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Lake Mills, Iowa 50450

Contact Information
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641-592-7150

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641-592-6453 • themillstheatre.com

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FIRST SECURITY
1stsecuritybank.com Member FDIC
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ST INSURANCE

302 4th Ave Grifton, IA 50440
641-748-2789 or 641-421-8000

Trinity United Methodist Church of Bolan
4214 Tulip Lane, Kensett, IA 50448
betheltrinitymc.webs.com
Pastor Cory Alford, Sunday Worship 9:15 AM

Bolan Schoolhouse & Cultural Center
www.bolanwaoc.com

- Businesses Outside of Map**
- AAANGRID RENEWABLES
 - BOLAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 - EIK CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
 - LUCKASON CEBINET SHOP
 - LUCKASON TRACTOR REPAIR
 - MIKE'S OLD BARN GUNS LLC
 - VAN BUTLER CONSTRUCTION INC
 - WILLY'S MILLIES
 - WORTH COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER

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Wedding Receptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Graduations, Quinceaneras, Business meetings, & More!

KENSETT

LEGEND

- Ambulance
- Ball Diamond
- Basketball Court
- Bike Trail
- Church
- Clinic
- Fire Department
- Football Field - Track
- Frisbee Golf
- Hotel
- Library
- Museum
- Police Station
- Pool
- Post Office
- Railroad
- School
- Shelter House
- Skate Park
- Tennis Court

Streets shown: Oak Street, Ash Street, Maple Street, Elm Street, Walnut Street, 1st Street, 2nd Street, 3rd Street, 4th Street, 5th Street, 6th Street, 7th Street, 8th Street, 9th Street, 10th Street, Main St, 410th St, 400th St.

Landmarks: Bethany Lutheran Church, Kensett Community Center, Worth County Freedom Rook, Heart & Saw Quills, Wild Horse Trading Inc., Peterson Excavating, Izack Walton League, Iowa's Subtle Imagery, City Hall Ken Schmidt Const., Commercial Blue, Briarcliff Golf, Quality Quills & Saw, Ken Schmidt Const., Roadside Park, Moonlight Floors & Maint, Willow Street, D&L Equipment, Buck's Recycling.

Kaleidoscopes To You

507 HWY 65 Manly, IA 50456
888.454.2068
info@kaleidoscopestoyou.com
www.kaleidoscopestoyou.com

Jankins & Jace

3528 Orchard Avenue, Manly, IA 50456
weaverleatherstore@gmail.com
641-420-1074

Wedding Receptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Graduations, Quinceaneras, Business meetings, & More!

Kensett



Kensett was first settled in 1872 by Thomas Kensett, a Baltimore oyster packer who came to the area while working for the Central of Iowa Railroad. He had promised to build a church for the community if they named the town after him. The town kept up their end of the bargain while Kensett did not. However, the town overcame that hurdle and continued to build businesses and homes, resulting in a flourishing community.

Though the city faced its hardships with nature, such as enduring major fires in 1901 and 1907, it continued to thrive. It is said to have been the first town in Worth County to have electricity. It once had seven gas stations, seven taverns, and three grocery stores, and more than its share of mostly Scandinavian characters and celebrities.

One of these characters and celebrities is Hans Langseth, who is credited with holding the world record for the longest beard, 17 feet and 6 inches of beard to be exact. After immigrating to the United States from Norway in 1846 and settling in Kensett, Langseth stopped shaving after he entered a beard growing contest.

Proud of his accomplishment, Hans spent some time traveling with a circus show where he came to be known as King Whiskers as he showed off his beard to the public. He soon tired of the nonbelievers who yanked his beard to see if it was real and left the circus. After many years of farming, Hans died in North Dakota in 1927, leaving his children with a final wish. After his open-casket funeral, he wanted to have his beard cut off and stored for posterity. His son acquiesced and lopped off his father's beard before the casket was buried. For decades, the beard was boxed away in an attic until Langseth's son Russell donated it to the Smithsonian.

Later, Langseth's body was exhumed and moved to the Elk Creek Church Cemetery to be alongside his wife who passed away years earlier. Another celebrity who came out of Kensett was Clarence E. Locke, who is known for inventing the adding machine. Locke was born in Wisconsin in 1866 and graduated from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, in 1892 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. After getting married and having a daughter, he worked for some time in Minnesota as a civil engineer before joining his father's lumberyard business in Kensett. During that time, he was also manufacturing the adding machine within his own company known as C.E. Locke Manufacturing Co. Locke was soon the holder of two U.S. and two German patents for a calculating device known as the Locke Adder. In 1901, the machine was priced at \$5. By 1908, the price rose to \$10, a hefty sum for that period. Around 1910, Locke and his family moved to New Mexico and he passed away there in July of 1945.

