

SOURCE MATERIAL OF IOWA HISTORY

THE IOWA STATE FAIR OF 1856

[The first State Fair in Iowa was held at Fairfield, in Jefferson County, October 25-27, 1854; the second, also at Fairfield, on October 10-12, 1855. Finding the six-acre tract at Fairfield too small for the growing numbers who attended the Fair, the officers of the State Agricultural Society voted to move to Muscatine for the October, 1856, exposition. There, thirty-two acres on Muscatine Island in the Mississippi were provided and some \$7,000 spent on fitting up the enclosure. Included in the *Report* of the Society, published at Muscatine in 1857, is a newspaper story from the *Dubuque North-West*, detailing the events of this third Fair (pp. 22-34). — EDITOR.]

The State Agricultural Society, as a means of stimulating improved and scientific culture in every branch of agriculture, and of developing skill and taste in manufactures, mechanics and the fine arts — in fact in every pursuit that tends to enrich and elevate a people, has already made itself felt. Those who attended the State Fairs in '54 and '55, could not fail to notice the very decided improvement in blooded stock, as indicated at the recent fair, and the generally increased interest and information as to the comparative value of breeds shown by the farmers in attendance. In every respect the fair was far ahead of those which preceded it. It is an organization which should receive the encouragement of every friend of true progress, and the press of the State should bring to its aid all its powerful influence.

The fair grounds, fitted up at an expense exceeding \$7,000, were situated on Muscatine Island, about two miles from the city. This island is a rich, level prairie, skirted by timber on the west; the main channel of the Mississippi washes its eastern shores about half a mile from the grounds, and the small branch of the river which disconnects the island from the main land, flows along the base of the bluffs for about fifteen miles, describing a segment of a true circle. This boundary of regular swelling hills, clothed with a forest rich in all the varied and brilliant hues of October,

gave a picturesque beauty to the scenery which could not fail to arrest the eye. To the southward, and not far distant, rose what is called the "sand mound," the summit of which is about fifty feet above the level of the island, and crowned with a grove of timber, which the autumnal frosts had already adorned with plumes of crimson and gold.

The fair grounds were substantially enclosed with a close plank fence, eight feet high, and comprised about thirty-two acres. The main entrance was on the north side, nearest to, and about three hundred yards from the railroad station. On the right and left of the gate were the offices of the Directors and Secretaries — very handsomely constructed and painted buildings, and surmounted by flags. Having passed the gate, the attention was at once riveted by the striking, yet tasteful arrangement of the interior, and the gay and animated scene presented to view. We will try to present it to the reader's imagination in such a way that he may to some extent share the pleasure it gave us.

Well then, we will suppose ourselves through the gate, and facing south. We notice that the ground gradually and slightly descends to about half-way, and then as gradually ascends to the southward and most distant boundary. The undulations are gentle and just serve to relieve the otherwise monotonous surface. The whole enclosure is fully under the eye from the point where we stand. The most striking object is a handsome and graceful open wooden tower, three stories high, situated about a hundred yards south-east, on our left, and from the summit of which floats the flag of the Union. — From large inscriptions on the tower, we learn that its three several stories are intended for the accommodations of "Editors," "Officers," and "Committees," respectively. It stands about twenty-five yards from the northern boundary, and just inside of the great circle, of course, for the display of stock. Between it and the north wall comes first the track, smooth and well beaten and about forty feet wide; next a space of some ten feet, divided from the track by a rope, and next the seats, rising from a platform four feet from the ground, one above another, to the top of the plank wall. The front of the platform is guarded by a handsome picket fence. These seats extend about two hundred and twenty yards along the northern boundary, and an equi-distance (say ten feet) from the course throughout that extent, which here comes up to a straight home-stretch of about two hundred yards. The seats would probably hold three thousand persons. The track, or course, which circles away, not forty yards from where we

stand, near the gate, is half-a-mile in extent, surrounded by a rope stretched at a height of about three feet, and its inner circles marked by strong posts set at intervals. (In one part of the track we observed a slight undulation, in passing which, the trotters frequently broke. With this exception it was a first rate track.)

