

on stone They dig excellent stone out of the cellars to build the walls.

We start for St Anthony in coaches I take charge of my friend Miss Jannis

After getting a short distance out of the town we stop to look at some of the Red river travelling carriages which consist of a cart just like a dray, with shafts and without a single jot of iron about them. Before these they hitch a single ox in the same way a dray horse is hitched to his cart. I saw about 150 of these establishments. They come several hundred miles down from the British trading station in the vicinity of the head of the Red River.

The load in the coach in which my friend Miss Jannis and myself rode, we had Mr Jennings, Mr Ben Campbell and Miss M[?] & Mrs S[?], in all a decidedly jolly crowd. We find a beautiful country a delightful day, Splendid crops, and for myself, what was to me a

thousand times better, a sweet girl of 18 summers, whom I find I am in spite of my hardheartedness beginning to love. Its a fact! No mistake in this problem.

We go to the tower at St Anthony and mount to the top of it. Here we have a most magnificent view. The country for a long distance around appears in all its lovely beauty. The falls of St Anthony appear to me only in the light of utility, not of beauty. They must afford one of the best water powers in the world. There are several falls, falling from five to ten or more feet. On these mills are erected, and a board shoot is fixed to let the boards run over the dams, or rather falls, and at the lower end of this shoot the boards are caught and put into rafts A very fine specimen of Yankee ingenuity. We cross over on the wire suspension bridge to the town of Minneapolis, on the west side of the river. I think these two towns will finally out run St Paul. We go from there to the falls of the

## The Dubuque & Pacific Railroad

The Dubuque & Pacific Railroad was chartered on April 28, 1853, by several Dubuque businessmen who wanted to extend their trade territory inland from the Mississippi River. Assisting in the railroad company's organization were officers of the Illinois Central Railroad — whose tracks, then under construction, would reach the Mississippi River at a point just opposite Dubuque. Roswell B. Mason, the Illinois Central's chief engineer, served also as the Dubuque & Pacific's engineer-in-chief. In 1855 Mason would quit that job to head the construction company hired to build the Dubuque & Pacific's tracks across Iowa.

President of the Dubuque & Pacific was Jesse P. Farley, a Dubuque merchant with a major role in the regional steamboat trade. Local lawyer Platt Smith and banker Frederick Jesup also took positions with the Dubuque & Pacific, as solicitor and treasurer respectively. And heading the Dubuque contingent was the Dubuque & Pacific's board chairman, U.S. Sen. George Wallace Jones. No one had done more than Iowa's Senator Jones to convince the Illinois Central to direct construction of its tracks toward Dubuque, and no one would do more in the years ahead to see that the Dubuque & Pacific got its own tracks built across northern Iowa.

The Dubuque & Pacific was one of several Iowa carriers to benefit from federal land-grant legislation passed in 1856, one of a series of such grants that Congress had been making to various states since 1850. The land-grant legislation of 1856 — “a princely gift to the state of Iowa,” in the words of historian Leland Sage — made available to Iowa railroad builders grants of land totaling about 4 millions acres, more than 10 percent of the state's land. The land was given to each railroad

in the form of alternate square-mile sections across a territory six miles deep on either side of the railroad's right-of-way. Once the government gave them the land, the railroad companies could pretty much do what they wanted with it. For example, they could turn around and immediately sell it off in smaller parcels, or they could hold on to it until incoming settlers drove up the price. The choice was theirs. But the government's “bait to railroad builders” (Sage's words again) had one condition: Land designated by the grant could not be claimed by the railroad until the company's tracks actually reached the particular sections to be claimed. Thus land in the Fort Dodge area along the Dubuque & Pacific's proposed route would not become Dubuque & Pacific property until the company's tracks were built in Webster County. For this reason, the land grant was no help in financing construction. Construction funds had to be raised in conventional ways — through sales of corporate stock and local bonds.

Within a month of the land-grant legislation's passage, Fort Dodge lawyer John Duncombe was becoming the Dubuque & Pacific's man on the scene, though he does not appear to have had an official position with the railroad company. On June 19, 1856, he conferred with B. B. Provost, Mason's successor as chief engineer, about the Dubuque & Pacific's crossing of the Des Moines River at Fort Dodge. A short time later, he spent two days out in the hot summer sun with a Dubuque & Pacific employee named Knickerbocker, who was conducting the railroad's survey through Webster County. Then on August 18 he reported in his journal, “I get up a petition for a loan of \$200,000 of the credit of the County of Webster to the Dubuque & Pacific Rail Road Company.” Duncombe's diary indicates that he spent late August and most of September 1856 “electioneering”

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myself . . . a sweet girl  
of 18 summers*

Minnehaha, a beautiful sight! this fall is about sixty feet. My friend Miss Jannis is delighted! This I think is one thing that pleases me

After we leave these falls each of us take a small piece of a Bull rush from the falls of the Minnehaha

and go across the river after looking through Fort Snelling. This Fort is beautifly located and would when properly manned be one of the strongest fortifications in the West. It is built of stone. Here I find the most beautiful specimen of glass sand, as white as the pure snow, that I ever saw, and in very great abundance.

