

## NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY.

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BY D. C. BLOOMER.

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No 6.

(Continued from page 194.)

GROVE township was organized September 25, 1858. It is six miles square, and is contained in government township 74 N., of range 39 W. A number of fine groves are scattered over its surface, and no portion of our county offers greater inducements to settlers. The streams are numerous, and the soil reasonably fertile. The old Mormon trail across the county, passed through the northern part of the township, and the stages took this route until the summer of 1858. The first settlers in the township were James S. Watson, A. J. Field, Jacob Anderson, William Ellswick, John Smith, James Otto, A. F. Wheeler, and S. M. B. Wheeler. The two latter resided in the northern part of the township, and kept the old stage station in a grove that still bears their name. Thomas Connor and John C. Traver, settled in the township at an early day. The first school election was held in September, 1855, and in January, 1856, the first school was opened in a log house, which together with the lot, was donated to the district by S. M. B. Wheeler. This was the only school house until 1864, when a new frame one was built near the center of the township. This answered the purposes of the people until 1868, when the township was divided into three sub-districts, and in 1870, into four, in each of which a good frame school house has been erected. Wheeler's Grove post office is located near the center of the township, which is now settling up with an industrious farming population. The census of 1860 gave the number of persons in this township at 169, and of 1870, at 356.

James township, situated near the center of the county, was organized September 25th, 1858. It originally comprised three government townships. Two of these were skirted on the east by the Nishnabottana river, and comprised a large proportion of excellent bottom land. Samuel Fleshor, S. A. Slocum, Belknap, and Anderson, were the first settlers in this part of the township. William Lyman and J. L. Fetter settled here in 1856, with their families, and began to open farms. Silver Creek passes across the western part of the township, and here Pleasant Taylor was the first resident, and he built a small mill on his farm at the point where the road crosses the creek, in township 75, range 41. Jerome and Charles Turner entered lands and commenced farming in the same vicinity in 1857, also Finley A. Burke, a former resident of Wheeling, Virginia. The first school was taught in the township in 1857, by William Lyman. Stephen James was an early settler, and his brother, William C. James, early acquired title to a tract of fine land in the eastern part of the township, on which in subsequent years, he has opened and cultivated one of the finest farms in the county. J. L. Fetter was the first justice of the peace, and William Lyman was the first township clerk. James township, until within a year or two, settled up very slowly. Its population in 1860 was 111, and in 1870, had increased only to 309. In politics the township had been very equally divided, but has generally given a small democratic majority.

York township, situated in the northern part of the county, was organized on the 14th of July, 1859. Musqueto creek skirts the township on the west, and Keg creek runs through the whole length of it, twelve miles, from north to south. On both of these creeks are several small groves of timber, but the township is principally composed of handsomely rolling prairie. Joseph Holman, Isaac Atkins, Elam Mechim, and Alexander and David G. Clough, were the first settlers in the township. After these, came Lewis Beard, Charles Allen, L. J. Child, Henry Rishton, Reuben

Thomas, Harvey Dunn, and others. The township settled up very slowly, and when organized, only contained fourteen voters. David G. Clough was the first clerk of the township, L. J. Child the first justice, and Lewis Beard was one of the first trustees. The latter settled in the largest grove in the township in 1856, and his house furnished for a number of years, a convenient stopping place for travelers and land hunters visiting this somewhat secluded portion of the county. It was situated on what was commonly known as the "Ballard road," which, starting from Council Bluffs, extended northeastwardly through Pottawattamie, Shelby, and Audubon counties. The first school in York township was opened in 1857, by Miss Ada Clough. The school house was very small. The floor was of rough boards, and the roof was covered with earth, and afforded but a poor protection from the rains. The other early teachers who followed her were Miss Harriet Thomas, and Miss H. Perry. In 1860, the old log school house was torn down and a brick one erected in its place. Log school houses, however, did not entirely go out of fashion in this township for several years, but it is now supplied with several good school buildings. The population of York township was 97 in 1860, and 227 in 1870. The Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad passes through its northwestern corner.

