

FIRST THINGS IN IOWA.

BY L. F. ANDREWS.

The first white man set foot on Iowa soil June 25, 1673.

The first white settlement was near Dubuque in 1788.

The first territorial organization was July 3, 1838.

The first territorial governor was Robert Lucas, 1838 to 1841.

The first State governor was Ansel Briggs, 1846 to 1850.

The first court is believed to have been held at Burlington in April, 1835.

The first territorial chief justice was Charles Mason, 1838 to 1847.

The first state chief justice was Joseph Williams, 1847 to 1848.

The first capitol was located at Burlington in 1838.

The first territorial legislature convened at Burlington in November, 1838.

The first state legislature convened at Iowa City, the second capital, November 30, 1846.

The first legislature convened at Des Moines, the third capital, January 11, 1858.

The first speaker of the territorial House of Representatives was William H. Wallace, of Henry County.

The first president of the territorial Council was Jesse B. Browne, of Lee County, who was also the first speaker of the House of Representatives of the state legislature.

The first President of the State Senate was Thomas Baker, of the Fifth District.

The first State Constitution was framed in October, 1844, but was rejected by a vote of the people at an election held August 4, 1845.

The first State government was organized Dec. 28, 1846.

The first organized counties were Dubuque and Des Moines, which embraced the entire State, then a part of Michigan territory.

The first church was built at Dubuque in 1834. There are now in the state, 4,427, valued at \$14,987,694.

The first school house was built at Dubuque in 1833. There are now 13,613, valued at \$15,645,543.

The first newspaper was issued at Dubuque, May 11, 1836. There are now 915 in the State.

The first post office was established in 1833 at Dubuque.

The first white male child born in the State was John H. Ludlow, where Muscatine now is, September 30, 1831.

The first white female child born in the State was Eleanor Garland, at Ft. Madison, in 1830. Her father was an army surgeon.

The first railroad was laid at Davenport, in May, 1854, and the first locomotive entered Iowa there, in that month.

The first locomotive crossed the State to the Missouri river at Council Bluffs in February, 1867.

The first locomotive that reached Des Moines was the "Marion, No. 11," August 28, 1866, on the Des Moines Valley road.

The first woman to be given a seat on the floor of the House of Representatives by a vote of that body, was Mrs. L. F. Andrews, as a press reporter, in 1866.

IOWA CREDIT.—A few years since, the State of Iowa, which by its Constitution cannot at any time borrow or owe over \$100,000, was in want of a sum of \$60,000, which was endeavored to be raised in Wall Street, the State offering to redeem the loan in ten years and pay eight per cent. per annum interest. The loan was effected without limitation of time, in Philadelphia, at eight and ten per cent. per annum, payable half yearly. The State would now be glad to pay it off, but cannot without giving twenty per cent. premium.—*New York Evening Post, Jan. 18, 1851.*

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.