

Iowa People and Events . . .

Junkin Worked on Fort Des Moines Star

Under date of May 5, 1898, W. W. Junkin, of Fairfield, wrote a short letter to a Des Moines friend detailing the incidents relating to his locating in Des Moines fifty years previous, saying:

"Memory carries me back in the grooves of time to June, 1848, when I was a citizen of Fort Des Moines and am now entitled to be considered one of its pioneers notwithstanding my long subsequent residence in southern Iowa.

"I was a printer then in Fairfield on the *Iowa Sentinel*. My employer sold the office and business, but secured for me a position in Fort Des Moines. I started from home on a bright June day and went to Oskaloosa in the stage. The next morning 'I took my foot in my hand' and journeyed toward my destination.

"I passed through Pella with its sod houses, then on to Toole's Point (Monroe) and past the Shelladay home out on the prairie. Tired nature became exhausted and I sat down in a rut about sundown to rest. I fell over and slept the sleep of the innocent until about eleven o'clock, when I was aroused by the howling of wolves and baying dogs. I was soon on my way and about midnight reached the hospitable home of Tom Mitchell. It took me all the next day to reach Fort Des Moines for I was footsore and weary.

"The day following my arrival I was at work setting type on the *Fort Des Moines Star*, which was the first paper printed in the town. The editor was Barlow Granger, whom I have met several times since. He is still living in Des Moines and is good for at least another ten years, I hope, notwithstanding he is now 82 years old and has lived in Des Moines fifty years.

"The newspaper office was in one of the buildings in

the long row of log houses along the north bank of the 'Coon river, which had formerly been the soldiers' barracks. I well remember landlord Tucker and his wife and their daughter Letitia (Tish), and many pleasant hours were spent in the Tucker hotel.

"In those days 'Old Dan Tucker' was the taking song of the period. A minstrel company gave an exhibition and 'Old Dan Tucker' was on the boards. The manager apologized for presenting it by saying that his company intended no disrespect to our worthy and honorable landlord. This pleased Tucker and the company was not tumbled out of the hotel.

"In July following, I gathered blackberries on Capitol hill in company with 'Hub' Hoxie. I might say more, but this will suffice. I am one of Hoyt Sherman's company who were citizens of Fort Des Moines fifty years ago."

Communal Colony Changes

Professional community builders, impatient realtors and political soothsayers cry loud for movement of industrial plants to Iowa, activated by various motives. None can be more than partially successful, for development and growth must come from within. Over at the Amanas it was handled differently.

In 1854, there came to Iowa one Christian Metz and other Elders of a communal group, who purchased 25,000 acres of land in Johnson county and entered upon their mode of communal living within their group. They established crude manufacturing enterprises, supplying their families with the necessities of homes, schools and community life.

After living within their own area and dealing little or not at all with the outside world for almost 100 years a change in procedure was inaugurated, and led by enterprising and hopeful ones of their own group, the Amana Society was reorganized into a corporation which has since developed 70 industries privately-owned in which these people are stockholders, which have 1,300

employees. They manufacture a varied line of goods sold in competition with other American industries and the name Amana is known over the whole world, and Amana products are now used everywhere that retail trade flourishes.

This "great change" came from within the community itself, not promoted from without, nor was professional or political boosting resorted to in accomplishing the results enjoyed. Larger communities may accomplish similar results if the "homefolk" really will it that way, and assume responsibility for the success of undertakings in which they become personally and financially interested.

Temporary Territorial Capital

The details of forming the Territory of Iowa confronting the newly appointed governor, Robert Lucas, were formidable. He had selected a secretary in the person of Theodore S. Parvin before leaving Ohio to enter upon his new duties, having previously served two terms as governor of that state. Then Lucas and Parvin went to Cincinnati, and selected books to constitute the library of the new Territory of Iowa, appropriation for which had been made by congress.

It is recorded by "Tuttle's History of Iowa" that "In 1838, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Wisconsin convened at Burlington on the first of June, and continued in session till all that portion of the territory west of the Mississippi was cut off from Wisconsin, and formed a separate government." This was in pursuance of an act passed by congress on the 12th day of June, 1838, by which it was provided, "that from and after the third day of July next, all that part of the territory of Wisconsin that lies west of the Mississippi river, and west of a line drawn due north from the head of waters or sources of the Mississippi to the territorial line, was, for temporary purposes, constituted a separate territorial government, and called 'Iowa'."

Further, by the act of congress, the governor authorized to be appointed was required to reside in the territory, was to be commander-in-chief of the militia, and also to perform the duties of superintendent of Indian affairs.

A multitude of duties, appointments and decisions were involved in executive responsibility at first, including the naming of a seat of government, which "Tuttle's" records Lucas proceeded to accomplish with dispatch. He caused a census to be taken and apportioned the membership of the territorial legislative assembly, issued a proclamation for an election of delegates to congress, and members of the legislature. He designated Burlington as the temporary capital, convening the first territorial law-making body on November 12, 1838, consisting of thirteen members of the council (senate) and twenty-six members of the house of representatives.