On the 18th of February, 1859, the city of Council Bluffs, by the unanimous vote of the electors, at a special election held for that purpose, was organized into an independent school district. On the 14th of March, at the first election for school officers, the following were chosen: President, D. C. Bloomer; Vice President, L. W. Babbitt; Secretary, H. C. Nutt; Treasurer, Samuel Knepper; Directors, J. B. Stutsman, Thomas Officer, Edward McBride. At this time the city contained five hundred persons of legal school age, and three public schools were taught this season by teachers employed by the school board. No school houses had been as yet, erected within the city, and the schools were kept in the Odd Fellows Hall and other buildings leased for the pur-

pose. During the previous year (1858), a tract of ground containing about six acres had been purchased for two thousand dollars by the school board, with a view of erecting a school house thereon, but upwards of ten years passed away, before the people were prepared for this undertaking. Schools had been established in the town at an early day by the Mormons. George Green is believed to have been the first teacher who had charge of a school within the present limits of the city. He had previously taught a school at Council Point, which was probably the first in the county. He came to Kaneshville and opened a school in 1849. Other teachers who followed him were named Clark, Files, Goddard, Peck, and Francis A. Brown. The latter placed a large guilt sign over the door of his school room in the old court house on Madison Street containing the words "Mormon Academy." Among the other early teachers were Peck, Hutton, Frank, Axtel, Kinsman, Baker, and Goodrich. The two latter were in charge of the schools in 1859. Up to 1854, nearly all the teachers were Mormons. This year, two young women, Sarah and Lucy Rockwell, both former residents of the state of Maine, were induced through the exertions of Rev. G. G. Rice, to open a school in the city. They proved to be excellent teachers, and their names and gentle and winning manners, are kindly remembered by our old residents. Mr. Rice and wife had also for brief periods taught a private school, and Miss Mary Hatch, now the wife of S. N. Porterfield, came here in 1854, and taught as an assistant to Mr. Peck, in the old Methodist church. In 1856 Mr. James B. Rue and Mr. A. R. Wright each established private schools in the city. The latter was soon discontinued, but Mr. Rue continued in the work for seven or eight years. He was an excellent teacher, a good scholar, and during his long residence in the city has proved himself a most worthy and exemplary citizen. The first school commissioner, so far as I can find, was Mr. N. T. Spoor. The next was Marshall Turley, who traveled over the county delivering lectures on education, and organizing

school districts. The next was Mr. S. M. Smith who entered upon his duties in the spring of 1854. His records as a school officer are the first of which I can find any trace. From his school report made October, 1854, there appears then to have been six school districts in the county, namely: Kane, containing 324 pupils; Carterville, 85 pupils,; Wicks Mills, 91 pupils; Rockford, two districts, with 56 pupils, and Traders Point, 32 pupils. At this time the county contained one school house built of logs, and situated in Rockford township. In 1855, the first frame school house was erected, situated in Highland Grove district. The progress of the public schools in the county was very slow until after the passage of the new school law in 1858, they then began equally to increase in number and efficiency. In the year ending October 4th, 1860, the number of school districts in the county was reported at 34; number of school houses, 11; number of schools, 33; number of pupils in attendance, 1,006; and number of teachers employed, 35. The first teachers institute was held in November, 1859, under charge of County Superintendent Rue.

On the 14th of March, 1859, the annual charter election in the city of Council Bluffs resulted in the choice of the following officers: Mayor, George Doughty; City Recorder, Cornelius Voorhis; Treasurer, C. W. Boyers; Marshal, J. C. Fargo; Assessor, J. W. Damon; Aldermen, first ward, J. B. Lewis and G. M. Dodge; second ward, S. N. Porterfield; third ward, T. P. Treynor; fourth ward, H. H. Oberholtzer; fifth ward, John Hammer and D. W. Carpenter. The city officers appointed by the council this year were Frank Sheet, City Attorney; Sam Perin, City Engineer; and J. P. Wagstaff, Supervisor. The total amount of city tax for all purposes levied this year, was \$9.970. From a report made to the council in September, the total liabilities of the city were shown to be \$24,283.91. This included a bonded debt of \$10,000. Considerable progress was made during this year in the construction of side walks. A large number of old log buildings situated along Broadway, which

