

to attend the Democratic Convention to nominate a member of the Legislature. I run my horse about 2 miles to get out of the way of the stage which tries to run by me but cannot do it. This would be a very hot day but the wind blows very hard.

*June 28th* We meet in Convention at Boonsboro. The population of these new counties are so sparse that it takes at least two Boone, Story, Greene Webster, Humbolt, Wright Franklin & Hardin to make one Legislative District. W.C. Willson is my man & I succeed in getting him nominated by acclamation. We get through our business & Mr Sargent & I drive through the rain to Homer. Got wet though.

*June 29th 1856* Stay all night at Mr Smiths Homer. As I am wet I take a little drink of liquor which makes my head reel a little. I ought to be ashamed. Mr Leffler is nominated in this District for Congress. Warm pleasant day

*June 30* Cool morning. I give in James B. Williams testimony in the case of his claims

*July 1st, 1856* Rather cool day. Spend my time in entering land as the land office is open again for lands in Township No. 93.

*July 2d 1856.* Warm pleasant day

*July 3* Pleasant day.

*July 4th* I go over to Webster City to make a speech. D. Okeson is with me. I have a very hot time. I make a speech. I had a written oration but I never had any thing in my way so constantly so that I got there to late. I speak not from my written oration but from my own thoughts. Pres Pierce is toasted by some one & the Black Republicans groan. Grimes Gov, is toasted & though I hate his politics I respond by giving him all the praise I can give him. A large Ball: about 80 couple present

*5th* I go with Okeson to Boonsboro

*6 Sunday* Go to Nevada by way of New Philadelphia. Jack, — A.J. Detrick, is the best Working Democrat in New Philadelphia. Geo. A. Kellogg & J.S. Frazier in Nevada.

We are greatly bothered by Okeson's baulky nagg. We are compelled to whip him badly. Not a very pleasant trip

*7* Go through the corner of Story & Marshall Cos and

into Hardin. Stay at Providence 8 miles from Eldora Hardin County.

*8* Go to Eldora to Senatorial Convention & nominate Geo A Kellogg of Story County for Senator.

*9th* Go to Point Pleasant before last night where we stayed with Mr Nutt. Started from here early in the morning & went to Webster City. Our old horse is sick & nearly fagged out

*10.* Stayed all night at Webster City.

*11.* Came to Fort Dodge. Old horse nearly gone.

## Black Republicans

The term "Black Republicans" was used in the 1850s to refer to the new party's antislavery elements, which were gaining legislative and electoral support in their call to halt the westward extension of slavery. When a Democrat like John Duncombe condemned Congress's Black Republicans, he was voicing Democratic Party opposition to politicians and policies that threatened the interests of the southern Democrats who were becoming the party's dominant faction.

Democratic candidates of the era played at will with voters' ambivalence regarding race relations in all parts of the country. For example, historian James M. McPherson notes in *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* that campaigning Democrats "rapidly perfected the technique of tarring 'Black Republicans' with the brush of Negro equality," warning voters that "the Republican policy of limiting the expansion of slavery would inevitably become a program of emancipation, which would let loose 'three to five millions of uncivilized, degraded, and savage men . . . to roam the country' and take bread from the mouths of white laboring men."

John Duncombe's journal does not indicate the extent to which he himself subscribed to such anti-black racism. But his unquestioning support of the Democratic Party in the 1850s suggests tacit approval of party leaders' racist pronouncements—like the one quoted by McPherson, uttered during Ohio's 1855 gubernatorial campaign. Within the Republican Party, in Iowa as in Ohio and emerging Republican strongholds elsewhere, other constituent elements of the new party—temperance advocates and nativists, to name two—mitigated the Black Republicans' influence in the party, at least until the 1860 election. Even then, the Lincoln administration can hardly be said to have had "a program of emancipation" until the exigencies of war made one advisable for military reasons. Thus, as with many campaign statements, the Democrats' characterization of the Black Republican "threat" in all parts of the country in the 1850s was exaggerated, to say the least.

— by Bill Silag



[Use?] up the whip & make myself almost sick trying to get him along.

12. Have County Convention & nominate Mr Beecher for Clerk & Mr. Berkley for Prosecuting Attorney.

Tried a law suit. was for Albee on defense Got judgment [vs us \$9+]

13 Have a bad cold. I am sick all day by a very severe cold in the head. One side of my head feels as if it would nearly split open. I dont know what it is best to do but I think I will try to wear it out. Lie abed nearly all day

14 I am a little better but still have a bad cold. Stay in my office. Politics are getting pretty high. "Kansas" is the humbug of opposition to the Democratic Party as tariff was in forty four & Coon Skin & hard cider in 40 & U.S. Bank in 36, & 32.

15 We who subscribe to give White the editor of the soon to be Ft Dodge Sentinal meet & Mr W.H. Merritt & myself are appointed Political Editors of this paper

This will be the first paper published in the North West quarter of this Land of Iowa & I have the honor of being out of pocket about \$300 for its good.

16 Very hot day. I dont feel well but I must try & go to Homer if I can so as to meet my engagements. At least as soon as tomorrow

17 Warm pleasant day. Had a fine shower last night I go to Homer. Stay at old Smiths. He abuses me about the nomination of W C Willson

18 I go over into Story Co At [J?] Richard Have long talk on Politics. at Fairview Stay at the House of John Keigleys.

19 I make a speach with Judge McFarlands at Mr. Keigleys. Go to Story Co seat Nevada. Make a speach at Nevada. Stay at the house of John McClane, a good Democrat

20 Sabbath. I go down to the river and take a bath.

21 I go with McFarland to Iowa Center & make a speach then return to Nevada & cat haul Mr. Thomas an opponent in debate until after midnight.