The power of the governor in the beginning was very great, but much of this was taken away from him by the next session of congress, the bulk of the offices being made elective by the people. There was considerable strife manifest in the conduct of the state government in the meantime and rivalry between the assembly and state officials; likewise between the governor and the territorial secretary. The governor indulged freely in vetoes of assembly bills and at one time legislation was completely bogged down. Feeling became bitter, and an attempt was resorted to, the object of which was to remove Lucas from office, declaring him to be an "unfit ruler of a free people," praying in strong terms for his "immediate removal from office," and the memorial was duly adopted and forwarded to the president of the United States. But President Van Buren did not see fit to act as requested.

The territorial days of the state, even after the retirement of Lucas, continued to be tempestuous under other governors, and the sessions of the territorial assembly frequently were interrupted by contentions and disa-

greements that marred the placidity of the new government.

Taxation in Iowa Communities

With taxation so much discussed always and in Iowa particularly the past year since adjournment of the state general assembly in which it was a major issue, the comparative tax rate table in mills for various cities in Iowa shown in the informative report of Bert L. Zuver, the Des Moines city assessor, is of prime importance.

In his analysis of assessment valuations and problems encountered by his staff and review of their duties with reference to fast-changing economic conditions is found a profound study of fact-finding requirements of the Iowa law that is commendable and informative as well. The Des Moines assessor has reached a high position in a difficult official station that at once reveals the confidence the public has in his integrity and ability, for the fixing of property valuations for purposes of taxation is never an easy task in any community.

The abstract table of millage rates levied in 23 Iowa cities having a city assessor is of general interest and is as follows:

Ames	97.231	Fort Madison	78.316
Boone	85.612	Iowa City	77.613
Burlington	98.665	Keokuk	78.139
Cedar Falls	74.813	Marshalltown	75.953
Cedar Rapids	87.050	Mason City	78.797
Charles City	80.070	Muscatine	79.143
Clinton	74.540	Newton	79.447
Council Bluffs	94.894	Oskaloosa	85.631
Davenport	78.973	Ottumwa	95.627
Des Moines	97.629	Sioux City	87.114
Dubuque	74.905	Waterloo	71.851 EW
Fort Dodge	84.516		71.933 WW

Iowa's First Counties

An extra session of the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan was authorized by the congress of the United States on June 30, 1834. Consequently, on

September 1, 1834, the Sixth Legislative Council of that territory convened in extra session at Detroit pursuant to a proclamation issued by the governor of that territory dated July 14, 1834.

The most important object of the session was to take certain steps looking toward admission of the territory to the Union as a new state. Among other matters recommended by the governor in his message to the council were the needs of the people residing west of the Mississippi river in territory recently attached to Michigan, the area being called the "Black Hawk Purchase" then rapidly being settled up. He recommended the establishment there of counties, townships and courts.

A measure was enacted by the council entitled "An Act, to lay off and organize counties west of the Mississippi river," constituting the first step in the formation of what was then known only as "the Iowa country." The act was approved on September 6, 1834, and took effect October 1 the same year, and applied only to that part of the present state of Iowa "to which the Indian title had been extinguished."

The area was referred to as the "Iowa District," also then characterized as "the Black Hawk Purchase" or "Scott's Purchase," and comprised lands along the Mississippi river in the extreme eastern portion of the Cession by the Sac and Fox nation on September 21, 1832.

The new district set off was divided into two counties, separated by a line running due west from the lower end of the Rock Island in the Mississippi river, and all of the area lying north of that line became "DuBuque" county. The second county established was "Des Moines," the boundaries of which were described in the second section of the act.

The two original counties were later divided into many counties, as also were other areas later acquired by the U. S. government and becoming a part of the present Iowa. Some of these areas encompassed wide stretches of western lands. The creation of new counties was interpreted as rightfully belonging to the

legislative department, this method afterward being established as the common one employed.

At the first session of the legislature of the territory of Wisconsin which met at Belmont on October 25, 1836, the second act covering the formation of Iowa Counties was passed, entitled "An Act dividing the county of Des Moines into several new counties," approved December 7, 1836. By its terms the area comprised in the former county of Des Moines, together with that of Keokuk reservation, was divided into seven new counties, one of which retained the designation of Des Moines, the others created by the act being Lee, Van Buren, Henry, Louisa, Muscatine and Cook. The territory included in the last named later was divided and included in Johnson and Muscatine counties. There was some confusion in the boundaries defined for all of these counties and adjustments were subsequently made.