had become nuisances, were torn down by order of the council. During the summer, Mr. Voorhis resigned the recordership, and T. P. Treynor was appointed in his place. The summer of 1859 was noted for the remarkably high water in the Missouri river. Its banks were fuller than they have been known to be for many years before or since. The high grade across the low grounds adjacent to the river was entirely covered with water, and the operations of the ferry were suspended for several days. The bottom lands adjacent to the city were left untouched by the flood, and business at the lower landing went forward as usual.

Early in the year 1859 the official action of John H. Sherman, county judge of Pottawattamie county, began to excite a great deal of discussion both among the people and through the press of the county. On the 18th of February in that year the grand jury made a presentment to the district court, in which Sherman was charged with grossly mismanaging the fiscal affairs of the county, with illegally issuing great numbers of county orders, and with issuing others payable to himself, and that they found the books and papers in his office in a very deranged and disordered condition, and asking that he be suspended from office until a full and impartial investigation could be made. A summons was issued to Sherman to appear and answer to the presentment, but this he declined to do until the next term of the court, as the law required that a notice of ten days before the commencement of the term, should be served upon him. The case therefore went over to the August term. But the great mass of the people were far from being pleased with the postponement, and a large public meeting was held in Council Bluffs on the 26th of February, to which a variety of reports were made, and sundry resolutions adopted looking to an investigation of the affairs of the county judge's office. Such an investigation was made during the month following, and the reports of the committee were published at length in the county papers. They showed clearly enough that the charges against Sherman were fully sustained by

his own books and papers, and were in fact in most cases admitted to be so by him. The county orders issued during the brief term of nine months had amounted to over \$33,000. The swamp land and school funds were also found to be in a most unfortunate condition. The subject continued to excite a great deal of interest, but was finally set at rest by the trial of Sherman before the district court in August, when he was found guilty of the charges presented against him, and he was thereupon removed from office. This trial excited a great deal of interest in the county, and the verdict was generally approved by the people. Upon the removal of Sherman, the duties of the office devolved upon Mr. C. P. Kellogg, the capable clerk of the district court, by whom its duties were discharged until October, when the vacancy was filled by the election of J. P. Casidy. It was during the incumbency of Sherman in the county judge's office, that the financial affairs of the county reached their lowest point of depression. County orders were sold as low as thirty-five, thirty, and even twenty-five cents on the dollar, for cash. The interest on the school fund and swamp land fund loan was unpaid, and many of the securities for these loans were found to be utterly worthless. Judge Casidy, upon assuming the duties of the office, endeavored to introduce a better and more economical system in the management of county affairs, but it was many years before the county was enabled to emerge from the waste and extravagance which marked this part of its history.

The Congregational Church, during the principal part of this year, was under the charge of J. S. Haskell, who, a short time previous, had prefixed the title Reverend to his name. He had formerly been a noted slight-hand performer, but for a year or two had been in charge of churches in Indiana and the eastern part of the state. His movements, while pastor in this city, were somewhat startling to the staid and sober classes in the community. He possessed wonderful powers of mimicry, and his sermons were sometimes almost as entertaining in that respect, as his old-time

performances as Fakir of Sivah, in which character he had traveled over the country. Besides attending to his ordinary pastoral duties, he soon became the owner of a large number of horses and wagons, and busied himself and them and a number of hired men in transferring freight to and from the river landing, frequently involving himself and employes in brawls and quarrels with others engaged in the same business. Nothing delighted him more than to drive a four-in-hand team, and during the state canvass, in the fall of the year, the good members of the congregation were astonished to see their pastor mounted on a band wagon, at the head of a political procession, as it filed through the streets. His pastoral connection with the church continued for nine or ten months; he then left for Nebraska, but a few years after returned to Council Bluffs as chief manager of a circus, and from the ring delivered an address, in which he made humorous allusions to his former residence in the city. Haskell was succeeded early in 1860 by the Rev. Harvey Adams, who proved himself to be a most faithful and conscientious minister of the gospel.

