

HISTORY OF LOUISA COUNTY.

BY WILLIAM L. TOOLE.

(Concluded from page 269.)

In my two former articles relating to the early settlement or occupation of our county, briefness was adopted, and tiresome repetition avoided; the same course will be followed in this, my third and last article thereon.

Louisa county, like its adjoining counties, had for its early settlers a people patriotic and spirited, as was fully shown at the time of our border war; for, although then but few in numbers, they eagerly and freely attended to the call to repel the invaders. Public meetings were held, an exchange of opinion given, addresses made, and resolves made to be united and stand ready for a move against the intruders from Missouri.

This display of patriotism and determinedness was not confined alone to the males of eighteen years and upwards, but the wives and daughters were fully as zealous, encouraging the immediate move against the invaders. Exemplary of it, I will refer to one instance: Mr. Eastwood, one of our earlier justices of the peace, a blacksmith by trade, and who also kept a tavern, was made quite noted through these public positions of justice of the peace, blacksmith, and tavern-keeper, and as a consequence, his cabins were places of public resort, and places of public meetings. His wife possessed equal zeal and patriotism, and was quite a favorite of the people, on account of her hospitality and kindness. She took quite an interest in these public meetings, and on one occasion, assisted by a few of her female friends, prepared a free dinner for all assembled, and enough for all. The dinner was made noted through the huge (Johnny or journey) cake she prepared for the occasion; it was fourteen feet long, and about one foot wide, baked on a board before a fire fixed along a large log,

and, perhaps, the largest cake ever made in Iowa. The novelty of the cake, the patriotic speeches, and the fife and drum imparting life, and all striving to make the occasion interesting, lively and humorous, none enjoying the joyousness more than the popular favorite, Mrs. Eastwood.

These assemblages and public meetings would be composed of citizens, immigrants from several different states, possessing all the good qualities requisite to make patriotic, spirited, and useful citizens, probably greatly superior to those left behind them, for, as a general rule, it is only those of health, strength, and vigor, honorable, patriotic, and trustworthy, and capable of successfully organizing politically, and for self-protection, who do emigrate westwardly, and not the feeble, the imbecile, the drones, and fossils; for those have not the will, the courage, strength of intellect, or perseverance sufficient to move them from the firesides of their fathers; and if they did emigrate, would not aid much in subduing the wilderness, or in converting the wild, unoccupied prairie into fruitful fields; nor would they add much to the honor and glory of battlefields.

. And the first immigrants into Louisa county, like in the adjoining counties, showed evidence of soon taking proper steps for organizing for self-protection, and politically. A reference to their articles of union has been made heretofore, but I may be excused for introducing here one or two, to show their soundness and suitableness, adopted at a public meeting in our county, July 4th, 1836:—

“WHEREAS, It has been the settled policy of the United States to extend its territory by extinguishment of Indian titles by purchase of their lands, and to encourage settlement thereon by granting pre-emption therefor; and to prevent the confusion that might be produced in selecting locations or claims, we deem it advisable to adopt certain rules and regulations for that purpose; thereby, preserving unity and peace among ourselves, and good order in society, until Uncle Sam extends his arm of protection over us, and gives us his laws for our guidance,—

"*We resolve*, That all persons of this district (No. 1), male and female, over eighteen years old, shall be protected in claims on public lands, each one to the amount of one half-section, by adopting proper boundaries to the same."

Another article reads as follows:—

"As it is the custom of the government to have the public lands surveyed and brought into market at public sale, we, to prevent confusion, and to protect ourselves against opposing bidders at the public land sale, do mutually pledge ourselves to settle and adjust by ourselves all difficulties that may exist in connection with our claim-lines; or by a committee of three persons, one to be chosen by each party, and those to choose the third; the three shall hear all the evidence in the case (without oaths), and decide thereon, which decision shall be final and binding, and that we will unitedly support it."

Another, as follows:—

"That all the claims shall be numbered and registered, and bid off at the public sales by a bidder appointed for that purpose, and we bind ourselves to protect said bidder on said day of sale, while bidding for us for our registered claims, and in a body, united with claimants of other districts and counties, prevent any opposing bidding."

And, as said in other numbers of the ANNALS, the people thus safely organized, and having all matters connected therewith properly arranged, attended the land sales in a body, feeling entirely certain of securing their homes. These facts strengthening the assertion that the early settlers of Louisa county were capable of enacting good governing laws for their protection, and willing to be governed by all proper and wholesome laws.