Directly in front of us, and between the great circle and the western boundary, is an open way of considerable extent, leading to the halls, booths and open ground southward of the track. On our right, stretching along the entire west side of the enclosure, and forming the boundary, are the stables for horses on exhibition, got up in good, comfortable style, with lock and key to every stall. Here is indeed an animated scene. A rope divides the curious crowd from the working space apportioned to the grooms. Chargers of "high and low degree" are prancing and neighing along the whole line, while the grooms are busy with the usual appliances of sleek and glossy hides. It would put one in mind of a cavalry barrack in times of "inglorious peace," were it not for the long line of "sulkies," with their spider-like tracery, telling of the "turf," with now and then a more sedate "buggy," or a still more dignified carriage. The southern boundary, which is right in front and farthest from us, is occupied by pens for sheep and swine. The eastern side is occupied by covered stalls for cattle.

Just to the south of the great circle, about midway between the eastern and western boundaries, stand three halls, enclosed with canvass. These are some forty yards apart east and west. From the one in the centre float the "stars and stripes," and on the front in large letters is the inscription "Fine Art Hall." That on the left, or east, is inscribed, "Industrial Hall"; that on the right, or west, "Fruits, Vegetables," &c. Still to the right of these halls, stands a large refreshment booth, and in the rear a neat saloon for the exclusive use of the ladies. Long booths at each end of the seats, on the north boundary, purported to furnish dinner to all at fifty cents a head; but as to the quality of the viands there served up, the least said the better.

Having now glanced at the main features of the grounds, the arranging of which reflects so much credit upon the taste and energy of the Secretary of the Society, J. H. Wallace, Esq., and upon the liberality of the citizens of Muscatine, who made heavy advances to that end, let us commence our tour of inquiry.

CATTLE. — Huge letters at intervals on the plank wall inform us where we can find Devons, Herefords, Durhams, etc. In the stalls we come to

first, we find about forty head of the deep colored, clean limbed, neat and hardy Devons, of all ages and sexes, on exhibition by James Weed, Esq., of Muscatine county. These cattle do not appear to attain to extraordinary size, but are said to be good for the dairy, and active, strong and enduring under the yoke. Several premiums were awarded to this lot.

Next comes a bull and cow, owned by S. P. Hopson, of Muscatine county. We did not learn of what blood. They were, however, finely formed and well limbed — we should suppose a cross of Durham.

Wm. Fitzsimmon's bull and heifer in the next stalls, were also fine stock.

A cow owned by J. H. Wallace, of the Durham breed, came next, and excited much attention, as a most beautiful animal.

Next came two fine cows and calves, of Hereford blood, two large bulls, and two two-year-old bulls of Durham blood, on exhibition by LeGrand Byington, Esq., of Johnson county. These were fine cattle, and attracted much attention.

A Durham cow, owned by M. L. Morris, Esq., of Johnson county, was also worthy of note. A thorough-bred Durham cow and bull calf, whose owners' name we could not learn, were in the adjacent stalls, and were the finest specimens of that breed on the ground.

A large and noble looking cow, belonging to D. Warfield, Esq., of Muscatine county, occupied the next stall.

Then came for several stalls, William Lundey's Durham bull calf, William Bampy's fine and large Durham bull, (Scott county,) and a bull of Durham cross and a full blooded Clay bull, belonging to William E. Day, of Van Buren county. These were two fine bulls. The latter excited remark on account of his great height and symmetry.

Mr. Sicks Steinheilbler, of Louisa, exhibited a lot of very fine cattle. Mr. C. Cook, of Mercer county, had a very fine bull on exhibition. We could not learn the breeds of either of these lots.

H. G. Stewart, of Lee county, entered a lot of thorough-breds, of all ages and sexes, the neatest and most attractive cattle on the ground.

William Clausen exhibited a fine thorough-bred bull. G. H. Wood and P. Wagoner, of Muscatine, also had some fine cattle on exhibition.

While we were examining the stalls, on the morning of the first day of the fair, cattle were still coming, and their owners much engaged in entering and stalling them; so that we could not obtain that accurate information in regard to breeds which we desired, and the opportunity did not after-

wards offer. We heard it on all hands, however, that the entries in this class did great credit to the enterprise of Iowa farmers; and while they showed a decided advance over last year, indicated an awakened interest sure to lead to the best results. The number of entries in this class counted by hundred, but there was not one from northern Iowa!

The Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company, having constructed a track to the fair grounds from their depot in the city, made regular half-hour trips, charging fifteen cents for passage down, or twenty-five cents for down and return ticket. The constant arrival and departure of the train with its crowds of passengers added no little to the stirring character of the scene. Often six and eight cars loaded to their utmost capacity, and hundreds without seats, arrived at once. Unger's Brass Band, belonging to Muscatine, was engaged for the fair, and their martial strains, at intervals, floated over the thronged grounds. In every direction, inside the enclosure, machinists were busy fixing up their various inventions and putting them in working order. Farmers and their wives were arranging their monster vegetables, preserved fruits, quilts and homespun. Artists and mechanics were fixing up the specimens of their skill; and the sound of the hammer, and notes of preparation were heard on every side. Without the enclosure various showmen, with voice and music, were trying to attract the public attention to the "Educated Alligator," "The California Bear, with but two legs," and "The Living Skeleton." Even the hand-organ and monkey were having their full share of attention.

At two o'clock of Wednesday, the first day, the grand cavalcade of entered horses, of all classes, came off. The cavalcade entering by the opening next the stables, and passing around the course, drew up in front of the seats, and at the foot of the tower. This was a fine sight. There were eighty-two horses rode and lead, forty in single harness, and twenty in double harness, making in all one hundred and forty-two. Among them were some of the finest specimens of horseflesh ever seen in Iowa. The Morgan brothers, belonging to Mr. Morton, of Muscatine, matched stallions, bright bays, active, symmetrical, and full of fire, were the favorites among the matched horses, in double harness. A pair of dark bay three year olds, Abdallahs, belonging to Joseph Green, Esq., of Muscatine, were also much admired. Judge Grant, of Davenport, drove a pair of black pacers, which attracted much attention.

Among the horses in single harness, a fine large grey, said to belong to

the Messrs. Beaubien, of this city, but entered by Z. Livermore, of Jackson county, was the favorite. His gallant air and graceful motion drew forth the cheers of the spectators, even the ladies greeting him as he came up to the stand, with the waving of handkerchiefs. This horse was awarded the first premium for horses in single harness, but being put on the track the same evening, at the race ground, a few miles below, and run for money, the horse was ruled off the course, on the second day, along with several others.

A fine young blooded stallion from Dubuque, was thrown, with his rider, by being run over a rope on the evening before. The rider was either drunk or careless, as the rope was in plain view. The horse escaped without much injury, but his rider was picked up insensible and was not on his feet till next day. This horse was badly groomed.

SECOND DAY

The second day of the fair was ushered in by a glorious sun and a light and refreshing breeze from the south. Had the weather been "made to order," it could not have been more beautiful and propitious. The autumnal sunshine and cool wind were just sufficiently tempered by that hazy languor peculiar to our Indian Summer, poetically termed "the smile of the year."

With sunrise the crowd began to gather. By eight o'clock the cars and vehicles of every description were pouring forth a living tide of humanity, and the gate-way was thronged by gay and eager visitors. By half-past eight, ten thousand souls were within the enclosure. The crowd now divided according to individual taste. The farmers, in dense masses, were seen around the stock pens and stalls, and about the agricultural machinery. The lovers of the noble horse, in heavy ranks, ranged along the stables, where the busy grooms were at the morning toilet of the steeds. Groups were scattered here and there over the extended grounds, watching the operation and listening to the explanation of some new machine. But around the halls in the centre of the grounds, was the group which chiefly attracted the spectator, looking from the tower. Here the dark masses of men were gaily relieved by the brilliant and variegated hues of female dress, the fluttering of ribbons and scarfs.

Mingled with the neigh of horses, the lowing of cattle, the noise of wheels and the busy hum of human voices, were the stirring strains of martial music, from Unger's Band. A large and loud-toned bell, on exhibition,

weighing some two thousand pounds, would occasionally lend its deep, solemn tone, to swell the chorus of sounds, and its iron bass seemed to harmonize so well with the scene, that no one thought of crying, "Silence that dreadful bell."