In August, Abraham Lincoln visited the county, and spent several days with old acquaintances and friends in Council Bluffs. He was accompanied by Mr. Hatch, at that time secretary of the state of Illinois. At the earnest request of a great many citizens, Mr. Lincoln delivered an address in concert hall, which was characterized by all those remarkable traits of clear, close and terse reasoning for which he was so greatly distinguished. Judge Test, of Indiana, who was at that time visiting his son, J. D. Test, also spoke at the same meeting.

Up to August 11th, of this year, one hundred and twenty-eight steamboats had arrived during the season. Of these thirteen went above to Sioux City, Fort Randall, etc. The *Nonpareil*, in giving these figures, remarked, on the 27th of August, that considering the almost universal stagnation in all kinds of business, these arrivals at this place did not make so very bad showing for this upper country.

October 13th and 14th, the annual county fair came off in Council Bluffs. Concert Hall was devoted to the display of agricultural products, and other articles usually on exhibition on such occasions, while the stock was arranged on a tract of ground a short distance west of the hall. The whole number of entries was 324, and \$393 were distributed in premiums. Col. Babbitt's "Cherokee" again carried off the first premium on horses. As usual, the riding by the ladies attracted a great crowd, and formed the principal attraction on the fair grounds. Sorghum syrup made its appearance this year for the first time, among the articles on exhibition.

The state census in 1859 gave the population of the county at 5,012. Number of dwelling houses, 833. Acres of land in cultivation, 11,818. Total assessed value of real and personal property, \$3,086,000. Total county and state tax, \$43,623.

The election this year was contested with a good deal of spirit. Addresses were made to the people by A. C. Dodge and S. J. Kirkwood, the opposing candidates for governor, Col. S. R. Curtis, and others. September 13th, the democrats held a barbecue, which was attended by a large delegation from Omaha, at which addresses were made by Henry Clay Dean and C. C. Cole. For county officers three full tickets were in the field—democratic, republican, and independent. For county judge, these candidates were, respectively, Wm. A. Reel, J. W. Damon, and J. P. Casidy. Col. Babbitt was on the democratic ticket for lieutenant governor, and Caleb Baldwin for supreme judge. The election resulted in favor of the independent county ticket, and about 300 majority for the democratic state officers, with the exception of Judge Baldwin, who ran 138 ahead. For governor the vote stood, for Dodge, 600, for Kirkwood, 295. For county judge, Casidy, 356, Reel, 290, Damon, 197. For representative there were four candidates, who were voted for as follows: S. H. Riddle, 415, J. L. Fetter, 98, D. C. Bloomer, 259, S. M. Ballard, 82. The other county officers elected were S. H. Craig, sheriff, W. D. Turner, treasurer and re-

corder, P. A. Wheeler, county surveyor, J. B. Rue, county superintendent.

On the 7th of November (1859), ground was first broken within the county, on the Council Bluffs & St. Joseph Railroad. Although the day was very unpleasant, quite a large concourse of citizens assembled on the bottom about a mile south of town, and with plows and shovels, made a veritable commencement of the work. On the following evening a large meeting was held in concert hall, which was addressed by Col. Peabody, the engineer of the road, and Governor Black, of Nebraska. Their arguments and illustrations met with the general approval of the people, and the conviction now became general that the surest and most expeditious mode of securing a railroad connection to the county would be to expedite, by all means within their power, the early construction of a railroad down the Missouri Valley to St. Joseph. Accordingly, on the 8th day of December the city of Council Bluffs, by a nearly unanimous vote, decided to issue its bonds to the amount of \$25,000, to aid in its construction, the company to issue stock to the city in exchange for its bonds, which were to run ten years and draw ten per cent interest. These bonds were issued in the course of the next two years. And on the 15th of February, 1860, the county voted to ratify a contract which had been entered into by the county judge, providing for the transfer to the same company of swamp lands, or the proceeds of the sale of swamp lands, to the amount of \$40,000, in exchange for stock of the company, to be expended in the construction of that portion of the Council Bluffs & St. Joseph Railroad lying within the limits of the county. The transfer was accordingly made, and for a few years the county held and voted upon its stock; but finally, and before the road was completed and in order to insure such completion, it, together with the city, transferred the same to Willis Phelps, of Massachusetts, and his associates, by whom the work was actually finished and brought into operation.

