

CEDAR COUNTY OLD SETTLERS' MEETING AND FESTIVAL.

AT a meeting of the Old Settlers of Cedar County, held pursuant to notice, on Wednesday, the 4th of September, 1872, at the court house in Tipton, William Baker, Esq., was called to the chair, and William H. Tuthill designated as Secretary.

The committee appointed at a previous meeting to prepare a constitution for the association, reported the following:

WHEREAS, By the blessings of a kind Providence, we, the surviving pioneers in the settlement of Cedar county, whose lives have been graciously prolonged through the privations and toils of the past, to enjoy the prosperity and peace of the present; being admonished by the onward course of time that our number is gradually diminishing, and that in a few short years we will also be called away from the scenes of our struggles and triumphs; believing that it would be instructive and beneficial to the rising generation to preserve the historic incidents of that early settlement of our county, that has so steadily and vigorously grown and culminated in such wide-spread and universal prosperity, and feeling that the cherished memories of the past, are links that bind us together in fraternal communion, do now organize ourselves as a Pioneer Association, and make, ordain, and establish the following constitution:

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This organization shall be known by the name and style of the "Old Settlers Association of Cedar county."

ARTICLE II.—OFFICERS.

The officers shall consist of a President, six Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer.

ARTICLE III.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The President shall preside at the meetings of the association, and shall have power to call special meetings whenever necessary, or when requested to do so by the executive committee.

SEC. 2. In case of the absence or inability of the President, the senior Vice President shall perform his duties.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall make a faithful record of all the proceedings of the association, and keep a register called "The Pioneer Record," in which shall be entered the names, date of birth, place of nativity, time of settlement in the county, and date and place of death of each member, when such death shall occur.

SEC. 4. The Treasurer shall have charge of the finances and render an account thereof at the expiration of his term of office.

SEC. 5. The officers shall be elected annually, and shall hold their respective offices for the term of one year, or until the next ensuing annual meeting. The election shall be by ballot, unless otherwise agreed upon.

ARTICLE IV.—COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. At each annual meeting the President-elect shall appoint an executive committee, to consist of five members, whose duty it shall be to make all the necessary arrangements for the next ensuing annual festival.

SEC. 2. The President, at the same time, shall appoint a committee of three members, to select a suitable person to deliver an address at the next succeeding annual meeting.

ARTICLE V.—MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. All persons of good moral character, who were residents of Cedar county on or before the 31st day of December, 1841, and the wives or husbands of such persons, are eligible to membership.

SEC. 2. The names of persons proposed for membership shall be handed in, in writing, and referred to a committee

for examination, who shall report at the same meeting, and if such report be favorable, the application shall be voted upon by the association, and the applicant shall be declared elected if two-thirds of the members present shall vote in the affirmative.

SEC. 3. Pioneer settlers in other parts of this state, and persons whose names may be connected with the early history of the county, may be elected honorary members of this association.

SEC. 4. Any member may be expelled for such cause as two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting may deem sufficient.

ARTICLE VI.—FESTIVAL.

There shall be an annual meeting and festival of the association held at Tipton, on the first Wednesday in September, of each year, at which every member, and honorary member, with their wives or husbands, are entitled to attend, with such other persons who may be invited by a vote of the association, and any member, may bring a delegate or other female relative in lieu of his wife.

ARTICLE VII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of each member to furnish the Secretary, within six months from the time of admission, a brief sketch of his life, embracing date and place of birth, and such incidents of personal experience in the early settlement of the county, as may be pertinent to the objects of this association, and may be deemed proper to communicate, which shall be carefully preserved by the Secretary.

SEC. 2. Whenever practicable, the members of this association shall attend in a body, the funeral of any deceased member, and as a token of respect shall wear the badge of mourning designated by the association.

SEC. 3. This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at such meeting.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. Reading the minutes.
2. Communications and reports from officers.
3. Reports from committees.
4. Unfinished business.
5. Election.
6. Proposals for membership, and action thereon.
7. Miscellaneous business.