Before we enter upon the official proceedings of the day, we will make our proposed visit to the sheep and swine pens, ranged along the southern boundary of the grounds.

SHEEP AND SWINE. — First, on our left, we come to several pens containing seventeen French Merino ewes and rams, entered by G. W. Hyatt, of Scott county. These were not large, but were in good order, handsomely shaped, and in every respect clean and healthy. An examination of the fleece, showed a wool of the finest and silkiest texture, of a light straw color. This breed is said to be well adapted to our climate, to be hardy, productive, and to yield well.

Next to these came a lot of sheep entered by T. M. French, of Jefferson county. First. A large ram, without horns, weighing two hundred and forty-eight pounds, of the Leicester-English breed. The wool of this sheep grows to the length of twelve to sixteen inches, is very fine, and almost as white as snow. Mr. F. informed us that crosses from this ram were to be found in all the counties around Jefferson, one and two years old, hardy, large, and in all respects superior. Second. Eight French Merino rams — full bloods. Third. One Spanish Merino ram, smaller than the French, fleece closer, like in color, but apparently not so fine. The owner thought this the hardiest sheep which could be introduced into Iowa. Mr. F. had, also, on exhibition, two Shepherd dogs, the peculiar and striking instinct of which, as manifested in their management of the stock, is of the greatest value to shepherds. These dogs, at a signal or word from their master, even when his back was towards them, would promptly obey, directing the flock to any point, driving in the stragglers, and keeping off all intruders. Premiums were awarded to this lot of sheep and to the dogs.

William Bampy, of Scott, had on exhibition a Saxon ram, large, of fine fleece, and said to be well adapted to our climate. His Saxon ewes were also worthy of remark.

P. Wagoner, of Louisa county, exhibited a ram of singular form and crosses. He was a mixture of French, Spanish and Saxon, and his hide was corrugated, or lay in folds about his body, as if intended for an animal twice his size. The wool, too, differed in texture in different parts of his

body. If there is such a thing as an *idiot* brute, this was one, as we infer from the somersault he sent us on, when we only wanted to examine his ungraceful wrapper. Altogether, we should say that this result of a mixture of bloods, was more curious than valuable. Mr. W. had, also, a number of very fine sheep on exhibition, of various breeds.

Next came the swine pens, and being no great admirer of this class of stock in any other shape than well cured, well broiled and flanked by fresh eggs, hot coffee and warm rolls about seven o'clock, A. M., we shall not enlarge much upon the varieties on exhibition.

Mr. Stewart, of Lee county, entered a Suffolk sow and litter of five pigs — the latter about three months old and very large.

Friday & Dunn, of Scott county — A fine, full blooded Suffolk boar.

Edward Brown, of Muscatine county — A pen full of fine Suffolks, various ages.

George Brawley — Suffolk pigs.

R. W. Pitman, of Lee county — Cheshire-whites, two boars, very large, fine limbed hogs.

H. B. Munson, of Lee county — Cheshire-white sow, very large, five and a half feet long, and though not very fat, weighing five hundred and seventy-two pounds. He also exhibited a six months, full-blooded Suffolk boar — almost hairless, his skin having a sort of pink tint. Limbs small and neat, body very long and symmetrical, ears small, head short and well shaped.

C. Wright, of Louisa county — One five months, full-blood Cheshire boar — a fine animal. Also, several Cheshire-whites, and three Essex pigs, the latter black, neat and handsome — did not learn their ages.

George Fitzsimmons, of Muscatine county — One fine sow and litter of eight pigs — very large for their age; cross of Suffolk.

James Weed, of Muscatine county — Two very large boars, full grown, white and coarse hair — reported to us as Irish Graziers, but doubted. Also, one handsome Suffolk boar.

Smyth Bayles, of Lee county — A number of five months pigs, cross of Cheshire-white.

There were, also, Berkshires, one full-blood Poland boar, crosses of China, etc., etc., but as far as our observation went we should give a decided preference to the Suffolk, Cheshire-white and Irish — and crosses from these bloods — as the largest, neatest limbed, and most productive.

