

Iowa People and Events . . .

Could Have Been Supreme Judge

It is not generally known, but since revealed, that had Governor N. E. Kendall known that former governor George W. Clarke would have accepted appointment or was interested at all in a position upon the Iowa supreme bench, he would have been so appointed by the governor upon the death of Judge Silas M. Weaver November 6, 1923.

A mutual friend of both these men who was then in the state government and still living tells of interviewing Governor Kendall shortly after Judge Weaver's death and before announcement of an appointment to fill the vacancy on the bench was made. He told Kendall that Clarke had once revealed to him that he would have much rather served upon the supreme bench of Iowa than to have been governor of the state.

Kendall replied, "I do wish I had known that before, for I have already informed friends of Mr. Charles W. Vermilion of Centerville that he would receive the appointment." Then he added, "It would have given me great satisfaction to appoint Governor Clarke to the position."

In a few days announcement was made of the Vermilion appointment, and it is possible that Clarke never knew how close he came to receiving the distinction of a place upon the Iowa supreme court that he had coveted, and which Judge Vermilion assumed November 15, 1923, and filled with ability, although for a comparatively short time, for he died September 2, 1927.

Ingham Studied the Indians

Insight and knowledge of the Indians who ravaged Northern Iowa in the early Iowa days, their leader-

ship, hatred of the whites and depredations generally were sidelines in Harvey Ingham's versatile life. As a youth in Algona he was regaled with accounts by his father, W. H. Ingham, a pioneer of that region, of experiences in surveying the area, when Fort Dodge and Fort Defiance were established.

In this issue will be found writings of Mr. Ingham in more mature days, a manuscript detailing some of his knowledge of both Indians of the Iowa-Minnesota section, as well as the whites who were watchful and on the defensive against their vengeful natures much feared by settlers there. Among these he speaks with admiration of the qualities and ability in leadership of Major William H. Williams, who was in charge at Fort Dodge, originally known as Fort Clarke, appointed to keep peace with the Indians. They came to fear him and in measure respect his sagacity as a representative of the white man's government.

Harvey Ingham was educated at Iowa City where he was graduated from the State University of Iowa as a lawyer, but after a short period in the practice of law at Cedar Rapids turned to newspapering and contributed much to the public by his services in that field, first at Algona and then at Des Moines, his editorial work being outstanding among the leading newspapermen of Iowa.

First Saw Mill in Des Moines

A record left by the late Simon Casady, Des Moines banker, tells of a saw mill built in Des Moines by Col. C. C. Van in the year 1850. This mill was located in what was known as South Des Moines near the site where the upper 'Coon bridge later was built. At the time Mr. Casady made the notation, the old smokestack constructed of brick with frame made of oak was then standing, but fast rotting away, even nearly ready to fall, although the foundation of the smokestack was as solid and good as when first built.

The machinery for the mill, the old Colonel (then a young man) brought from St. Louis, related Mr. Casady, and hauled it from Keokuk on wagons drawn by oxen. The boiler created a sensation at every habitation it passed on the way out, and when it arrived at Des Moines, it was a second-hand, old fashioned boiler, and had done good service on a Mississippi steamer before being brought West. Few new boilers were brought to this country in those days, though many of them were sold as new ones. The frame for the mill house was up when the machinery arrived—the lumber for the balance of the house was sawed afterward.

The starting of Van's Mill was a great event in the early history of Des Moines. The day of starting had been announced some time before the time arrived, and consequently, nearly all the male inhabitants of the then village at the Raccoon Fork, were in attendance to see the first move of the fly-wheel, and hear the first buzz of the saw. It was in the winter—December, 1850, cold as the mountains of Greenland are reported to be. A bleak wind from the northwest whistled over the iced surface of the unbridged 'Coon.

The steam turned white when it came into the wintry air. The new packing smelling of white lead and brass, leaked steam, and made a general sizzling and hissing, commented Mr. Casady. The anxious crowd stood around stamping their feet and clapping their hands to keep warm. Finally all things were found in readiness and the engine started—then the sawyer raised a lever and sent a log whizzing through. The first cut was made amid deafening cheers—or at least as near deafening as one hundred voices could make them on a cold day. Among those present to see the thing move were B. F. Allen, W. W. Williamson, Ed. Clapp and Thos. McMullen.

The mill, after being run a couple of years, passed from the hands of Mr. Van, and was traded and sold frequently in subsequent years—breaking up every

man into whose possession it came, except B. F. Allen. It was a very expensive concern to operate. Every time anything broke, the broken piece had to be sent to St. Louis to be repaired. It was frequently out of repair.

Effigy Mounds Development

A new scheduling of the development of Effigy Mounds National Monument in Allamakee county area is now dated for 1959-60 by the National Park Service at Washington, according to notice given to Congressman Henry O. Talle. A review of plans for the project are underway that will provide total expenditure there of \$887,000 by the U.S. government, for roads and trails construction, and \$268,200 under the buildings and utilities account, a total of \$1,155,200, the amounts subject to changing construction costs of improvement now projected.

Some adjustments have been made making possible the inauguration of the program of construction in 1959, the first activity being the installation of a sewer system, entrance road and parking facilities. High priority will be given to construction in the north area preliminary to building construction in 1960. A visitor center will be provided early in the work planned to cost \$123,000, which will house administrative offices and the museum contemplated.

A bridge over the Yellow river and an overpass over Highway 13 also are included in the early construction work. The National Park Service feels that before a final decision is reached as to a road system including these improvements, it will be highly advisable for the visitor center and the trail system to be in operation a year or two, during which time public use patterns will be studied. Meanwhile, necessary topographical and archeological data can be had. This early improvement and development of the area has been advanced over date originally thought possible. Effigy Mounds will be Iowa's first national monument.

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