Those same new settlers of our county, after getting through with the business of securing their homes, together with citizens of other counties, began to turn their attention to public and governmental matters, petitioning Congress for a separate territorial government from Wisconsin, &c., &c. And, as said before, as our county history closely connects itself

with the early history of Iowa, I may, for the purpose of perpetuating the history of county and state, be excused for herein giving the proceedings of the convention held for the purpose of asking Congress to grant us a separate territorial government, pre-emption law, &c. Said convention met in Burlington in November, 1837; viz:—

The convention was called to order by C. S. Jacobs, of Des Moines county; and, on motion of Mr. Warren, of Dubuque county, Mr. Jacobs was made chairman *pro tem.* of the convention for the purpose of organization.

On motion of Mr. Russel, of Dubuque, J. W. Parker, of Dubuque county, was elected secretary *pro tem.*

On motion of Mr. Davis, of Muscatine county, the counties were called over to ascertain the names of the delegates from each one, and the following gentlemen presented their credentials and took their seats in the convention; viz:—

From county of Dubuque.—P. H. Engle, J. T. Fales, G. W. Harris, W. A. Warren, W. B. Watts, A. F. Russel, W. H. Patton, J. W. Parker, J. D. Bell, and J. F. Rose.

From Des Moines county.—David Rorer, Robert Ralston, and C. S. Jacobs.

From Van Buren county.—V. Caldwell, J. G. Kenner, and James Hall.

From Henry county.—W. H. Wallace, J. D. Payne, and J. L. Myers.

From Muscatine county.—J. R. Struther, M. Couch, E. Reynolds, S. C. Hastings, S. Jenner, A. Smith, E. K. Fay.

From Louisa county.—J. M. Clark, Wm. L. Toole, and J. Rinearson.

From Lee county.—Henry Eno, John Claypool, and Hawkins Taylor.

On motion, the convention proceeded to organization.

Mr. C. S. Jacobs was elected president, Messrs. Clark and Wallace, vice presidents, and Parker and Struthers secretaries.

The governor and members of legislature were invited to seats.

A committee of seven,—viz: Messrs. Eno, Claypool, Kenner, Ralston, Davis, Watts, and Toole,—were appointed to draft a memorial to Congress, on the subject of the attempt making by the state of Missouri to encroach upon our southern boundary, and ask its interposition therein.

A committee, composed of Messrs. Engle, Payne, Struthers, Patton, and Smith, were appointed to prepare a memorial to Congress in relation to separate organization of a territorial government for Iowa.

Also, one composed of Messrs. Harris, Caldwell, Fales, Hastings, Parker, Taylor, and Rose, to prepare a memorial to Congress in relation to pre-emption.

Said committees reported their memorials, which were unanimously adopted.

The convention then, for the purpose of making known its sentiments relative to the efforts of Missouri to encroach upon our territory,—

Resolved, That it fully approved that part of the message of Governor Dodge, relating to our southern boundary, as communicated to the legislative assembly at their session, and with him, believe that Missouri has made encroachments upon our territorial rights, in endeavoring to extend its boundary north.

The convention then voted its thanks to Governor Dodge, and to our delegate in Congress, Geo. W. Jones. And then, after the usual complimentary thanks to president and officers of the convention, requests that its proceedings be printed in all the newspapers of the territory, and requesting our delegate to present its proceedings to Congress. And after a short address of its president, the convention adjourned.

The three memorials adopted at this convention were well received by Congress, and acts passed conforming thereto, and its interposition secured in regard to the border was referred to a settlement thereof made entirely satisfactory to Iowa. The timely memorial on this subject, no doubt, had its influence on Congress, and was the means of preventing bloodshed.

Louisa county, like its adjoining counties, has been agitated from center to circumference, and from outline to outline, on the railroad bond question, the citizens more or less interested, because it reaches their pockets, and all opposed to paying taxes, to meet the interest or liquidate the bonds. Not in defense of, or to excuse the (then) majority, who voted in favor of the project for which said bonds were issued, but as it is a subject now closely connected with the history of the county, and one that has agitated the county more than any other, either local or political, it will not be inappropriate herewith to include it in its history, and give a brief statement of the origin, progress, and final failure of the railroad in the county, the prime cause of issuing said bonds.

In 1851, several noted railroad presidents and engineers, members of Congress, editors, and distinguished business men of the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, among whom were General Schenck, General Wilson, Judge Humphrey, Mr. Pennington, Mr. Day, Mr. Bayless, and others equally distinguished, began a correspondence, urging the move for an organization to make an air-line railroad from some central, suitable point in Pennsylvania, to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Williamsport, in Lycoming county, Pa., was suggested as the beginning point, and where connections could be had with railroads running to New York and Philadelphia, thence *via* Franklin, Medina, and Tiffin, to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Meetings were held along the line in 1852, addressed by those men. Newspapers advocated the move, and finally, companies were formed to forward the work. That done, then those influential men and railroad companies, in 1853, began to agitate the move of the air-line railroad westwardly, soon securing an interest therein through Illinois *via* Lacon to New Boston. That done, they then extended their efforts into Iowa, soon securing the interest and influence of Gen. Curtis, who, with those first approached on the subject, honestly believed that the extension of said railroad through Louisa county, then west to the Missouri river, at a point opposite the initial point of the Pacific road, would be the begin-