THE HALLS. — We have already described the location of, and the inscriptions on these. In dimensions they were each about 250 feet long, by 30 wide. A partition of boards put up horizontally, at intervals of a few inches, ran along the center of each hall, the entire length, and on each side of this partition were the tables, all stretching the entire length. We entered first the hall devoted to the display of fruits and vegetables, and at once resigned all idea of taking special notes. Huge pumpkins and squashes, monster heads of cabbage, beets two feet long and six inches in diameter, carrots, parsnips, radishes and rutabagas to match. Turnips, two of which could not find room in a peck-measure. Potatoes of every variety, watermelons, gourds, corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, flax, hemp, and every other product of our prolific soil were here arranged in rich profusion. Our attention was engaged by a display of preserved fruits, apples, pears, tomatoes, &c., selected with reference to uniformity of shape and size, and put up in glass jars by Mrs. Major Sherfey, of Muscatine county. A gentleman from Wisconsin, whose name we did not learn, had on exhibition specimens of a new variety of the pie-plant, the stalks of which would measure six or eight inches in circumference, and were as tender as the smaller variety. Stalks of the monster plant, full size, preserved in syrup, had a most delicious acidulous flavor. Here was also, a specimen of Chinese sugar-cane, raised in Iowa. The fruits on exhibition embraced apples of numerous and fine varieties, pears, plums and grapes. These specimens were all indicative of high culture and good taste, but were too numerous to note particularly. Of these apples the finest varieties were exhibited by G. D. Stephenson and Jas. Weed, Esqs., of Muscatine, and S. G. Blakeman, Esq., of Scott.

G. P. Smith, of Cedar county, exhibited three firm, fine-flavored and large new cheese, one of which would weigh fully two hundred pounds. Messrs. W. and D. Davis, of Lee, also exhibited two fine cheese, of some age, and highly praised. But we must leave this chaos of big vegetables, etc., and visit the

FINE ART GALLERY. — Entering from the north, we first find a very attractive display of embroidery, needlework, &c., some of which we will note.

Mrs. Chittenden, of Keokuk, exhibited worsted and silk embroidery, landscape and portrait needlework, most beautifully executed.

Miss E. F. Wood, of Muscatine, landscape in worsted. Miss Amanda Futts, of Muscatine, worsted work. Miss Sarah Brown, of Muscatine, work

in perforated paper. Miss M. C. Little, of Muscatine, "The Fall of Jerusalem," in crayon, executed with exquisite taste and faithfulness — much admired — also, "The Ruins of Carthage," in crayon, and ornamented leather-work frame, admirably executed.

Mrs. W. White, a case of bonnets, artificials, &c., which drew forth earnest praises from the ladies.

Mrs. T. D. Smith, of Muscatine, a worked collar. Mrs. S. Underwood, of Muscatine, beautiful specimens of worsted embroidery.

Mrs. W. D. Nichols, Davenport, silk embroidery, exquisitely done.

Mrs. Eystra, of Muscatine, a pink silk and a white merino scarf, each beautifully embroidered.

Quilts, blankets, coverlets, etc., of home manufacture were plenty, and did great credit to the industry and skill of the ladies of Iowa.

About the center of this Hall was an extensive and rare collection of reptiles and insects, also, a double-headed calf, exhibited by Dr. J. M. Shaffer, of Fairfield.

Next came a beautiful display of photographs, ambrotypes, etc., from the gallery of Schiebel & Co., Dubuque, to whom the first premium was awarded.

Thos. Hartwick, of Dubuque, specimens of penmanship, first premium; Larkin Upton, of Cedar county, penmanship, second premium.

Mr. Hartwick also exhibited his beautiful marble business card, and an eagle cut in stone, and was awarded the second premium for marble and stone work. The first premium was awarded to Wm. H. Guthrie & Co., of Davenport, who exhibited the most elaborately designed and beautifully executed marble mantels we ever saw in the United States. We regret that they had the misfortune to break the finest one, in its transit to the fair.

