

gerrymandering, "log-rolling and corruption in the legislature," and the erection of such districts for purely individual, local or partisan purposes. The subject was freely debated in the constitutional convention of 1857,\* by Messrs. J. C. Hall, J. A. Parvin, A. H. Marvin, D. H. Solomon, Amos Harris and J. C. Traer. Section 35, Article 3, of the Constitution of our State closes as follows: "Provided, further, that no floating district shall hereafter be formed." This inhibition at once stopped the practice, and the term "floating district" has fallen into such "innocuous desuetude" that at this day people are inquiring what it meant.

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\* Iowa Constitutional Debates, 1857, vol. 1, pp. 543-548

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THE cut of the old blockhouse and barracks at Council Bluffs, which illustrates Mr. Bloomer's interesting article, was made from a pencil drawing by Mr. Charles Simons of that city. He saw them not long after they were erected and was familiar with their appearance. Other old residents of Council Bluffs recognize this sketch as conveying a good idea of the appearance of these primitive structures.

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#### NOTABLE DEATHS.

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GENERAL GEORGE WALLACE JONES died at his home in Dubuque, July 22, 1896. Born at Vincennes, Indiana, April 12, 1804, he was a drummer boy in the war of 1812, and won distinction in the Black Hawk war. He was the last delegate in congress from Michigan, the first delegate from Wisconsin and one of the first United States senators from the State of Iowa, and he selected the names Wisconsin and Iowa. He had known every president since Monroe, was in the escort of Lafayette, was a business partner of Daniel Webster, was the colleague in congress of Thomas H. Benton, Charles Sumner, Stephen A. Douglas, William H. Seward and James Buchanan, was the intimate friend of John C. Calhoun, Martin Van Buren, Henry Clay, John C. Fremont, Jefferson Davis and Franklin Pierce, was a minister to South America before the war, was a party to seven "affairs of honor," caught the dying victim of the Cilley-Graves duel in his arms, was imprisoned by Seward on suspicion of being in collusion with Jefferson Davis, was the Chesterfield of Washington society nearly fifty years ago; was once the richest man in Iowa, but in his latter years has had little income except

a pension of \$20 a month, granted eighty years after his service as a drummer boy. To these must be added many minor distinctions.

General Jones was the son of John Rice Jones, mentioned in history as the friend of Benjamin Franklin. The father was for years chief justice of the Supreme Court of Missouri. The family lived at St. Genevieve, Missouri, in 1814, and when Captain Linn was commissioned to raise a company of soldiers young Jones was the drummer boy who marched about the streets in that service. He graduated from Transylvania University, at Lexington, Kentucky, in 1825. Henry Clay was his college guardian. In 1823 he was sergeant of the body guard of Andrew Jackson on his way to Washington to take his seat as United States senator. When Lafayette revisited America the young student was selected by congress as a member of a reception committee and escorted the French patriot through Kentucky.

After graduation young Jones lived three years at St. Genevieve, studied law and was clerk of the United States District Court for Missouri. His health gave out and his physician ordered him into the woods to recuperate. Accompanied by a dozen slaves and a number of hired men, he went to Sinsinawa Mound, then in Michigan territory, but now in Wisconsin, not far from Dubuque. He engaged in mining, smelting, farming and merchandising, living a simple, rough life, which restored his health, and he boasted freedom from sickness for nearly seventy years thereafter.

When the Black Hawk war broke out in 1832, he enlisted as aide-de-camp to General Henry Dodge, father of his colleague as United States senator from Iowa. After the war the pioneers of Michigan territory chose him colonel of militia without his knowledge, although a son of Alexander Hamilton was a candidate. Later he became a major-general. While organizing a company of soldiers at what is now Mineral Point, Wisconsin, he was chosen county judge, although he had not sought the place.

In 1835 he was elected delegate to congress from the territory of Michigan, which then embraced all the country from Lake Huron to the Pacific, the largest district ever represented by one man in congress. One of his first acts was to introduce a bill for the formation of Wisconsin territory, which comprised most of the country west of Lake Michigan. He took the name from the Oniscousin river, so named by Marquette, and secured the passage of his bill before the bill admitting Michigan to statehood was passed. He was elected delegate from Wisconsin while still holding that position from Michigan. He introduced and secured the passage of the bill creating the territory of Iowa.