We crossed the Mississippi just below the mouth of the St Peters.

We visit the great sand cave and have a glorious time whooping and yelling and howling in there.

Compared with the caves of Old Kentuck it is a perfect humbug

We find it pretty warm riding home. The dust get very disagreeable. But I must own that under all these disagreeable circumstances I feel very happy, with Miss Jannis.

We get back in time, get on board the Northern

for the railroad bond, which paid off in a sizable victory in the countywide vote on September 22. His success in the fund-raising campaign brought Duncombe to the attention of Senator Jones, who was no doubt impressed by the younger man's dedication to making the railroad a reality. Within a few months Jones had become Duncombe's friend and political mentor.

Construction of Dubuque & Pacific tracks had been underway throughout the spring of 1856 — even before enactment of the railroad land-grant legislation — but it was not until May 1857 that the Dubuque & Pacific actually began service. On May 11, the first train out of Dubuque completed the 29-mile route to Dyersville. Within a few months, Dubuque & Pacific construction crews had laid tracks another eight miles, as far as Earlville in Delaware County.

At that point, in late summer 1857, one of the nation's largest banks failed and panic hit Wall Street. Suddenly, creditors across the country rushed to collect their debts, depositors closed their accounts, and investment capital all but disappeared. As with many western railroads, the westward progress of the Dubuque & Pacific came to a halt. The company's sizable federal land grant was little help as a source of needed construction funds, since none of the land beyond the existing 37-mile route belonged to the railroad yet. And maybe even more troubling for Dubuque & Pacific investors, the staunchly Democratic George Wallace Jones was losing his legislative effectiveness in the midst of the Republican ascendancy in Congress.

Losing its momentum in the slump of the late 1850s, the Dubuque & Pacific was reorganized in 1859 as the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad by stockholder Morris Jesup, brother of the company's original treasurer, Frederick Jesup. The Dubuque &

Sioux City pushed on through northeast Iowa, to Manchester, Independence, and finally to Cedar Falls. There construction stopped until the Civil War ended. When work resumed, the Illinois Central would play a more formal role in building the rail route across northern Iowa. In 1867 the Illinois Central took a 20-year lease on the Dubuque & Sioux City, paying the owners about a third of the line's gross earnings each year. Once the Illinois Central reached Iowa Falls, Platt Smith on behalf of the Dubuque & Sioux City helped the Illinois company form a subsidiary — the Iowa Falls & Sioux City Railroad — which obtained the right-of-way and land grants of the Dubuque & Sioux City all the way to the Missouri River. The completion in December 1868 of a steel railroad bridge across the Mississippi at Dubuque expedited shipment of construction materials to work sites all along the line, and the Illinois Central arrived in Fort Dodge in August 1869 and in Sioux City about a year later.

By then, Duncombe's range of activities had extended well beyond Fort Dodge. He had become prominent in Iowa Democratic Party politics at the state level, having served as his district's representative in the state legislature, and soon he was to be named to the Iowa Board of Regents. His involvement in Iowa railroads had deepened as well. He had been one of the incorporators of the Iowa Falls & Sioux City Railway in the late 1860s, and he had helped organize several other lines planning service to Fort Dodge. Perhaps most significantly in light of his dedication to the Dubuque & Pacific in the 1850s, in 1871 Duncombe became attorney for the Iowa Division of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, a position he held with distinction for many years thereafter.

— by Bill Silag

light and start for Dubuque perfectly delighted thus far. Have a very fine dance tonight. But I had one friend who engaged my time

*Tues. July 21st 1857.* On our way down to Dubuque I shall recollect the very pleasant time I had last evening as long as I live. I think it was one of the pleasanter or most pleasant evenings that I ever spent. I owe it all to the pleasant company of my stranger friend Miss Jannis. She is really an excellent girl and I don't believe I could help but like her to save my head, and what is more I rather like her than not. The sweetheart of Jules F Jannis sings for our amusement last night! I don't feel like laughing at her like some others. The beautiful scenery along the Mississippi I do not notice on my return as I did going up the river. I have some scenery in the cabin that suits me better and pleases me much more.

Last night the young ladies, or some of them had a great time hopping, and jumping, and singing after they had nearly undressed themselves, and Uncle Ben Campbell and some of the mischievous boys have their own fun over it.

I bid "good by" to most of our pleasure party, perhaps never again to meet them. It hurts my heart. I feel it how short are all our fleeting pleasures. We meet, and oh how the ephemeral pleasure steals

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away! I know that nearly all of our party felt as I did, perhaps much worse. I had met with nearly all of the party the few days before an entire stranger and now, how happy I am, to think how long deep and lasting will be the friendships I have formed. None had a right to have any interest in me — not one. Why should they? I lived a stranger to all in a distant part of the state, never met them before, yet they treated me as a brother, as if I had been one of the same family. They have sought to make me happy, and I have been very happy. This pleasure trip will be one of the little oases in life's barren desert. I shall keep it in my mind for old age to dream of. If I live a half

century more, this will live with me, unfaded.

