

those with whom she differed, and with pity upon the erring. Her whole life was beautiful in its simplicity, its charity, its kindness and a pleasurable devotion to duty."

[CONCLUDED]

AN IOWA NEWSPAPER SCOOP

Peter Melendy was a delegate to the national convention at Baltimore that nominated Abraham Lincoln for a second term and named Andrew Johnson as his running mate. Mr. Melendy was very close to the Perkinses who then owned the *Cedar Falls Gazette*, and later the *Sioux City Journal*. In the *Life of Peter Melendy*, by Luella M. Wright, this story is told:

Before leaving for the convention, Melendy contrived a plan whereby the *Gazette* could scoop nearby papers in announcing the name of the successful candidate for vice president. It was decided that Melendy should compose a telegram and sign it with the name of the vice presidential nominee. At the close of the convention Melendy, therefore, made his way to the telegraph booth and, assuming as serious a countenance as possible, pushed before the eyes of the harried telegrapher the following near-death message:

Baltimore, Md. June 8th, 1864. Henry A. Perkins, Cedar Falls, Ia. Your mother very sick come at once. Johnson.

Because of the implied urgency of imminent death, the agent gave it precedence over political matter, and sent the coded message clicking over the wires. H. A. Perkins immediately completed the printing of handbills and supervised their distribution throughout Cedar Falls and the countryside. The Johnson signature was notice that Andrew Johnson had been nominated on the ticket with Abraham Lincoln. In this way he secured what was probably the first telegraphic scoop in Black Hawk county annals.

AN EARLY IOWA "TRAILER"

We saw on our streets yesterday a regular cabin on wheels, conveying some family over the prairies. It had sash, doors, glass windows, a stove, and looked quite comfortable.—*Iowa City Republican* 1868.

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