

(or wives) stood upon the hill that is now at the south end of the Des Moines Seventh street bridge, and waved farewell to the beautiful valley that they had known for many years. The settlers were coming. Land buyers, speculators, promoters, adventurers—all home seekers. The rush was great when the doors were opened. The occupation of the Des Moines valley was completed in 1846. The state of Iowa set up in business.

What a marvelous story of progress and prosperity, of pathos, of toil and happiness, of the making of a great commonwealth.

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### MEN OF A FRONTIER TOWN

Before the War of the Rebellion Des Moines was a small frontier town, where everybody knew everybody. The topics discussed on store boxes on summer evenings were popular sovereignty, Dred Scott and old John Brown. The political parties were about evenly divided. Among the ardent young Republicans were "Hub" Hoxie, S. V. White and John A. Kasson. Hoxie, who, as a boy and man, was in the employ of Tom Mitchell, a noted pioneer of central Iowa, who kept a station on the underground railroad, was pretty well imbued with black Republicanism. At no time before the war did his income probably go beyond \$800. He lived to visit his old home where he had worked hard as a poor boy and man in his own palace car, and a year ago (Nov. 25, 1886) succumbed to the tremendous pressure of his duties as Jay Gould's railroad lieutenant.

S. V. White, a little wiry Yankee attorney, located in Des Moines along about '58 or '59, and very soon gained a reputation as one of the blackest of black Republicans. An industrious, plodding counsellor, he was gradually building up a lucrative practice, but in a few years drifted away to Brooklyn, where, as Beecher's deacon, Wall street magnate and M. C., he has of late years become pretty well known to fame.

John A. Kasson, a native of New York, began the practice of law in Des Moines, about 1857, the year following the removal of the capital there from Iowa City. He at once went to the front in his profession. Conservative in his instincts, of fine presence and genial ways, he became the choice of the young Republicans of Des Moines to represent them at the national convention in Chicago, and he was one of the men who assisted in bringing Abraham Lincoln before the people as presidential candidate. From that day until his presidency at the late Centennial in Philadelphia, Mr. Kasson has been pretty well known to fame. The little frontier town of 1857 has certainly a remarkable record in sending forth three such familiar names as Deacon White, John A. Kasson and Hub Hoxie. —An Iowa Newspaper, 1887.

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Ghost towns of Iowa retain interest for many persons long after the last hitching posts have vanished. Additions and corrections come frequently to the "List of Abandoned Towns, Villages and Postoffices of Iowa" compiled by David C. Mott, then editor of the Annals of Iowa and published some dozen years ago, giving the names of about 2,500 such places. Wilbur G. Benedict, secretary of the Guthrie County Historical society, writes from Casey, noting a change in the record of location of Ridgeway, due to a change in the township boundaries. Ridgeway was in Beaver township, but there were two Sections 28, and the one where Ridgeway was located prior to Civil War days was "in the north section of panhandle on the old Newton ridge trail." Members of the historical society recently made a tour of the county and retraced some of the old trails and decided upon location of such places as harbor Stage station, Gopher station and Dalmanutha. The marking of the sites of these and hundreds of other Iowa ghost towns would be a worthy project for the centennial year.

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