I left Miss Jannis with greater regret than all others. This little episode in my life with her, will be like an Ambrosial flower that never fades. I promise to go and see her in Missouri! I wonder if I shall do it! I know I shall if she lives and I live. There are no "ifs" in my way. I will do it. She tells me when I ask the privilege of becoming better acquainted with her, that she loves me but has another friend and will not deceive me. I hope she may never have a single unhappy moment! She has made me happy but I must own that I was a little, and not a very little disappointed when she told me she had another very dear friend. I felt sad. But I really hope, if she ever has a friend, that is to be her friend, for life, she may have one that is really worthy of such a sweet lovely lady. But I am determined to know more of this matter. I am not to be thrown off by another friend until I know more of the real state of this case. History bear me record of this!

I go to Mr Gregories in the evening and there I meet my lady friend, and she sings for me, and plays for me! I am happy again. She [?] her [?] present in a beautiful bunch of flowers.

I wish flowers never faded!

*Wednesday July 22d 1857.* I spend my time at the house of my friend Genl Jones and in the city with Thos Sargent, A. Morrison, B. Grayson, Robt [?] &c. I get my business relating to RRoad matters fixed all that I can. The prospects for the Rail Road on account of the failure of the loan look rather dull, but I hope for the best.

A small party collect at the house of Genl Jones this evening and have a beautiful little dance. I meet my lady here again. I am happy with her and I am not ashamed to own it. I wish I knew her feelings towards me. I know she respects me, but whether more than others I am really at a loss to know.

Another delightful evening. The weather has been very hot for several days.

*Thursday July 23d 1857* I go over to Mr. Gregories, to bid my sweet lady, stranger friend "good by". I stay but a moment I wonder if she will forget me. I guess she will. Of course. Why should she not? I am nothing to her. We have not been acquainted but a week — not a week. But it has been a full year of pleasure to me. I hope my friend has been happy too. I really hope she has.

But she had another friend and I have no other friend so dear to me as this lady whom I shall probably never meet again — probably: what am I saying?

I will see her again, unless Providence interferes. I forgot what I said.

I wonder if she will have as happy a time riding down the glorious Mississippi to her dear home in Missouri? Of course. Why do I ask such a question? I ought to know better than talk with myself so foolishly to say nothing of my talk with others.

I leave in Mr Sargents carriage for Fort Dodge. I never left any unless it was my own dear mother with

*The prospects for the Rail Road on account of the failure of the loan look rather dul, but I hope for the best.*

such regret as I parted with my very hospitable kind friends at Dubuque. Genl Jones will rest in my mind a noble honorable, high minded man. He is a kind husband, a dear father and a true friend. And I hope I may die before I ever become false to his friendship to me. I rather die any time than to be a traitor to my friends I hope I may, when I intentionally commit such a sin.

Miss Jannis leaves this evening too. "Good by" my friends.

*Friday July 24th 1857* I rode out to Dyersville last night 30 miles. I staid at the house of Judge Dyers. He has a splendid hotel here for the west.

I have been offered a place in the Land Office at Fort Dodge and Sioux City as Register or [Receiver] but will not [receive] it.

I am under the same obligation to Genl Jones as if I had, however.

I ride today to Manchester and take dinner and inquire about P.M. I recommend Young.

Stay all night at Independence.

*Saturday July 25th 1857* Ride to Cedar falls. Sargent is pretty good company, but I am tired and sleepy, and sleep on the way.

*Sunday July 26th 1857* Ride to Iowa Falls. Stay all night at the Stone tavern. This a little town of about 600 inhabitants.

I write Genl Jones recommending Larkin for Post Master here, as I had done before.

*Monday July 27th 1857* We ride home to Fort Dodge after an absence of just five weeks, having spent \$300 in travelling, and seen a great amount of good country, pretty ladies, great men, and traveled about 3,700 miles.

I am in fine health and spirits. I hope to remain so. I find about a bushel of letters to answer and plenty of work to do in my office Now off with my coat and at it. Hurrah for work.

*Tuesday July 28th 1857* Maj Williams & myself start for Algona, at 11 A.M. and arrive there in the evening although it is very hot. No incidents today. The country looks beautiful and crops in every part looks encouraging. I have made a mistake in my Register. I wrote letters today and this is tomorrow

*Wednesday July 29th 1857* See above for report of this day.

*Thursday July 30th 1857* At Algona. Get a present of two lots for services. One of Judge Call and one of Maj W Williams.

*Friday July 31st 1857* Look all over for my horses. Ride about 30 miles hunting them. [Weist?] finds my horses. We go to Dacotah. Stay at Mr Lanes.

*Saturday August 1st 1857.* Come home to Fort Dodge. Go to M Bride to settle a claim of Powell Bush. Go to Homer Go to Webster City. The people of Webster City are in a great fuss about Election. Maxwell runs for county Judge as the people's candidate. Moore runs against him on the Homer side.

*Sunday August 2d 1857.* Stayed all night at Willsons or rather at [Underdowns?]. I think Maxwell will be Judge by a very small majority.

*Monday August 3d 1857* Today, Election day. I take no part in the Election except to vote.