President Van Buren appointed him surveyor-general of the Northwest territory and he became a resident of Dubuque. President William Henry Harrison removed him, but he was re-appointed by President Polk. He was chosen first United States senator from Iowa in 1848, a position to which he was re-elected. In 1859 he was appointed minister to the country now known as Colombia. While there he wrote a letter to Jefferson Davis, who had been a lieutenant with him in the Black Hawk war. Jones did not know of the beginning of the war, and the terms of his letter to his old friend put him under suspicion when it fell into the hands of Secretary Seward. General Jones was recalled and imprisoned in Fort Lafayette for sixty-four days. President Lincoln became convinced of his innocence and ordered his release. A year or two later General Jones retired from public life.

At one time he and Daniel Webster were partners in the town sites of Madison, Wisconsin, and Sioux City, Iowa. He acted as second for Jonathan Cilley in the fatal duel with William J. Graves in 1838. In 1892 congress voted him a pension for services in the war of 1812 and

the Black Hawk war. It also reimbursed him for services while in South America.—*Major C. D. Ham in the Dubuque Herald.*

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EDWIN N. CHAPIN was born in Monterey, Massachusetts, June 5, 1823, and died at his residence in Marshalltown, July 29, 1896. After receiving a common school education he attended an academy for a short time and for several years taught school. Never idle and always ready to engage in any honest avocation, he engaged in charcoal burning for a while, disposing of the product at the blast furnaces. In December, 1849, the gold fever having seized him he started for California by way of the Isthmus of Panama, and on account of difficulties with the officers of the ship on the Pacific side, helped to take possession of it, and after several months of voyaging arrived at San Francisco. For some four years he was engaged in mining and other pursuits in California, returning by way of Nicaragua, shipping for New York at Greytown. This was in 1854. The following year he removed to Iowa. In 1855 he bought *The Iowa Central Journal*, then located at Lafayette, (now Albion), Marshall county, of Messrs. Wilson, Dunn and Tripp. Associated with him in the conduct of the paper was Mr. R. H. Barnhart, who still resides at Marshalltown. The paper was a champion of Marietta, and as Mr. Chapin had declared that he would not take the paper to the new county seat, in case of removal, he sold out his interest to his partner, who removed the paper to the new county seat. During the year 1857 he settled in Marshalltown and started *The Marshall County News*, which was subsequently destroyed by fire. During several years following this loss he bought and sold *The Times* many times. In 1881 he was connected with *The Reflector*. An outspoken and fearless advocate, he was often in controversy, and on account of his aggressive and combative disposition came to be called "Old Grizzly." He was married in 1857 to Miss Elizabeth Moore Moon, and again in 1886 to Mrs. Nettie Sanford. Hon. O. B. Chapin, who represented Hardin county in the Legislature, in 1874-75, was his brother. He held several offices of trust and responsibility during his residence in Iowa. He was a member of the Board of Supervisors, and Post Master of Marshalltown under President Lincoln. In 1864 he was sent to Mississippi to take the vote of the Iowa soldiers, under appointment of Governor Stone. He was removed from the office of Post Master in 1865 by President Johnson, for alleged "offensive partisanship," Mr. Chapin having the honor to be the first official removed by President Andrew Johnson for political reasons. He was re-appointed Post Master by President Grant, in 1876. Mr. Chapin was a strong character, prominent as a pioneer, wide-awake and alert in business, a vigorous, out-spoken, independent editor, welcoming most heartily and standing by whatever promised to benefit his State, county or city. In the development of the railroad system of Iowa, he bore a leading part, and when improvements were under consideration in Marshalltown, or in the county, he could always be depended upon to take the progressive side. He will long be held in kindly remembrance in the community where he lived for more than forty years.

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In the death of HON. REUBEN NOBLE, at his home in McGregor, on the 8th of August, our State has lost another of its most prominent pioneers, the bar and judiciary one of their brightest ornaments, and the community where he resided, one of its best known and most esteemed citizens. Judge Noble was born a farmer's boy, April 14, 1821, in Adams county, Mississippi, and was therefore a little over seventy-five years of age. He worked at farming until he was eighteen,

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