Up to the date of the last mentioned vote of the county, the management of the swamp land fund had been a constant source of contention, if not corruption. Consisting originally of about 60,000 acres of land, it had, in one way and another, been frittered away, without proving of hardly any real benefit to the county. A small part of the proceeds of sales of the lands had been expended in digging ditches, which, in a few years were filled up. Other portions of it had been loaned out to irresponsible parties, and a considerable amount expended in making a highway across the bottom to the Missouri river, west of the city of Council Bluffs. The people were therefore very willing, in view of these facts, to give all that was left to the railroad company that then seemed most likely to accomplish the professed objects of its organization. The amount realized from the sale of swamp lands by Judge James was \$17,355.42, and by Judge Sherman \$7,054.31. April 12, 1860, the final transfer was made to the Council Bluffs & St. Joseph Railroad, by Judge Casidy. The company then received in cash, due from the United States for swamp land sold, \$16,380, and 8,884 acres of land, equal to \$11,513.86, and leaving a balance still due the company of \$12,513, for which it received a certificate from the county judge to be paid out of any subsequent proceeds of swamp lands that might come into the county treasury.

March 12th, 1860, the following city officers were elected: mayor, L. W. Babbitt; recorder, T. P. Treynor; treasurer, C. W. Boyers; marshal, C. P. Smith; assessor, David DeVol; aldermen, J. B. Lewis, John Jones, Milton Rogers, W. L. Biggs, Addison Cochran, and D. W. Carpenter. On the same day the school board was elected as follows: president, R. L. Douglass; vice president, James A. Jackson; treasurer, C. W. Boyers; secretary, T. P. Treynor; director, Addison Cochran.

John B. Beers, an old, and much respected citizen of Council Bluffs, died on the 3d of March, 1860, aged fifty-nine years. He had been for a number of years identified

with its interests, and his memory is perpetuated by a handsome marble monument, now standing in Fairview cemetery. In his business transactions he was upright and honorable, and he left a handsome fortune to his widow and only daughter.

On the 29th of September, John Williamson and two other persons, one of them a woman, and all of them negroes, were kidnapped while traveling in the southwestern part of the county, and hurried off to Missouri. As soon as information of this high-handed outrage was received, Sheriff Craig and City Marshal Smith started for the south, and succeeded in recovering Williamson and bringing him back. The other two parties captured were afterward also found in Missouri, and returned to their homes, through the efforts of Messrs. Blanchard and Gaston, of Fremont county. Their researches developed the fact that the outrage was committed by three noted desperadoes, with a view of selling the negroes into slavery in Missouri. All three of the gang were arrested, but two of them made their escape. One of the number, however, a fellow named Hurd, was, on the requisition of the governor of Iowa, brought back to Council Bluffs, and held over, on default of bail, for trial, but he succeeded a few days afterwards in making his escape.

On the morning of the 16th of October, the lifeless body of a notorious character, named Philip McGuire, was found suspended from a tree on Cemetery Hill, with a card attached on which was inscribed the words, "Hung for all kinds of rascality." He had a day or two previous been arrested for larceny, and placed in the old cottonwood jail, from which he had been taken by the vigilance committee, and summarily executed. About the same time another case of lynch law occurred in Council Bluffs. One Miller, a resident of Harrison county, had been arrested for horse-stealing—the crime was pretty clearly traced home to him, and he was, on a preliminary examination, committed to the old jail, to answer for the crime at the next term of the

district court. During the night that followed his committal, he was in some way taken out of his place of confinement, and hung on a tree in the eastern part of the city. The existence of a vigilance committee in the county at that time, was well understood by the citizens generally, and recognized to be a necessity for the protection of the community from the lawless acts of desperate men.