The Democrats nominate no. candidate and Messervy runs as an independent candidate. The Republicans have a full ticket. I shall long recollect this day. The Black Republicans have submitted a bogus constitution. They have submitted a clause in that Constitution which is to be voted on separately, as to whether the word White shall be stricken out. This shows their hands. They have all along talked about not being abolitionists Have repudiated the

idea and have in every instance denied it. But it is of no use now. About  $\frac{1}{3}$  to half are voting to have the word white stricken out of the Constitution. In Fort Dodge 19. out of [37?] Black Republicans have voted for this!

Wm H Merritt, John Hare, and a few Democrats with Strow a Black Republican go up (yesterday) on the Lizard and Electioneer for the Election of Judge Messervy, a Know Nothing, and represent to the Irish that the ticket they hold is the straight out ticket Democratic to the Back Bone. I do not vote any other ticket than that nominated by the Democratic party. I vote an open ticket and write my name on it.

The people of Fort Dodge give two to one and over, against the new constituion.

Fort Dodge gives 21 majority in favor of Wm Messervy.

*Tuesday Aug. 4th 1857* I go down with Miss Mary Williams to see if I cannot settle Burkes claim.

*Wednesday Aug 5th 1857* I am in my office in the forenoon and in the afternoon I go over to McLaughlins and do some business for him and Stephen Powers. I go to N.B. Morrisons on the North Lizzard

*Thursday August 6th 1857.* Last night there was a long loud thunder storm. I stayed at the house of N.B. Morrison, all night. Lersa Vincent is here. I have some fun.

*Friday Aug 7th 1857* I stayed at Morrisons until about 3 P.M. I go home. In the evening I take a long ride with Frank Reno.

*Saturday Aug. 8th 1857* Beautiful day Yesterday Maj Williams bought an office of A Morrison the best in the town or as good.

*Sunday Aug 9th 1857.* Beautiful day. I spend most of my time in my office. Hear Elder Dodder preach. I write a great no. of letters among them, one to my lady friend in the State of Missouri.

In the evening I take Mrs Williams & Miss Mary Williams out riding, and I then give my horses and carriage to John M Stockdale to take his lady out riding. I receive an introduction to Mrs Logan & Mrs Stockdale.

I rather like the appearance of Mrs Logan, and Mrs Stockdale I call a very fine looking lady. In the evening she goes out and milks the cow, which is a very common thing for the most aristocratic ladies in

the State of Pennsylvania. They think it is a disgrace for a gentleman to milk a cow.

*Monday Aug 10th 1857* Beautiful morning. I feel in pretty good spirits. I rise quite early and read law. Attend a suit for White and brother in the forenoon. Cause adjourned. In the afternoon I go in company with Miss Brown to the gentlemens Picknick at Morri-

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sons place. The repast of the gentlemen before the ladies is nothing but boiled corn and bread and butter.

We have a good amount of genuine sport. In the evening we return to town and have a very fine dance in the upper room of our School house.

I dance for the second or third time in my life. I do not believe that I am doing wrong by any means or I would not do it. I wish I had learned younger.

Give 5\$ to Pres Church

*Tuesday Aug 11th 1857* Beautiful morning, but rather to hot for comfort. I spend my time in my office principally. Attend a suit for Jerry Coleman who is accused with assault and battery with intent to kill. The marks are shown and proofs in abundance, and he is fined \$15. and the costs of suit.

This is a little to much. I Think Bagg will make a very good Justice of the Peace. Booth is quite drunk and Merritt & Safford are both a little high. The[y] are determined that I shall go and drink. I run away and finally lock myself in my office to escape them. I took Booth up to Supper. He performs an amusing part with several ladies who come to get a church subscription out of him, but do not know that he is drunk

*Wednesday Aug 12th 1857.* It is a beautiful morning. Only the wind blows. We have had but very little wind during this Summer. I go to Homer to see Mrs Hardy Williams She writes me a pitiful letter and

tells me that her husband is not a[t] home, and of course a gallant young lawyer would not refuse his assistance in such a case gratis. I council with her. She cries and scolds and swears, but it is all of no use. My expenses out for this days labor! Such is the fate of man when a woman is in the case.

I return to Fort Dodge in the evening after traveling about 37 miles

It is to warm to sleep well or to do any business.

The R.R. Engineers are between Webster City and Fort Dodge making the final location.

*Thursday Aug 13th 1857* This is a very hot morning indeed. I can hardly stand the heat I go in company with Mr Hanly, the Engineer who is making the final location of the D.&P.R.R. to look out the route at the crossing of the Des Moines River.

I then go to my office where I remain about four hours, then catch my horses and take Mr Hanly over the R.R. line in my carriage out to his party over between Brushy Creek and Holidays run. The Heavens become black and the thunder begins to roar and the lightnings play about the clouds in one grand scene. It is a majestic sight. Everything betokens a very hard rain The winds become restless and the air is much cooler. I have barely time to get home, get my horses turned out and get in doors before one of the severest rain storms commences that I ever witnessed.

*Friday Aug 14th 1857.* This morning I sleep rather later than usual. It is still raining. The clouds look black and heavy. Here and there a light cloud rushes along as if anxious to find a resting place.

*The R.R. Engineers are between Webster City and Fort Dodge making the final location.*

I feel in good health and good spirits, only I feel a little sober of the two extremes. My feelings are too apt to partake of the same character as the weather. I know this ought not to be and I will try to correct the mistake.