By the terms of a treaty made on October 21, 1837, the Sac and Fox Indians made a cession of additional lands in the central part of Iowa immediately west of the first cession to the U. S. government. During the second session of the Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin Territory which convened at Burlington on November 6, 1837, an act was passed and approved December 21, 1837, subdividing the former county of DuBuque into new counties, creating in fact fourteen new counties including the area also approximate to the northern two-thirds of the last Sac and Fox cession. Furthermore, with this also was included in several of the new counties vast reaches of Indian country not yet ceded to the U. S. government, and reaching west to the Missouri river, these latter being named Buchanan, Benton and Keokuk counties, while Fayette included most of the remainder of the northern Iowa area, and also the great area now comprising the states of Minnesota and North Dakota. The fourteen counties created by this act were Dubuque, Clayton, Jackson, Benton, Linn, Jones, Clinton, Johnson, Scott, Delaware, Buchanan, Cedar, Fayette and Keokuk.

The entire story of the creation of Iowa counties is of absorbing interest and is treated at length by Frank Harmon Garver in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, Volume VI, Pages 375-440, to be found on the shelves of most Iowa public and educational institution libraries; also there is an informative article by Judge P. M. Casady in the ANNALS OF IOWA, Volume II, Pages 195-202, together with other shorter articles upon the subject in the same number.

As Iowa Started as a State

Incidents occurring in the period of the administration of Gov. Ansel Briggs, Iowa's first state executive, reveal that problems of one nature and another were just as pressing then as those which confront the state one hundred and more years later. And Governor Briggs like his successors in executive station met them patiently, disposing of each in turn.

The first warrant on requisition he granted was to the governor of Pennsylvania, April 19, 1847, when he allowed Jonas McConkey, agent for the Quaker state, to arrest Francis R. Shultz in Scott county, Iowa, for a larceny committed in Pennsylvania. Ten days before, he received his first requisition, calling upon him for the arrest of Nathaniel Levitt, of Illinois, for larceny. Nathaniel at that time was a resident of Wapello county, Iowa.

In August of the same year Mary Brophy, of Scott county, was sentenced to ten days imprisonment and a fine of one hundred dollars for petit larceny. The governor pardoned her the day that the term of sentence expired.

During Briggs' administration Thomas Cox, and sundry others, had a jamboree in Jackson county. Technically it was a row, and the court fined each of them one hundred dollars. The Governor pardoned them on the ground that the Jackson county jail was such a tumble-down affair that it would probably

break their necks if they were locked in it. Prior to that, during Territorial days, Mr. Cox was president of the Territorial senate.

Martin A. Britton was the first military officer commissioned, being appointed captain of the "Farmington Guards," December 26, 1846.

John G. Gordon was the first brigadier general and James C. Ramsey, the first major general, the latter being father-in-law to J. M. Walker, of Des Moines.

Who would suppose that Judge David S. Wilson, of Dubuque, had been one of the gayest young militia officers in Iowa, yet in 1847 he was commissioned a second lieutenant of the Iowa Dragoon? During those days the State University had numerous branches—on paper—and among the records of the executive office is the commission of Charles Negus as director of "the State University of Iowa at Fairfield."

John D. Evans was the first notary public. Enoch Eastman was commissioned notary January 25, 1848, and A. D. Jones, later an Omaha millionaire, December 25. J. M. Reid, of Lee county, received his first notarial commission from Governor Briggs, December 28, 1848, and also one from Governor Carpenter July 8, 1874. Every governor of Iowa in the intervening period likewise issued him a similar commission. R. L. Tidrick's notarial commission was signed December 28, 1848.

George H. Williams, later attorney general of the United States, was commissioned judge of the First Iowa district May 27, 1847; and Joseph Williams first judge of the Supreme court of Iowa June 12, 1847. The same day Joseph Brophy was appointed to select the twelve salt springs in Iowa, given to the state for educational purposes by the national government. The salt springs probably were found, as the "saline lands" were later a part of the University property.

Away back in June, 1847, one N. B. Baker was a young lawyer in New Hampshire, full of Democratic politics and business. Subsequently he became gov-

ernor of that state, and later made the best adjutant general in the United States for the state of Iowa. Baker perhaps was the most loved and popular of all men ever connected with Iowa's military history. On June 18, 1847, Governor Briggs made him a commissioner of deeds for Iowa in New Hampshire.

Publicity for Errant Youth

Newspaper men of the state have been wondering if they have a duty of assisting parents in reclaiming errant members of local youth who have run amuck of the law in trivial or more flagrant manner. At a meeting of the City Editor's association of the daily newspapers of the state at Iowa City recently a four-member panel of eminent citizens agreed at the closing session that publicity should be more generally had as an element of punishment in many instances of prevalent juvenile delinquency.

Discussing "The Impact of the Press on Juvenile Delinquency," the group considered the different newspaper policies on printing names of delinquents.

Members of the panel included: G. K. Thompson, associate justice of the Iowa supreme court; Robert G. Caldwell, sociology professor at the State University of Iowa; H. L. Miles, superintendent of the Iowa Training School for Boys at Eldora and Thor Jensen, city editor of the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*.

Justice Thompson said many people and newspapers "tend to overlook the major purpose of law enforcement—to prevent future crimes. A lesser purpose is to save and rehabilitate the law breaker."

"Part of the punishment," Thompson continued, "may be publicity. This lets the public know parents of offenders aren't training their children properly, and printing names might induce parents to do a better job."

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