During the summer of 1860, a young person by the name of Frank Bates resided in Council Bluffs, and made himself (?) quite conspicuous in a variety of ways. He was small of stature, had a round face and rosy cheeks, blue eyes, and auburn hair, dressed neatly, and was noted for his pleasant manners and general good conduct. He was always very welcome among Sunday school teachers, and sure to be on hand at bible classes, concerts, pic-nics, and all sorts of pleasant gatherings, where he made himself very agreeable, especially to the ladies, among whom he was a decided favorite. Suddenly, about the first of October, Frank disappeared from society, and then the report ran round that Frank, the dear young man, was in reality a woman! Indeed, this fact was soon after admitted by all, and great was the surprise expressed by her many admirers! She, however, never returned to Council Bluffs, either to console the ladies or apologize to the gentlemen whose acquaintance she had so rudely sundered.

The summer of 1860 was noted for the remarkable drouth which prevailed all over the western part of the state. Very little rain fell during the entire season, and the yield of vegetables and all kinds of small grain was unusually light. The county fair, held in October, showed this plainly enough, and the exhibition fell far below that of the previous year. The display of vegetables was quite small, as were also the entries of stock, and there was but little competition in fruits. Perhaps this result of the fair was also partially owing to the absorbing political canvass in which the people were engaged, and which left but little time for a great many of them to think of anything else. Col. Bab-

bitt's "Cherokee" again carried off the first prize—at the fair we mean—not at the polls.

A branch of the State Bank of Iowa was established in the fall of 1860, and at the first annual election of officers, held in January, 1861, James A. Jackson was elected president, and John D. Lockwood cashier; the other directors being S. S. Bayless, Samuel Knepper, and J. P. Casady. The capital of the bank was \$50,000. Mr. Lockwood had been a resident of the city for about a year and a half previous, during which time he had been at the head of a private banking house. Mr. Jackson was an old merchant, who about this time retired from active business.

November 17, 1860, William S. Burke was announced as local editor of the *Nonpareil*. He was a racy and vigorous writer, and during the political canvass of that year, had become noted for a series of burlesque reports of the "Little Giant Club," which appeared from time to time in the *Nonpareil*, and which excited a good deal of amusement on all sides, even those who were the victims of his keen wit enjoying his palpable hits and absurd comparisons as hugely as any. Mr. Burke's connection with the *Nonpareil* continued for six or seven years, either as editor or publisher, and sometimes as both.

The packing of pork was first commenced in Council Bluffs in the winter of 1859-60, but the erection of a building for that purpose was first commenced in the fall of 1860, by John W. Ross. His "Pork House," as it has been commonly called, situated in the western part of the city, was owned and mainly conducted by him for a number of years. It was furnished with all the necessary appliances for the successful prosecution of the business, and has been in successful operation each year since its first erection. Messrs. Stewart & Haas, wholesale grocers, early become associated with Mr. Ross in the prosecution of the business, and their purchasing of stock extended, not only over Pottawattamie, but also over a large portion of western Iowa. The number of hogs slaughtered in the winter of 1860-61, reached several thousands, and was largely increased in subsequent years.

In the fall of the year, Mr. Charles Hendrie, of Burlington, commenced the erection of the Council Bluffs foundry and machine shop. This has, in subsequent years, been greatly enlarged, and its business has proved a successful one for its enterprising founder, and contributed largely to promote the growth of the city. It was the first manufactory of any importance established within its limits.