Our county is now pretty nearly divided as far as

it lies between Democrats and Black Republicans. We elected our county Surveyor by 12 maj., our Drainage Coms by 43. maj., our coroner by 43 maj. Our sheriff was defeated as he lived out of Fort Dodge & theirs lived here, by the Democrats of Fort Dodge. Treasurer Garghty was defeated by being a Catholic I am sorry to say. We ought to have about 20 Democratic maj in the County, if we had our just dues. There are now about 500 voters in Webster County. We have about 200 in Wahkonsa precinct when all out.

It is rather cool all day today. I spend my time in my office. Dont have any paying clients today.

In the evening Mr S Mason takes my buggy out, and I take a ride with him. Then he lets me take his horses and I take Miss L. Vincent out riding. She is a very good girl and will make some man an excellent wife. I like her company very much. I dont like her father but I do like her as a friend.

*Saturday Aug 15th 1857.* This morning the air seems rather cool. The clouds obscure the sun and it looks a little dark and gloomy. It rains nearly all day long. The R. Road engineers get into the Town.

W.C. Willson calls to see me. He is quite anxious to have me run for the Legislature. I do not think I will at present. The district is too strongly Black Republican to give me the slightest chance of success. It would interfere with my business too. I have all that I can well do to take care of that.

*Sun. Aug. 16th 1857.* This is a cool dreary morning for the time of year. It rains a little. I am a little afraid that we will have to much rain for the good of the crops Still I will hope for the best.

I go over to meeting but find only two or three there and in company with my friend Albert Morrison I leave and go by the house of my friend W.O. Ruggles. Here we call a few moments and see him and his nice little wife. He is living quite cosily. I then return to my office where I remain all day reading the newspapers and the law. I have several calls and the day passes very pleasantly — but not as Sabbath used to pass.

Oh, if I only had a pleasant home and a true hearted sweet wife, how much happier I should be! I know it. But some how I cannot for an instant think of such a thing, except with one lady, and of her I think every day, with deep feelings But I cannot reasonably expect her to leave her home "Sweet home" and the pleasures of her old paternal residence for another in Iowa. And I only think of her because I cannot help myself — not with hope. My heart would be sad if I

would give it time. But courage my heart! Better days are coming.

*Monday Aug. 17th 1857.* Cool wet, gloomy morning. My soul is filled with high noble ambition. May God help me to be a man — virtuous honorable, and discreet. May I be friendly, courteous and kind. I mean to spend this week improving and not retrograding. When it is over I want to look over my

*The principal scene in the tragady or perhaps I might call it the crisis, was my dancing with Solon Mason.*

journal and see how the case stands. I dont mean to speak a vulgar mean word, or think a vile thought. May God help me to keep my resolve.

I spend this day in my office most of the time. I read a good deal of law, learn some very important things, write two papers for Court, make one deed, look up a large no. of preemption case, write a half dozen protest against preemption in favor of the D.&P.R.R. Co. In the evening I attend a party at the house of John Garaghty Esq Here we have dancing and a good deal of fun in general. The principal scene in the tragady or perhaps I might call it the crisis, was my dancing with Solon Mason. This might perhaps be styled with some propriety a second edition of the "beau dance". A good deal of kissing got mixed in here after a time, but I did not kiss any I frightened one young lady very much for fear I would kiss her! I nearly broke the head of one young lady in the celebrated rope performance of "in and out.

I have acted as well as I knew how through this day. The fun of the evening I have enjoyed, and I do think I had a right to do so.

*Tuesday, Aug 18th 1857* The gloomy rain seems over the air is clear, the sun bright and all things portend a lovely day. I am in fine health and spirits, full of noble aspirations, and I mean to make this day count a little. I work hard all day, writing a long political article for the Sentinel and writing protest against Preemptions

cases for the Dubuque & Pacific Rail Road Company. I file ten of these and make charges accordingly.

In the evening I am invited to attend at Miss Lizzy Whites for supper where I go with great pleasure and find Miss Lizzy, A Morrison & his excellent sister. We have a very pleasant time indeed. The evening passes gaily away. I feel quite happy for this time being.

*Wednesday Aug. 19th 1857.* I wake up this morning and find it rains severely. We are having a very extraordinary season for rain. More real severe rains, than I have seen since I came into the State. I must be industrious and faithful today. And I must not waste any of my precious time.

*Thurs. Aug 20th 1857* Spent my time in the office. Pleasant day.

*Friday Aug 21st 1857.* Elected a delegate to the Dem. State Convention at Iowa City, yesterday. Today start for that place

*Satury, Aug 22, 1857* Go from Boonsboro to Ft Des Moines Crops look beautifly. All is right but hard times.

*Sun Aug 23, 57* Start from Fort Des Moines to Iowa City with Finch Solomons and others. Had a very strange time for the Sabbath. Rode all night.

*Mon Aug 24, 57* At daylight had a pitched battle be-

*We have a great quarrel outside about the New Constitution Polk & Lee Counties carried the new Constitution*

tween two of our stage passengers. D.O. Finch and myself parted them after a long time. McCo[?] was victor. Both were well scratched. Arived at Iowa City today.

