

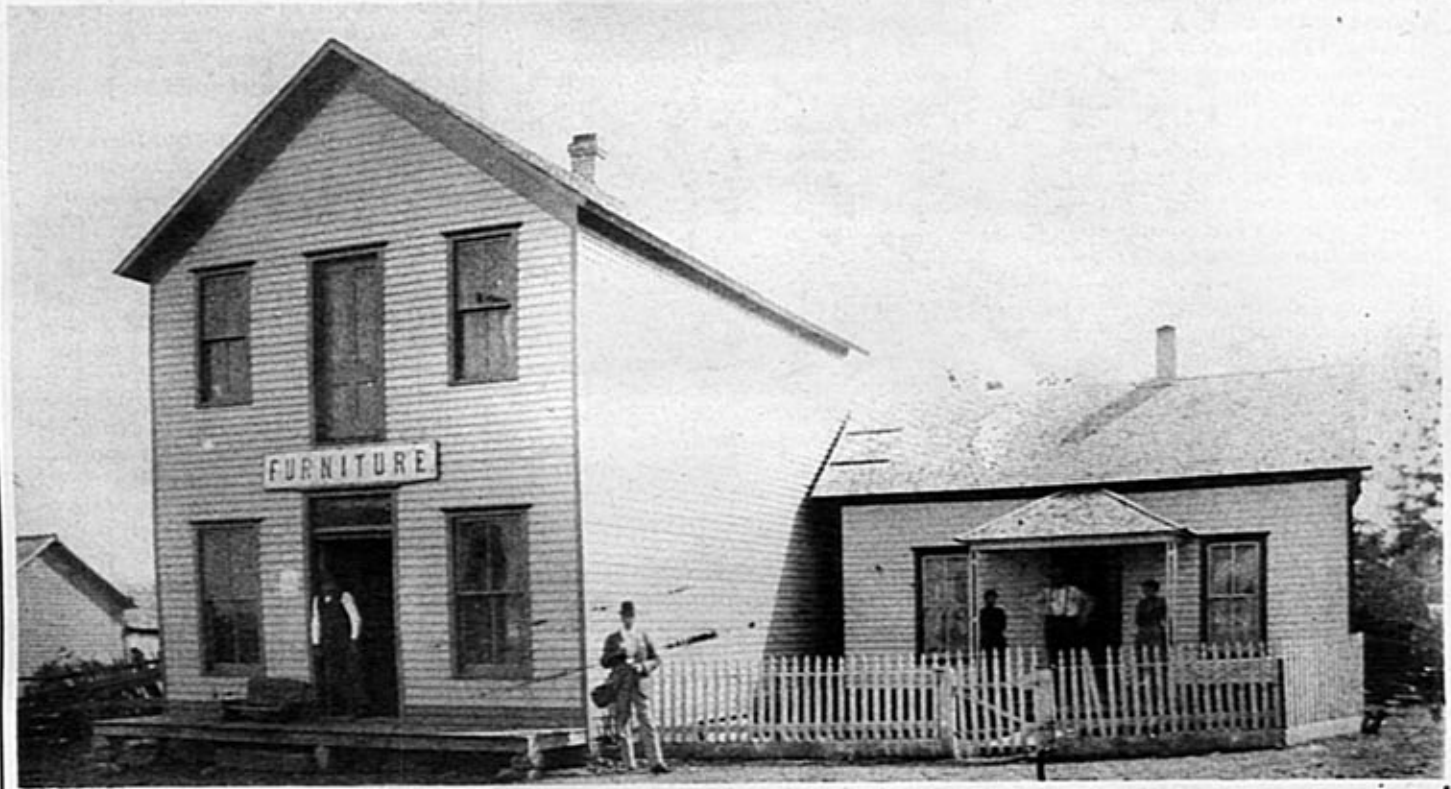
Old Farnham Store

By Gary Knehans

For about 90 years, one of Iberia's landmark buildings was the Farnham General and Mercantile Store. Constructed in 1892 by Charles and William L. Farnham, two brothers who lived on farms near the old Rabbithead School north of town, the store building was situated on the site of an old civil war fort. A militia organized and headed by Captain William Long operated out of this fort and protected Iberia citizens from a renegade force that rampaged through the Big Richwoods.

The Farnham brothers traveled to St. Louis to buy all the stock for the store, which arrived a few weeks later. While in the big city, they observed a big St. Patrick's Day parade and were impressed by what they saw.

William built a home on Lombar Avenue at the Corner of Normal Street. Another brother, George, built next door. One of these houses is still standing directly south of the site of the old Lombar mansion, now the location of Bank of Iberia. It is occupied by Don Farnham, a grandson of William Farnham.



FARNHAM STORE IN ITS HEYDAY. Pictured left to right are C.W. Farnham, C.H. Clark, Mrs. and Mr. W. L. Farnham, and Mrs. C.H. Clark. The little house adjoining the store is still standing. Courtesy of Don Farnham and Bill Farnham.



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