W. and S. Gurby, Troy, N. Y., exhibited engineer's and surveyor's instruments, embracing a full and complete set.

The agent of Holbrook's School Apparatus Manufacturing Company, of Hartford, Connecticut, exhibited various school apparatus, an orrery, or planetarium, a tellurian, globes, etc., and especially that scientific enigma, which seems to defy all known laws and set up for itself, called the gyroscope, or mechanical paradox. It was worth the whole trip to us to witness the operation of this mechanical accident — for it is nothing else. It must have been stumbled upon by some explorer in the regions of science. No known facts or laws could lead to such a result. We despair of making it

understood without the aid of a diagram, and shall not, therefore, undertake to describe it. The complete apparatus can be had for \$5, \$3.50 and \$2.50, according to style; and if any of our curious friends will order one, we will take pleasure in illustrating its operation to him.

A gallery of splendid pictures and engravings came next, which drew crowds of gazers. We did not learn the name of the exhibitor.

Geo. G. Mahan, of Muscatine, exhibited a splendid piano, some beautiful guitars, and other musical instruments. But we must not linger in this attractive hall, lest we occupy too much of our readers' time. In the

INDUSTRIAL HALL. — We shall note but few articles, as most of those on exhibition are familiar to all. Here were exhibited very handsome styles of cottage furniture — one set of *papier mache* cottage furniture which was exhibited at the Crystal Palace, in New York. We consider it a failure. The design is well enough, but it seems impossible to keep this material from cracking, from expansion and contraction, occasioned by changes of temperature, humidity, &c. A large quantity of fine hardware and cutlery was exhibited by G. G. Mahan, of Muscatine. We noticed also several axes, hammers and chisels, the handiwork of Mr. Geo. Terry, blacksmith, of Muscatine. E. G. Connell, of Columbus, Ohio, exhibited locks. W. A. Thurston, of Fort Madison, a tastefully embroidered and quilted black saddle. Mr. Bell, of Muscatine, two or three sets of elegantly mounted harness. A set of plate here exhibited bore a card inscribed, "This plate to be awarded to the exhibition of the best corn and cob crusher." Several stoves of new patterns were here exhibited, and various kinds of machinery, the uses of which we did not take the time to inquire. Mr. Wood, of Dubuque, exhibited a curiously constructed bedstead, of ordinary use, and yet adapted to sickness. It is a most ingenious thing, and was awarded a premium. East of this hall was deposited the agricultural machinery, threshers, reapers, cleaners, mills, ploughs, harrows, cultivators etc., etc., a goodly display. Also buggies, carriages, and wagons, of various descriptions. A two-horse wagon, manufactured by Messrs. Ament & McMurry, of Muscatine, attracted general commendation, on account of its strength, lightness, and elegance of finish. Messrs. S. & J. H. Lower, of Davenport, exhibited the finest carriage on the grounds.

In one part of the grounds, Alliday's wind engine pump, for farm use, kept a busy motion all day. These pumps run by wind, need no watching, will draw seventy-two feet, and force one hundred. Cost \$130 to \$160.

The best pump on exhibition, for all ordinary uses, and for forcing, (and in fact the best we ever saw,) was "Holly's elliptical rotary force pump." There is nothing but metal about this pump, and it is so constructed as to throw a continuous stream, by the turning of a crank. One of these pumps will throw water to every room of houses not over sixty feet high, and the cost is trifling. Address A. D. Baker, 177 South Water street, Chicago.

On the morning of the second day, horses were exhibited on the track, according to classes. The display was a fine one, and showed that a great deal of attention is being devoted to the improvement of this noble animal, in Iowa. At ten o'clock, roadster stallions were exhibited — twenty-six entered the course. The first premium was awarded to "Iowa Chief," Black Hawk blood, owned by C. J. Sampson, of Jackson county; the second to "Ethan Allen," Black Hawk blood, owned by J. H. Wallace, of Muscatine, and the third to a fine horse of Black Hawk blood, owned by Mr. Phelps, of Burlington. In the contest of trotting stallions, these three made the best time, in the order we have named them. Joseph A. Green, of Muscatine, took the first premium on matched trotters, with his beautiful three-year-old Abdallah fillies. Wm. Miller, of Muscatine, exhibited a handsome pair of Morgan colts, eighteen months old, in double harness.

The trotting against time, by the stallions on exhibition, was full of excitement, and gathered the entire crowd of ten or twelve thousand around the circle. The excitement of the spectators frequently broke forth in shouts, as some favorite came in on good time. The imperfect level of the track was a drawback of from five to ten seconds on each horse.