*Tues Aug 25, 57.* Took room with Solomon and had a very good time. We have a great quarrel outside about the New Constitution Polk & Lee Counties carried the new Constitution

*Wed. Aug. 26, 57.* To day we hold a full Democratic State Convention, to nominate Gov & Lieu. Gov. under the new Constitution just adopted by the people.

We have a warm time. I get a resolution passed for my friend Genl Jones, sanctioning his course &c. as Senator. Also a resolution against certain features in the new Constitution Ben. M. Samuels as Gov. & Geo. Gillaspay as Lieu. Gov. I think we have an excellent platform, and rather think we may be a match for the Black Republicans

*Thurs Aug 27th 57.* Start in the morning by the cars for Dubuque, to defend old Maj Williams against the charge of being a voter for Black Republicans.

In company with the Dubuque delegation. Take a steam boat — the Kate Cassel. I am quite unwell. Took a very severe cold last night.

Arive at Dubuque in the morning.

*Friday Aug. 27th 1857.* Go to the Peosta house. Then go and see my dear friend Genl Jones.

I am treated very kindly by him and his most excellent family. I am quite unwell however.

Stay at his hospitable home to night

*Sat. Aug 28, 57.* Genl Jones gets an early breakfast and starts with me for the Cars, with his carriage.

On my way to Fort Dodge, the crops and farms never looked better. Providence smiles in abundance.

*Sun Aug 29, 57* Ride from Independence to Cedar Falls. Ride alone most of the way.

Stay all night at Sen. Cords house in Cedar Falls.

*Mon Aug 30, 57* Go to Iowa Falls.

*Tues Aug 31, 57* Go to Eldora. See friend Huff. I am quite unwell Sick half the day.

*Wed. Sept 1st 57* See Mrs W.C. Willson. Go with her by stage to Iowa Falls. Stay at Sanfords Stone hotel.

*Thurs. Sept. 2d 57.* Go to Fort Dodge. Beautiful weather but a little to cold for the corn crop.

*Friday Sept 3, 57.* Have a great time about Register & [Receiver] in place of Van Antwerp & Merritt resigned. I recommend John M Stockdale for one of the positions and Thomas Sargent for another. Merritt & Van Antwerp recommend Olcott for Reciver.

*Saturday, Sept 4, 57* I have a long talk about this

matter. Van Antwerp offers to recommend me but I tell him to do as he pleases about this matter I am determined that Mr Sargent shall be appointed hit or miss, and I tell him so.

*Sun. Sept 5th 57* Stay in my office. Beautiful day. I write a long letter to Genl Jones about Mr Sargent &c

*Mon Sept 6 57* I go to Dubuque at the request of Mr Sargent. I start in the morning without saying a word of excuse, without washing my face, eating my breakfast or anything else. At W. City I get W.C. Willson to go with me. We stay all night at Iowa falls. I get letter from Elsworth Hon. J.D. Thompson John A Hull, & J.S. [F?].

*Tues. Sept. 7th 57* Go from Iowa falls to Cedar falls. Here we get a livery team, drive all night — get lost on the prairie, but finally we get out all right. Start at 4. A.M. in morning for Dyersville in the stage.

*Wed. Sept 8, 57* Arive at Dyersville at 12 m. go in the cars to Dubuque. Arive at Dubuque at 6 P.M. Take a bath. Go to the house of my excellent friend Genl Jones. I am delighted to see him and his excellent family. ☞ See Mr. Jannis of Missouri.

Genl Jones will recommend my friend Thomas Sargent for [Receiver].

Have a delightful time for so short a visit

*In the county every delegate elected is my friend. I feel as well as if I had been elected to Congress.*

*Thurs Sept 9, 57.* Genl Jones takes Mr W & myself in his carriage and goes to the Depot.

Bid him good by. Off for Fort Dodge.

Go to Coffins Grove to night and by daylight are at Cedar falls allright.

*Fridy Sept 10th 57* Take stage to Iowa Falls.

*Sat Sept 11, 57.* Take stage to Fort Dodge.

*Sun. Sept 12, 57* Go my way rejoicing. Merritt has come out as a candidate for the Legislature in order to kill my influence. My friends rise up spontaneously



and beat him all out. He gets a good drubbing. His highest vote for delegates is 25, mine 85, in Fort Dodge In Douglas precinct I am triumphant. In the county every delegate elected is my friend. I feel as well as if I had been elected to Congress.

*Mon Sept. 13, 57.* Last evening I went to Webster City after dark Saw Willson & lady in the morning Stayed nearly all day at his house Went to Homer.

*Tues. Sept. 14, 57.* Stayed at Churches last night. I got in the worst kind of a slough. I got my horse down in the mud, broke my buggy. Got very muddy had a very hard time My nice clothes looked beautifly! Came to Fort Dodge

*McFarland . . . dismissed the Court accept for . . . naturalizing foreigners.*

*Wednes Sept 15th 57* Stayed all night at home Rained hard. In my office all day.