ning of a new era of prosperity in Louisa county; and a company was organized to forward the great work conjointly with the other companies in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. And at a meeting in Fort Wayne, in 1854, these companies all became consolidated, under the name of the American Central Railroad Company, and elected General Schenck president thereof, and Pennington, Plumer, Bayless, Day, Perry, Wilson, and General Curtis vice presidents, who published able addresses, strongly urging the early completion of the American Central, as proposed, from the Atlantic to the Missouri, exhibiting its great national importance, its vitality, to the interests of commerce and civilization, to the spread of intelligence and liberal principles, &c., and that every heart be warmed with the greatness of the enterprise,—an enterprise that Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore would vie with each other in eagerness to form a connection therewith; a great road, national in importance and usefulness; and that the mechanic, the manufacturer, agriculturalist, and commercial men should favor the construction of the American Central, a combination of railroads unrivalled as to distance, grades, curves, location, and connection with sea-board, and that could be constructed as cheaply as any other railroad in contemplation, &c., &c., and for the completion of which the strength, energy, and aid of the whole people along its line could not be better applied.

With these representations and influences, and the important fact that the work of construction was progressing all along the line east of the Mississippi, and an early completion expected without a doubt. I say, how could that majority in Louisa county, who favored a connection with this important line of railroads, and urged a beginning of work thereon, with county aid, be blamed? Nor was it, until the Crimean War of 1854 to 1856 interfered with negotiations for sale of bonds, checking its progress, and finally producing an entire cessation of the work thereon.

Those same friends of the Central in Iowa did, however, make an effort to revive it a few years ago, but were again in-

errupted by the war between Prussia and Austria interfering with negotiations for sale of bonds, that was in each case reduced to a certainty. And, notwithstanding these two disappointments, its completion through Iowa was still resolved upon, and a third move for that purpose began this year, and its bonds about to be introduced into the market, when here comes the war between France and Prussia, interfering with all plans and arrangements for funds. For, in this, as in other similar enterprises, it depended upon foreign aid for progress and completion.

Although not as at first designed,—under one organization,—the air-line American Central Railroad will, no doubt, be completed by continued connections of railroads,—already so to Fort Wayne,—and from Galva to Mississippi river, and organizations for its completion through Indiana. The next move in Iowa on it will be from Toombsburg to Wapello.

This history of the American Central railway should satisfy the now majority against, that the majority that was for it aimed at benefiting our whole county, and all of this tier of counties to the Missouri river.

To show that the first movers of the Central were also among the first movers of Pacific road, we may be excused for adding, in county history, that the friends of the Air-line Central, at one of their meetings in Lacon, Ill., in 1853, called the citizens together, to make known their views relative to the Pacific railroad. Mr. Bayless, of Indiana, was chosen president of the meeting, Mr. Barnett, of Indiana, and Mr. Buckingham, of Ohio, vice presidents, and Thomas Tiger, of Indiana, and Wm. L. Toole, of Iowa, secretaries. The president announced to the meeting that its object was to promote and advance the great enterprise of constructing the Pacific railroad, and to encourage immediate action on the subject. A committee was appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of the wishes of the meeting, which, by their chairman, reported: first,—that a railroad across the central part of the United States, connecting the two great oceans, would be traversed by the whole world, and be a great national band

to unite our own states, and to extend our commerce. Secondly,—that a series of public meetings be immediately called, to recommend the peculiar advantages of the Platte Valley route, and urging Congress to appropriate money and means for its early commencement and completion. And that all proceedings of public meetings be sent to members of Congress, with the request that they present the same, and give all proper attention thereto. Then, Mr. Buckingham, of Ohio, and Mr. Fleming, of Indiana, ably addressed the meeting. And General Curtis, of Iowa, also addressed the meeting at much length, advocating the Platte Valley route, as central and national, and of easy adaptation to a rapid and permanent construction of the road. The address was, altogether, a masterly effort, combining important information, sound logic, and patriotic sentiment. Some other important matters connected therewith were also attended to.

This, as well as the two former articles relative to early history of Louisa county, without any assistance or suggestions, has been made from my own knowledge of occurrences and events relative thereto. But in case other persons may know of any matter connected with its early history that should be included, by reporting it, such matter can be included in article number four; but if none is reported, this is the end.

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HARVEY HATTON'S SERMON.

From the Unpublished History of Cedar County.

BY WILLIAM H. TUTHILL, TIPTON, IOWA.

As distinguished from the stated ministry of the orthodox churches in "Old Cedar," some singular specimens of illiterate preachers have from time to time appeared, and after a

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