TROTTING STALLIONS AGAINST TIME. — The track was half a mile in circumference. Each horse was allowed one warming heat, and two heats, or one mile, on time. We give the name and county of each horse, and his time:

John Adams, Scott county, 4:23; Blackbird, Jackson county, 3:13; Iowa Chief, Jackson county, 3:01; Osceola, Jackson county, 3:18; Pickwick, Scott county, 3:44; Wonder, Scott county, 3:15; Abo, Scott county, withdrawn second heat; Vermont Boy, Johnson county, 3:44; a Black Hawk colt, Scott county, 4:06; Nimrod, Scott county, 3:19; Green Mountain Black Hawk, Muscatine county, 3:04; Diomedes, Muscatine county, withdrawn.

The driver of Ethan Allen was ruled out, on account of his being a "jockey," and that horse did not appear.

Iowa Chief, Green Mountain Black Hawk and Blackbird, being the fastest three, were then put on the track together abreast. In drawing for places, Blackbird got the inside track; Iowa Chief the middle, and G. M. Black Hawk the outside. They started well, and kept up beautifully. On the home stretch, in the first heat, Green Mountain drew ahead, and Blackbird fell behind. On the third quarter, Iowa Chief took the inside track, and Green Mountain the middle, while Blackbird fell clear in the rear. On the home quarter, the two leading horses came to a close and gallant contest, and the excitement of the spectators was wrought up to the highest pitch. When it came to the home stretch of about two hundred yards, Iowa Chief shook off his antagonist, and came in ahead, his wheels clear of Green Mountain's head. The pent-up feelings of the crowd then broke forth in tremendous cheers. The time made was as follows: Iowa Chief, 2:59; Green Mountain, 3; Blackbird, 3:05.

THIRD DAY

Weather still beautiful. Crowd much increased — estimated at 15,000. On the open prairie, without the Grounds, not less than 600 vehicles, of every kind and description, stretched away in curious confusion, and over 1,200 horses were hitched among them. The crowds scattered in various directions outside, seemed to be nearly equal to that inside, and about 400 were coming and going every trip of the cars.

Two large elk, with tremendous antlers, said to be broke to harness, attracted many of the spectators outside.

The ladies were out in large numbers to witness the female equestrianism, and at an early hour the long range of seats was clothed in all the hues of the rainbow.

At 8 o'clock, riding horses were exhibited on the course. At 9 o'clock, trotters; at 10, horses in harness, matched and single. In noting the trotting, one mile against time, we will give the owner's name and county:

A. B. Porter's horse, Henry co., 3:22. Col Claggett's [sic. Thomas W. Claggett of Lee County, president of the State Agricultural Society] mare, Lee co., 3:06. S. M. McKibben's horse, Muscatine co., 3:14. J. S. Spearman's horse, Henry Co., 3:26. Mr. Kelly's horse, Johnson co., 3:35. Thos. Tucker's horse, Johnson co., 3:02. G. W. Hunt's horse, Muscatine co., 4:02. J. A. Green's matched 3 year olds, Muscatine co., 3:20. Judge Grant's matched pacers, Scott co., 4:00.

The entries of Messrs. Clagget, Porter and Tucker having made the best

time, were put on the course together. Porter's horse, by lot, got the inside track; Clagget's the middle track, and Tucker's the outside. On the first heat Porter's horse fell behind, and Clagget's took the inside, and Tucker's the middle track. These two were neck and neck, and moved in first rate style, on the first heat. On the second, Tucker's horse would draw ahead on the stretches, and fall back to his old place on the course. This kept up the excitement, and intense interest was felt as to the result of the struggle on the home stretch. They came up to breast in gallant style, and the contest still seemed doubtful. But Tucker began to move ahead. He managed his horse with the greatest skill. Soon he cleared his antagonist, took the inside track, and came in leading by the length of horse and half a wheel. Time, 3:13 — no appreciable difference between the two. Porter's horse was withdrawn on the second heat.

At 11 o'clock came off the grand cavalcade of premium animals. First premium indicated by a red badge; second by white, and the third by blue. The horses headed the cavalcade, sixty-four in all, next came three pair of fine matched mules, and two jacks, followed by fifty-nine horned cattle, and the rear brought up by eight sheep, driven by Mr. French's two shepard dogs. A finer lot of stock, in the various classes, we venture to say, has never been seen in the West.