*Thurs Sept 17, 57* [Here Duncombe catches his errors in dating since Friday, August 28] Warm pleasant day. I spend my time in my office. Politicks runs rather high. I dont know but I shall be elected representative for seventeen Northern Counties. I feel rather surer of the nomination however than of the Election.

*Friday Sept 18th 1857* I spend my time in my office.

*Saturday Sept 19th 1857* I go over to the Democratic Representative Convention at Webster City and am nominated for Representative on motion by acclimation, No one objecting. I feel happy that Democracy of 17 new and pioneer counties should thus give expression of their good will toward me. I shall probably be defeated on account of the simple fact that there are more Republicans than Democrats.

*Sun. Sept 20, 57* Go from Webster City to Fort Dodge with Saml Rees. Spend the day in my office. ☔ Last night we had the first frost of the season.

*Mon Sept 21, 57.* Cool morning. Court opened today. Judge McFarland not having the seats provided in the

afternoon, dismissed the Court accept for the purpose of naturalizing foreigners.

*Tuesday Sept 22d 1857* I remain in Fort Dodge and Electioneer all I can. In the evening I go up to see Lane & Ray. They give me plainly to understand that they will vote for me. I stay tonight with N.B. Morrison

*Wednesday Sept 23, 57* I go to Webster City. Electioneer here all day. Stay at the Willson house. Trade horses

*Thursday Sept. 24th 57* Go down to Woodards and get up a meeting & make a speach at the school house. I ride all around the neighborhood to get up my meeting Stay at Osborns

*Friday Sept 25th 1857* Got up a meeting at Hooks point Spoke to the people in the evening with Judge McFarland. The people here broke up their meeting with a wild hurrah for me. I shall be sure of the vote here

*Saturday Sept 26 57* Went to Yell Tp. Here I got up a meeting. I called on Jasper Richie and had a long talk with him. He finally promised to vote for me. So I am all right here. I made a speach at Landreths School house. Stayed at the house of David McLaughlins last night.

*Sunday Sept. 27, 57* I rode all day to day from Jasper Richies to Jefferson City and then ten miles north to Beaver Creek. A very hard ride on a cloudy day over the prairies

*Monday Sept 28, 57* Went to Lake City in Calhoun Co. Here I had a team furnished me by Mr Oxenford and I saw nearly ever man in the county. In the evening I

*Clear Lake is a beautiful sheet of water, with as fine a beach as I ever saw.*

made a speach in a log School house near Lake City the only one in the county.

Lake City has two houses in it only. Stayed at the house of Mr [Aury?].

I shall get 10 majority in this county.

*Tuesday Sept 29th, 1857* Passed Big Grove to the place

of F M Cory Esq. Here I held a meeting. I found a terrible feud in the county, about County Judge and County Seat &c. I spoke to night at the house of Cory.

*Wednesday Sept 30th 1857* Spoke to night at the house of [Early?] in Sac City. This town has about 10 houses in it all told. I shall carry Sac County by 40 to 45 majority.

Stayed at the house of Chris.

*Thursday Oct 1, 57* Went from Sac City to Fort Dodge about 60 miles. The weather is beautiful and has been since I started out.

*Friday Oct 2d 1857.* Went to Webster City, thence to Boone River. Stayed all night at Hewits house.

*Saturday, Oct. 3, 57* Got up a meeting on Boone river and spoke at Liberty Liberty has about 10 houses in it.

*Sunday Oct 4th 57* Went to Belmont a town of about 10 or 12 houses all of which are in good order. Rode in the night to Hampden, Franklin Co.

*Monday Oct. 5th 1857* Got up a meeting at Hampden and spoke at 2 P.M. and also at Maysville at 7 P.M. Stayed all night at Maysville. Got into a dispute with one Lyman.

*Tuesday Oct 6th 1857* Spoke at 10 A.M. at Saratoga then traveled all day to Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County.

Stayed at the house of Owen.

Clear Lake is a beautiful sheet of water, with as fine a beach as I ever saw.

*Wednesday Oct 7th 1857.* Got a meeting at Clear Lake, went to Owens Grove. Spoke at Clear Lake at 7. A.M.

*Thurs Oct. 8, 1857* Spoke at 7. P.M. at Mason City Went to Shell Rock Falls.

Went to Clear Lake in the night Arrived there at 3. P.M.

*Frid. Oct. 9, 1857* Went to Belmont. Spoke at 10. A.M. Electioneered here until night. At night started for Cruplers grove on the Boone River. Got lost on the prairie. Lay out until about midnight the moon rose and I took my backtrack to the road. Arrived at the Grove at 3. A.M.

*Sat Oct 10, 57* Went to Irvington and spoke at 7. P.M. Bot 20 lots in Irvington

*Sun Oct 11, 57* Rode all over Kossuth Co. At 4 P.M. started to Fort Dodge. Stayed at Dacotah all night In the morning at 8 A.M. arived at Fort Dodge.

*Monday Oct. 12 57* Had a great time in Fort Dodge discussing the issues of the day

Carpenter abused me and greatly injured himself.

*Tues Oct 13, 57* Election day I believe I shall be beat 100 votes. If I had had 3 days more I should certainly have been Elected. I shall about tie Webster and Hamilton Cos

A very exciting election.

