

set up a station in the town and used the named Enfield, saying it didn't believe the name Strawberry Point was respectable enough. Acting on the request of some of the town citizens, the state legislature passed a resolution that the name of a railroad station should be the same as the town – and thus the city became known by the name it bears today.

The town was also known as the "Cream City" for a while due to the huge amount of milk that was produced at a local processing station, but it didn't last. However, the dairy industry is still a vibrant part of the area's economy.

Today, Strawberry Point is a vibrant community of some 1,250 residents. The top employers are the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home, Starmont Community School District, Seedorff Masonry, Inc., AMPI and Farmers Savings Bank and Citizens Savings Bank.

The town is located just four miles south of Backbone State Park, the oldest state park in Iowa and a very popular tourist attraction. Eight miles north of the town is a 300-acre area called Osborne Conservation Center with even more

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outdoor offerings.

Two of the main attractions in town are the Wilder Museum and the historic Franklin Hotel. The Wilder Museum features over 800 heirloom dolls and doll furniture, Civil War and Revolutionary War guns, a paper announcing the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and exhibits on prairie life, Indian arrowheads and various other items from bygone days.

The historic Franklin Hotel is on the National Registry of Historic Places. It is the site where the stagecoach would deliver travelers in the 1890s. Located at

102 Elkader Street, the impressive looking structure has undergone restoration and the inside looks almost exactly like it did in the early 1900s.

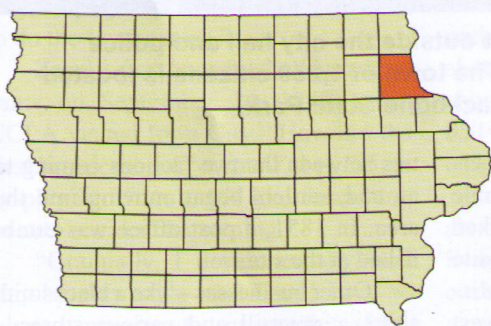
In the 1950s, Florence Roe Wiggins wrote a book entitled *Strawberry Point*. According to the dust jacket, she tells the story of her hometown "in delightful vignettes, many of which have appeared as essays in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Annals of Iowa* and other publications. She describes this small Iowa town as it appeared to her at the center of the century. Quietly self-sufficient, it went about its daily living, secure, serene and well supported by the fertile farms around it."

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Strawberry Days Festival is held the second weekend in June every year. It is an event that celebrates the town's heritage and offers musical entertainment, a kids carnival, family fun activities, a parade, volleyball tournament, kiddies tractor pull and, of course, free strawberries and ice cream!

"Strawberry Point is a great place not only to live, but to work, play, and do business," said Amanda Whittle, Director of Economic Development and Tourism. "Our town is the gateway to tourism and recreation in Northeast Iowa. We are just minutes from Backbone State Park and not too far from the Mississippi River.

"Strawberry Point is a great town that is thinking about tomorrow ... today." ■



Clayton County

Strawberry Point is one of 18 towns located in Clayton County. Established in 1837, the county is on the eastern border of the state, nestled alongside the Mississippi River. The county was named for John M. Clayton, who was both a United States Senator from Delaware and a Secretary of State serving President Zachary Taylor. Elkader is the county seat. As of 2000, there were 18,678 residents listed in the county.

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