After discussion of the same, section by section, on motion, the report of the committee was approved, and the constitution and rules of order unanimously adopted.

An election for officers of the association was then held, and resulted in the unanimous choice of Henry Hardman, President; Washington A. Rigby, John Ferguson, James Poston, John Safley, Abner Stebbins, Samuel P. Higginson, Vice Presidents; William H. Tuthill, Secretary, William Baker, Treasurer.

Upon the President-elect taking his seat, a beautiful silver mounted cedar cane was presented to him by William H. Tuthill, with the following address :

MR. PRESIDENT—Permit me to congratulate you in being the unanimous choice of the Old Settlers of Cedar County, as their presiding officer, at this, their first associated gathering.

You were among the first of that hardy band who pioneered their way to this beautiful and fertile portion of our western inheritance, at a time when it was a lone and uninhabited wilderness.

The changes since then have been truly wonderful, and seem more like the fanciful dreams of an enthusiast than the sober realities of the historian.

The progress of improvement, the constant developement of resources, and the unceasing march of civilization, have been so steadily and untiringly onward, that we can scarcely realize the fact, that our county, which in the spring of 1836 did not contain a single civilized inhabitant, has now a popu-

lation of over twenty thousand souls, and ranks in wealth and standing as one of the first in the state of Iowa.

How pleasant to recall the memories of the past, the incidents of that early pioneer life, which has resulted so gloriously, and to come together, as we do at this time, in the spirit of friendship and good will, to interchange congratulations and perpetuate those memories.

I now present you with the insignia of your official station, to which may properly be applied the well known remark made by our first representative to the territorial legislature, which if not grammatical or euphonious, was, to say the least, very expressive and to the point, that "Cedar is in that ar thing"—a cane, manufactured from a native cedar, cut from the banks of the river that gave name to the county, and skillfully fashioned and mounted, with its appropriate inscription, is intended to be the badge of your office, to be preserved with jealous care, and transmitted from President to President, successively, as long as our association continues to exist.

The President then responded in a very happy and feeling manner, expressive of his acknowledgment of the honor thus conferred upon him, and the fraternal relations each member of the association must naturally feel to each other, and its gratifying results.

The following persons were then announced as the executive committee for the ensuing year: John Culbertson, Washington A. Rigby, William M. Knott, Henry D. Brown, John S. Tuthill. And as the committee to provide a speaker for the next festival: Samuel Yule, Jno. Safley, William Baker.

On motion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of the association be tendered to Honorable William H. Tuthill, for the beautiful cane, so appropriately presented by him to the President, in behalf of the society, as the presidential badge of office.

The committee appointed to make the necessary arrange-

ments for refreshments, reported that a dinner had been provided by them at the Fleming House, for all the members of the association, at one o'clock P. M., and that time having arrived, a recess of one hour was ordered to partake of the refreshments thus provided.

After enjoying a pleasant dinner at the Fleming House, the members re-assembled, at the court house, for social converse and narration of the early incidents of pioneer life, which was participated in by most of the oldest settlers, to the evident satisfaction and enjoyment of all present, until late in the afternoon, when a final adjournment was made, by singing "Auld Lang Syne," in which the whole company heartily joined.

HENRY HARDMAN, President.

WILLIAM H. TUTHILL, Secretary.

RELICS.

WE copy the following from the *Tipton Post*, a paper which has done much to unearth the early history of Cedar county :

William Wiggins, of Tipton, has been swinging around some, visiting friends and relatives, and when in Mount Pleasant called to see the noted Jos. A. Dugdale, who presented him with a number of curiosities for his cabinet. Friend Joseph procured them while traveling in his "missionary work" in the different states. Grandfather W. brought to us a little box containing the relics, and we take pleasure in telling our readers what we saw :

1. A piece of wood from the house where Robert Fulton was born (oak with white-wash on it).
2. A piece of chestnut wood from the great tree under which Washington and Lafayette spread their blankets the night before the battle of Brandy Wine.

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