Today, this long history still exists within Kensett, which is now a small rural community offering many opportunities. The town has a great location on Hwy. 65 as it

is only 15 miles north of Mason City, Iowa, 23 miles south of Albert Lea, Minnesota, and 7 miles east of the Interstate 35 exit #208. The town's school system is Northwood-Kensett Community Schools located in Northwood. The district provides many opportunities for students to excel in a small school atmosphere with individual attention from staff and teachers. There is also a scholarship program providing scholarships for every graduating student living in Worth County.

Kensett celebrates the town and its residents with their Town & Country Festival. The event features a picnic as well as music, good food, a half day tractor ride, kids' games, horse and buggy rides, Smiley Train rides for the kids, and much more. The family friendly event will keep everyone busy for the day.

To learn more about the history of Kensett, there are several historic buildings and museums that can be visited. The Kensett Post Office was established in January of 1875 and was originally located in the Cleophas Store. However, after the construction of the brick building on the corner of Main Street, the post office was moved there and remains in that building today.

The Kensett Museum includes the Methodist Church Museum, operated by the Worth County Historical Society and is famous for its tin interior and the large pump organ that was donated by Betty O'Brian. The Log Cabin Museum, located next to the church honors the cabin that was built by early settlers of Silver Lake. Don't miss the many photos and items that are on display in both buildings. They are open on Sundays during the summer and closed during the Worth County Fair. However, it holds a special event during the Fair Week where everyone is welcome for pie and ice cream or a sundae.

The Kensett Fire Department is a volunteer organization that is very active within the community. The fire department also holds an Annual Open House during the weekend of the National Fire Prevention Week in October and an Annual Soup Supper as a fundraising opportunity in February at the Bethany Lutheran Church in Kensett.

The Kensett Lions Club is an organization instrumental in supporting the Kensett Little League baseball program. The Lions are a service club which raises funds to be spent in the community. Their larger projects include buying the curtain for the gymnasium and building a park with a shelter house, tables, and benches along Highway 65. The club also helped considerably in getting the Kensett Library started, and they are prolonged sponsors of the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, the Midget and PeeWee Baseball program, and the Red Cross swimming program.

Other community programs include the Izaak Walton League, which was organized in 1956 and built the chapter house in 1960 where meetings and several fish fries are held. The Green Shamrocks 4-H Club, which is heavily involved in community service, and the Brookfield Boosters 4-H Club, a girl/boy club that is involved in many agriculture areas are also held in the clubhouse.



CITY OF KENSETT

207 5th Street
641-845-2388
www.kensettia.com
Tues., Wed., Thurs., 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

KENSETT COMMUNITY CENTER

300 Willow Street, PO Box 95
641-845-2900
Rental Info: 641-845-2388
www.kensettia.com

US POST OFFICE

511 Elm Street • 641-845-2505
Monday - Friday 7 am - 11 am

NORTHWOOD - KENSETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

1200 1st Avenue North & 704 7th Street North
Northwood, Iowa
641-324-2021
www.nwood-kensett.k12.ia.us

KENSETT PUBLIC LIBRARY

214 5th Street
41-845-2222
www.youseemore.com/nllc/kensett
Monday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 pm - 6 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

KENSETT FIRE DEPARTMENT

521 Elm Street, PO Box 127
641-845-2410

UTILITIES

Water/Sewer/Garbage/Recycling
The City of Kensett
Electricity & Natural Gas
Alliant Energy: 800-255-4268
Telephone, Internet, Cable TV
WCTA: 641-592-6105 or www.wctatel.net
Mediacomm: 866-550-8636

Worth County Recycle (Rural residents)

4125 Pheasant Avenue
641-845-2200
www.worthcounty.org
Monday & Wednesday: 8 am - 4 pm
Thursday: Noon - 6 pm
Friday: 8 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 8 am - 4 pm

ORGANIZATIONS

- Green Shamrocks 4-H**
Bobbi Logeman 641-845-2188
- Clover Kids 4-H**
Theresa Cooper 641-390-0908
- Izaak Walton League**
4189 Orchid Avenue 641-845-2267
- Kensett Lions Club**
Herb Thompson 641-590-2081
- Methodist Church Museum**
Carolyn Loftaas 641-845-2456
- Log Cabin Museum**
Carolyn Loftaas 641-845-2456
- Town & Country Festival**
City of Kensett 641-845-2388

HUNTING/WILDLIFE

- Izaak Walton League**
4189 Orchid Avenue • 641-845-2267
The Izaak Walton League was organized on October 23, 1956. During the year 1960, the members built the chapter house where meetings are held and many fish fries attract fellowship during the winter months.
- Land of Two Waters**
4126 Pheasant Avenue. Offers 240 acres of hunting land.
- Myre Timber**
1243 430th Street. Offers 3 acres of hunting land.
- Turkeyfoot Prairie**
1717 420th Street. Offers 140 acres of hunting land.