22 Go up to sale at [J?] & make a speach. Return to Nevada & make another speach.

23 Go to New Philadelphia & make a speach. Here they raise a Hickory pole & flag. Stayed at Dr Halls

24 Made a speach at Boonsboro to night

25 Made a speach at Sweeds point.

26 Made a speach at a convention at Boonsboro

27 Sabbath Started for fort Dodge. Got there before noon Heard Mr Peet & Bishop Lee preach a very good sermon Subscribed \$20 to build a Pres. Church & 20 to build Episcopalian Church. Saw Mr. Vincent on his return from Pennsylvania.

28 In my office. fix up my business. get a Democratic Club organized, in Fort Dodge.

29 Cool morning. I am in the office a spell — then go up to Millers at the forks of the river. return in the evening.

30st Warm pleasant day. Spend my time in my office. Politics begins to run high. In afternoon go down to Thos Landreths by way of Tolmans Get my dinner at the house of P Bush.

Stayed all night with Landreths.

31st Go down to Bells. Go without my dinner. Stop out on the prairie. lie down & go to sleep. Unharness my horse & let her eat a little grass Get back to Fort Dodge & make my first political speach there. A good audience. One this day the first paper printed in the North Western quarter of the State of Iowa was published. I gave three Hundred Dollars to start it which is more than twice as much as I was worth a year ago, all told, but I got my grit up & it must go.

About one hundred Dollars was made up to me by others

This paper is called the Fort Dodge Sentinel & although A.S. White is the real Editor of the said paper W H Merritt & myself are the Political Editors to govern its political character.

The old Democratic party now stands on its old political principles. The old Whig party has become merged into the Republican party & Know Nothing party, & the sound National Whigs unite with the Democratic Party

The Republican party have nominated J C Freemont who is 43 years old & has had only 21. days legislation experience, which was in the United States Senate from Sept. 10, 1850.



*I came home from Homer in 125 minutes with my mare after dark, distance 18 miles in a straight line — about 20 by the road. Good travelling*

The Democratic Party have nominated James Buchanan who has been in public life for 43 years, a sound national man, who served in the U.S. house of Representatives from 1820 to 1830 Who under Gen Jackson was appointed Minister to Russia in 1831, & continued until 1835, when he became a U.S. Senator & held his seat until 1845, when Mr Polk made him Secretary of State, for 4 years. Then in 1852 Mr Pierce sent him Minister to Russia. And now he has been nominated by a convention held at Cincinnati, in June & representing every Congressional District in the Whole Union for President of the United States & if I do not very greatly mistake the signs of the times he will be the next president.

But the nomination of J.C. Fremont was made by a convention of 500 delegates from the northern states & only two states of the South Maryland & Virginia Kentucky represented & that by only Eight delegates.

Thus showing that they are a sectional party only and the men who now stand at the head of that party will at some future day be called traitors to their Country, as black as Benedict Arnold. Horace Greely the Editor of the New York Tribune is the man who gave name to the party when it was born last year. This party appeals to the sectional prejudice of all men & harps about the Extention of slavery & calls in its platform every man who supports the Administration of Franklin Pierce Murders, Robbers & guilty of Arson.

All this shows me that the only men who care for the continuance of the Great American Union are the true national Democrats of this day & that these Republicans, who are generally called Know nothing Black Republicans are not in the least worthy of the confidence of the American people & for one I will in candor & honesty do all I can against them

*Aug 1st 1856* Warm pleasant day. Spend this day in my office & in Town

*Aug 2.* Warm pleasant day. I go to Homer with Mr White, the Editor Ft Dodge Sentinel, & we have a great time Democrats & Black Republicans meet. I speak to them for Democrats. Spoke 2½ hours C C Carpenter speaks for Black Rs. 1½ hours. I think B.Rs. are not very well satisfied. I came home from Homer in 125 minutes with my mare after dark, distance 18 miles in a straight line — about 20 by the road. Good travelling

*3d* Sabbath I sleep & stay in my office as much as I can.

*Aug 4, 1856* Election day. Democrats have 107 votes & opposition 57 a fine start at least. Some excitement but all good nature. This in Ft Dodge

*Aug 5.* Pleasant day. Spend my forenoon in the office In the afternoon attend to the settlement of a suit which I was to try for Julius Conradst.

Afternoon went to Homer Stayed all night with E H West. Went to buy Courier farm for E W Lucas

*6th* Finished sale for E W Lucas of Courier. Took dinner at I Hooks Went home to Fort Dodge

*Aug. Seventh 1856* Stayed in my office until late. at about 4 oclock went up to Humbolt. Stayed all night at W.R. Millers.

*8* Surveyed around the Town of Humbolt & meandered the river around it. Stayed at Millers

*9* Started for Fort Dodge after breakfast All passed off pleasantly. The R R man Mr Hackly is after the right of way.

*10* X Sunday. I am not very well this morning. I am quite bilious. I took a portion of pills this morning I have been absent since the 24th of June 26 days and several parts of days over

*11th* Messrs Henn Williams & Gillaspay come into town. They have a quit claim deed of the river company. This settles the long tedious Strife about title that has made so much trouble about here.

*12th* Pleasant day In my office I commence plating the Town of Humbolt.

*13th* Pleasant day. in my office Henn, Williams & Co settling up their business

*14th* Pleasant day. in my off