

Sheriff Frank Desmond

Frank Desmond served three, two year terms as Sheriff of Osceola County from 1898 to 1904.

November 2, 1897, Frank Desmond was elected Sheriff of Osceola County, receiving 834 votes over his running mate Hezekiah Littlechild which received 754 votes.

January 3, 1898, the Board of Supervisors accepted John W. Heikok as Deputy Sheriff of Osceola County. The Sheriff's salary was increased to \$375 per quarter, (\$1,500 per year).

In **1889**, *Lexington* was platted by a group of colonists from Canada in anticipation of the Illinois Central railroad line would come through that way and connect with Sioux Falls. The route ended up going through Ocheyedan instead. Since there was no railroad coming through the town, its growth was slower than the other towns in Osceola County. In **1898**, the name was changed to *May City*.



November 7, 1899, Frank Desmond was re-elected Sheriff of Osceola County, receiving 1,147 votes over his running mate J. A. Eaton which received 601 votes.

In **1900**, *Melvin* became a town on the Gowrie branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company station. The same branch went through the village of Cloverdale and then up to the main station in *Allendorf*. *Melvin* quickly became an important depot that dispensed supplies, livestock, grain, coal, baggage and mail throughout northwest Iowa. A large feed barn was erected to feed and house up to 200 teams of horses that were used for transporting supplies throughout the area.

January 1900 - the Board of Supervisors accepted J. W. Hicks and A. B. Callander as Deputy Sheriff's of Osceola County. The Sheriff's salary was set at \$375 per quarter, (\$1,500 per year).

January 6, 1901 - the Board of Supervisors accepted A.B. Callender as Deputy Sheriff of Osceola County.

September 10, 1901, the town council of *Melvin* approved the building of a calaboose, or jail to be built. The building was 10x16x8 feet with two rooms.



November 5, 1901, Frank Desmond was re-elected Sheriff of Osceola County receiving 1,115 votes over his running mate J. C. Wilmarth which received 597 votes.

January 1902, the Board of Supervisors increased the Sheriff's salary to \$550 per quarter (\$2,200 per year).

The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad struck a faulty switch as it passed through Ashton during the early hours one Sunday morning in 1902. The train engineer, Mr. Campfield, suffered a broken arm; a mail clerk was killed instantly; a fireman was badly burned by steam and died shortly afterwards.

Ashton, Iowa - June 22, 1902