*Got lost on the prairie.  
Lay out until about  
midnight the moon  
rose and I took my  
backtrack to the road.*

*Wed. Oct 14, 1857* I beat Carpenter in Fort Dodge 48 votes. In Webster Co 28. He told that he would not take his certificate if he was not sure of getting 100 majority in this county.

We have had beautiful weather this fall. There is a big meeting. The first county fare in Hamilton Co.

*Thurs. Oct. 15th 1857.* A little rainy today. I am at Lots Creek trying to beat Robbins out of some saw logs I go home in the forenoon.

The roads are bad


*Frid. Oct 16th 1857* Go to Webster City to get Sargents bond signed as [Receiver] of the Fort Dodge Land Office.

Have a good visit here The Republicans here had a flag got up by themselves upon which was inscribed "J F Duncombe forever." And they drove their teams through town with that kind of a flag and with flags tied to their horses, with the same inscription. I run about  $\frac{1}{5}$  the entire vote of this county ahead of my ticket

*Saturday Oct 17, 57* I go back to Fort Dodge in the stage. All is right. I think I am defeated by about 30 to 50 votes. I had some hopes of getting over the District

but riding nights as well as days would not bring it. In every county I visited I gained largely over the Democratic vote, and the Democratic vote gained largely over the former vote.

*Sun. Oct 18, 1857* I stayed in my office all day today and wrote letters. My health is excellent and so my spirits. I commence boarding with A S White

*Mon. Oct. 19th 57* We had a  very few flakes of snow yesterday and a very severe frost last night. It is getting quite cold but the prospects are fair that I shall have good success in business

I am applied to to act as atty for the Iowa Central Air line R.R. Co

*Tues Oct 20th 1857* Spent my time in my office Reading law &c

*Wed Oct 21st 1857* Spent my time in my office.

 *Thur Oct 22nd 1857.* Spent my time in my office Of Age!! 26 years old

*Friday October 23d 1857* Spent my time in my office

*Sat Oct 24th 1857* I arose at 4. A.M. got breakfast, fed my horses and started for Irvington 38 miles from Fort Dodge in Kossuth County before daylight. Arrived at Irvington at 2 1/2 P.M. Attended a claim suit between Joseph Crouch and Clark W. Carr. Gained the suit and dispossessed Crouch an actual settler whom Carr was attempting to dispossess and cheat out of the house he had built on his preemption an outrageous evasion of right at any rate

*Sunday Oct. 25th 1857* I went to Algona. Had a long talk with the Algonaites, who are no particular friends of mine. Also with Judge. Asa C. Call. Stayed all night at Irvington with Geo D Wheeler

*Mon Oct 26th 1857* I took a deed of the 20 lots I had purchased in Algona. Went home to Fort Dodge.

*Tues Oct 27th 1857* Spent my time in my office We have had a beautiful fall. Iowa or the Garden of the World could not produce a better supply of food than has been produced this fall

*Weds Oct 28th 1857* To day the county Canvasses canvass the vote of the 13th Representative District. All told the 17 counties of the District give Mr Car-

penter only 41. majority while the abstracts of Dickinson County was without a certificate, date, or a seal. Also Humbolt Co had no seal. Consequently there was no legal evidence that there were any abstracts of either of these counties. Without them I had 27 majority. The Democrats would not sign Carpenters certificate and as the Republicans had a majority of the board of canvasses he got a certificate from them.

I am legally elected the Representative of the 13th Representative District. But a Black Republican Board have cheated me out of my legal rights

I will get my seat if there is a Democratic house without any doubt Otherwise Carpenter will get his seat.

*Thurs Oct 29, 57* Spent my time in my office attending to my business.

*Friday Oct 30, 1857* Spent my time in my office. Visited Colburn & my coal bank over the Des Moines River

## Glory Enough for One Day!

So read the headline announcing Republican Cyrus Clay Carpenter's election victory over Democrat John Duncombe in the 13th District Iowa General Assembly race in October 1857. Twenty-seven years old and new to politics, Carpenter had won his party's nomination as a reward for his efforts on behalf of Republican candidates in the previous year's campaigns, not because of any special vision or charisma he brought to the podium himself. But Carpenter's work ethic and easy-going manner apparently suited the district's several hundred voters, who were spread thinly across 17 counties in northwestern Iowa.

Carpenter and his Democratic opponent, John Duncombe, were well acquainted at the time of the election, since both had extensive interests in the land business centered in Fort Dodge. They had also ridden together on the fateful Spirit Lake rescue mission just a few months earlier. They were similar in several ways. Both were young and ambitious. They were Yankees, both having come to Fort Dodge from Pennsylvania, and both were lawyers. Each had become involved in party politics quickly on their arrival in Iowa. However, in other respects they contrasted sharply. Carpenter's biographer, Mildred Throne, wrote that where Carpenter was described by contemporaries as warm and friendly, Duncombe was seen as cool and somewhat aloof. Even as a young man, Duncombe was clearly on his way to a fortune. Carpenter's investments often turned out badly. For example, he kept his money in the western land market too long and lost a bundle in the financial collapse of 1857. Though he got along comfortably enough in