 1848 joined the families of Gaston, Samuel Adams and others on the trek to Civil Bend (present day Percival) near the Missouri River. Several years of flooding and sickness drove the group to found the town of Tabor in 1852 as a permanent home and Christian colony.

As a staunch abolitionist, Todd worked with his neighbors in organizing a station of the Underground Railroad, helping runaway slaves moving north from Missouri before the Civil War. John Brown visited Tabor several times and became friends with Todd and the people of Tabor—Brown drilled his men in Tabor's park and stored 200 Sharps rifles in the basement of the Todd home.

John Todd was a leader in the founding of Tabor, its schools, government, church, and Tabor College, which operated between 1866-1927. He served as pastor of the Congregational Church for over 30 years, retiring in 1883. Todd was the father of eight children and was remembered as a loving father and good neighbor, known and respected by all. He remained active in his community until his death in 1894, his 75th year.



John Todd in 1862

The Todd House was the third home constructed in Tabor, completed in August of 1853. At the time of its founding, Tabor was located in a prairie and wood was scarce. With no milled lumber available, Todd built his house with locally cut oak and cottonwood, using stone for the foundation and adobe walls in the cellar. As Todd's family grew, additions in 1868 and 1890 added windows, a front porch, kitchen, and bedrooms. Like most early settlers, the Todd family constructed a barn west of the house, maintained a large garden, and kept pigs, a milk cow, and a horse and buggy.



Original log joist supporting ground floor



Many items in the home donated by Todd descendants



Todd House dining room and display



Students touring the Todd House