Worth County Lake Park
1717 420th Street. Features picnicking, fishing, playground, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball, BBQ pit, and shelter house.

The Bolan Community has held fundraisers over the years to produce a railroad themed park for the public to enjoy. It is parallel to the location of the railroad that was pulled out in the 1980s. It has a four-piece train, depot replica, water tower sand box, teter-totter, swings, and picnic tables under the big shady maple trees. The most recent community fundraiser was for the new sidewalk joining the schoolhouse on the south end with the church on the north end of town. At Christmas time, the community takes pride in lighting up the town making it worth the drive on the one street called Tully Lane. It is also very beautiful in the summer with the flowers and well-kept landscaping of the residents. Current family names in the restoring Grandma Sina White's home to its 1940s look. The history of her immigration from Denmark and her family's life in Bolan and Worth County will be displayed along with a special WWII exhibit and tribute to her grandson Kenneth Paulson who was killed in Normandy in 1944.

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In 2007, an 11-member Bolan nonproffit school structure was an implement farm and feed to area farmers. The organization has been a very meaningful and special tradition. The United Women's Methodist Church purchased the old store. It served as a grocery store until 1971, then Ruth's antique store. George Hanson made Bolan the "Wagon Capitol of Iowa" and also sold lots of the candle light Christmas Eve Services. Coffee school is available. Fellowship is held weekly, and Sunday and Sunday of worship, and Sunday of fellowship is held weekly.



In the early 1900s, Bolan had a church, depot, elevator, grocery store, post office (1886-1934), two blacksmith shops, cream buying station, stockyards, coal and lumber yards, and a school (1923-56) on the corner of quarter-mile west. In the 1986 centennial book, it mentions that families populated to 75 people in the Bolan village. Family names included: Kenison, Whitcomb, Mowers, Thon, Hummel, Krusemark, Birdsall, Benish, Wambam, Gearhart, White, Perkins, Smith, Olsen, Demars, West, Cabarty, Anderson, Beater, McCready, Steiger, Burnet, Colby, Erdmann, and no doubt many more.

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The only village located in Barton Township, Worth County, Iowa, is Bolan. It had its beginning when the Chicago Great Western Railroad was constructed in 1886; and named by that time, his name being the railroad road master at Matt Bolan. The town was platted in December of 1875 and recorded in February 1886 on land owned by Anna Alexander. William Kinnelther began preaching in 1892, in a school house one mile north of Bolan. Under the leadership of Rev. Charles Lang, the United Evangelical Church at Bolan was organized, and in February 1895, the building was dedicated.



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Bolan

BUSINESS LISTINGS

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641-845-2340
www.avangridrenewables.com
- LUCKASON CABINET SHOP**
1861A 430th Street
641-845-2483
- BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH**
600 5th Street, PO Box 38
641-845-2363
- LUCKASON TRACTOR REPAIR**
1861B 430th Street
641-845-2999
- BICE ELECTRIC**
200 5th Street
641-390-0038
www.biceelectric.com
- MIKE'S OLD BARN GUNS, LLC**
3826 Orchid Avenue
641-454-2954
- BOLAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
4214 Tulip Lane
641-845-2402
- MOONLIGHT FLOORS & MAINTENANCE**
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641-390-1000
www.moonlightfloors.com
- BRATRUD GOLF**
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- PETERSON EXCAVATING**
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641-845-2210
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641-845-2990
www.bucksrecycling.com
- QUALITY QUILTS & SEW STORE**
302 6th Street
641-845-2060
- D&L EQUIPMENT**
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641-845-2199
www.dandleequipment.net
- ELK CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH**
4108 Kildeer Avenue
641-845-2386
- R80 LLC CONVICIENCE STORE**
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641-845-2033
r-80-llc.business.site
- HEART & SEW QUILTS**
98 Maple Street
641-845-2234
- VAN BUTLER CONSTRUCTION INC.**
4173B Nettle Avenue
641-845-2288
vanbutlerconstruction.com
- IOWA'S SUBTLE IMAGERY**
PO Box 191
641-390-0349
iowasubtleimagery.com
- WILD HORSE TRADING**
1419 Orchid Avenue
641-845-2020
www.wildhorsetrading.net
- IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE**
4189 Orchid Avenue
641-845-2267
- WILLY'S NILLIES**
1602 430th Street
Northwood
641-390-0490
- KEN SCHMIDT CONSTRUCTION**
216 5th Street
641-845-2812
- WORTH COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**
309 4th Street
641-845-2326

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