LADIES' EQUESTRIANISM. — At 1 o'clock the ladies who intended contending for the prizes offered for graceful equestrianship entered the course. The contestants were as follows: Miss Pease, of Oskaloosa, in slate colored habit, riding an active and spirited sorrel; Mrs. M. J. Wheeler, of Iowa City, brown habit, bay horse; Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler, Burlington, black habit, grey horse; Mrs. Tedge, of Iowa City, black habit, bay horse; Mrs. McKonkey, of Scott co., buff habit, bay horse. A beautiful pacing pony, belonging to Capt. Ben. Harris was rode by a graceful and fearless little Miss, ten years of age, named Ada Kimball, of Iowa City. She was a volunteer, and wore no riding habit, but was tastefully dressed in pink. Each lady was attended by her cavalier on the first round, gait slow. Second round, cavaliers withdrew to the circles inside the course, and ladies rode alone — slow. Third. Ladies two abreast. Fourth. With cavaliers, at increased speed. Fifth. With cavaliers, faster. On the fifth round, a lady habited in green, dashed into the course, with her cavalier, and took her position in the rear. This was Miss Bell Brown, of Jefferson county. Sixth round, ladies two abreast, steeds loping. Seventh round, three abreast, at a gallop. Eighth and last

round, the brown, green, slate, and two dark habits (five) abreast. Mrs. McKonkey and Miss Kimball, who were not contestants, bringing up the rear. The ladies managed their horses well, and in this round particularly, presented a fine appearance, keeping rank like a file of dragoons. They came up to the tower amidst the plaudits of the multitude. The first premium, a splendid side-saddle, was awarded to Miss Pease, of Oskaloosa; Mrs. Wheeler, of Iowa City, the second premium, and Miss Bell Brown, of Jefferson, the third. The decision of the committee, composed of Hon. James Grant, of Davenport, Mrs. T. M. Isett, of Muscatine, Mrs. LeGrand Byington, of Iowa City, and a third lady, whose name we did not learn, met our judgment exactly; but not a few of the spectators dissented. All rode well, and each had earnest friends, who contended that his or her particular favorite ought to have had the first premium. Judge Grant, in announcing the award of the committee, paid a graceful compliment to all the contestants, and taking little Miss Ada Kimball's hand, presented her in his own behalf, as chairman of the committee, with a splendid, silver-handled riding whip. This well merited compliment was responded to by enthusiastic cheers from the spectators.

We will take this occasion to say, that though this feature in our State Agricultural Fair has its interest, it is one we do not approve. It is one step in the path the "strong-minded women" of the age would lead their sex, and its tendency is to draw women away from that retiring delicacy of character, and gentleness of demeanor, which are her chifest charms in every relation of life. . . .

During the entire three days not the slightest disturbance occurred on the grounds. All was harmony and good order, except that at one time, after the gray horse from Dubuque was ruled out, for running for money, the people, with whom he was a universal favorite, demanded his admission to the course, and for some time stopped all business by clamorous shouts for "gray," "the gray," — even threatening to "tear things to pieces" if their sovereign will was not complied with. So earnest was the desire to see this horse, that the subject was before the Directors three several times, and as often negatived — an exercise of power which we thought arbitrary and uncalled for.

The unanimous verdict of the delegation from Dubuque, both ladies and gentlemen, is, that the week in Muscatine was one of unalloyed enjoyment — and that her citizens for their generous hospitality, her ladies, for their

beauty and accomplishments, and her young men for their chivalrous gallantry, deserve prosperity and happiness.

LOCATIONS OF THE IOWA STATE FAIR

1854, 1855	Fairfield
1856, 1857	Muscatine
1858, 1859	Oskaloosa
1860, 1861	Iowa City
1862, 1863	Dubuque
1864, 1865, 1866	Burlington
1867, 1868	Clinton
1869, 1870	Keokuk
1871, 1872, 1873	Cedar Rapids
1874, 1875	Keokuk
1876, 1877, 1878	Cedar Rapids
1879 to date	Des Moines