The political canvass of 1860 was interesting, and sometimes exciting. In Council Bluffs political clubs were formed and rooms rented and occupied during the four or five months preceding the election, known respectively as the "Douglass" and "Lincoln" halls. The organization devoted to the election of Douglass was called the "Little Giant Club," and its officers were: L. W. Babbitt, president, Samuel Clinton, vice president, E. F. Burdick and D. W. Carpenter, secretaries. The officers of the Lincoln club were: Thomas Tostevin, president, S. H. Kelly, vice president, William H. Kinsman, secretary, and J. D. Horn, treasurer. The principal local speakers on the side of the republicans were Frank Sheet, C. E. Stone, W. H. Kinsman, J. D. Horn, D. C. Bloomer. On the other side were W. G. Crawford, D. W. Price, L. W. Babbitt, R. H. Williams. Political discussions were held during the canvass between Cole and Curtis, the opposing candidates for congress, and between Bennett and McPherson, the Douglass and Lincoln electors. Speeches were also made in the county during the canvass, by the leading orators of each party in the state. A small party of "Old Line Whigs," as they called themselves, refused to support the republican candidates, and stood firmly for Bell and Everett; and about the same number of democrats gave there adhesion to John C. Breckenridge for president. Among the latter were J. D. Test and Joel Tuttle, both of whom made several speeches in this and other counties, in support of their favorite candidates. The election in the county resulted as follows: For president, Douglass, 412; Lincoln, 410; Everett, 28; Brecken-

ridge, 29. For congress, Cole, 459; Curtis, 419. For judge of the supreme court, Miller, 415; Wright, 425. For clerk of the district court, Burdick, 586; Eubank, 268. For member of board of education, Bloomer, 475; Kreidlebaugh, 383. For county surveyor, Tostevin, 505.

After the result of the election was known, the successful party celebrated the event by bonfires, and a procession through the streets, during the progress of which several transparencies were smashed by brick-bats, and there were some good-natured attempts at rowdyism during the evening.

December 24, 1860, the second session of the teachers institute commenced at Council Bluffs, and continued five days. About twenty-five teachers were present, and public lectures were delivered before it by Col. Thomas H. Benton and W. E. Harvey, superintendents of public instruction in Iowa and Nebraska, and by D. C. Bloomer.

The election of Judge Casady, in the fall of 1859, began a new era in the management of county affairs. A careful economy marked his administration. The expenses of the county were rapidly reduced; waste and extravagance were carefully avoided; the resources of the county were closely husbanded, and every possible effort made to place its finances in a better condition. The charges of corruption and personal favoritism in the county judge's office now wholly ceased, and the people generally were well satisfied that their interests would be safe while in the hands of the incumbent. Nevertheless, so unfortunate had been the experience of the people with the county judge system, that they were almost unanimously in favor of a change in the management of county affairs. The *Nonpareil*, the republican organ, earnestly advocated a change, and its editor, Mr. Maynard, during his official attendance upon the legislature, was largely instrumental in securing the adoption of the supervisor system. At the first election, a very competent board of supervisors was elected, and thus passed away, on

its assemblage in January, 1861, all cause for the series of complaints against the management of county affairs by the county judge, that had existed almost continually from the first organization of the county.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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I-O-W-A.

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WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.,  
Nov. 8th, 1872.

*Editor of the Annals—Sir:—*

AN article in the ANNALS of July, 1872, gives currency to a tale heretofore in circulation, and attributing the origin of the word "Iowa" to the exclamation of a wandering Indian chief. Pleased with the country, we are told he said "Iowa!" meaning "This is the place," &c.

Will any good scholar, familiar with the meaning of Indian words, vouch for the correctness of this interpretation? Does not the so-called legend bear a suspicious resemblance to a story long current in newspapers, and substantially to the following effect:

A wandering tribe of Indians, searching for new hunting grounds, came at length to the banks of a beautiful river, and, pleased with the general aspect of nature, exclaimed "Alabama! Alabama!" or, "Here we rest! Here we rest!"

By a reference to the latest edition of Webster's Unabridged, in the vocabulary of Modern Geographical Names, I find the following definition: "Iowa. The French form of an Indian word, signifying the 'drowsy' or 'the sleepy ones,' a Sioux name of the Pahoja or 'Gray Snow' tribe."

They must have grown more wakeful, as I find in the same volume this additional definition: "Hawkeye State. The State of Iowa; said to be named after an Indian chief, who was once a terror to *voyageurs* to its borders."

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