

THE SETTLEMENT OF WOODBURY COUNTY

[The following paper is the result of a limited though critical investigation undertaken by Professor Garver with a view (1) to ascertaining from whence the early settlers of Woodbury County came, and (2) to suggesting the variety of viewpoints from which data upon such a subject may be studied.—EDITOR.]

Woodbury County is situated on the western border of the State of Iowa, and is bounded on the west by the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers. It is a little north of the center of the State, there being three counties to the north of it and five to the south. It is one of the largest counties of the State both in area and in population. Sioux City, the largest town, contains about 50,000 inhabitants: the rest of the population dwell in villages or upon farms. Thus it is seen that Woodbury County is in no sense peculiar; its characteristics are similar to those of hundreds of other counties of the great north central States. Moreover, the one magnet which served to attract the first settlers was an abundance of rich, fertile land to be had at a remarkably low price.

The permanent settlement of eastern Iowa was begun in the early thirties; the occupation of western Iowa occurred about twenty years later. The period of the settlement of Woodbury County may be set down, roughly, as from 1850 to 1870. The town of Sioux City was laid out in 1854 and 1855. While the ranks of the old settlers are being rapidly thinned by death, there remain in the county a considerable number of residents who came prior to 1870, and some, even, who were here before 1860. The comparative newness of the county has made possible the collection of the data upon which this study is based.

John Fiske, the historian, has called attention to the fact

that the migrations of Americans westward from the old States to new have been, to a remarkable degree, along parallels of latitude.¹ In connection with this statement, attention is called to the fact that Iowa covers about three degrees of latitude extending, practically, from forty degrees and thirty minutes to forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, north. If the northern and the southern boundaries of Iowa are projected eastward across the United States to the Atlantic Ocean, they enclose a zone which would include in the north central States, the northern part of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, as well as the southern part of Wisconsin and Michigan; in the north Atlantic group, the northern two-thirds of Pennsylvania, the northern third of New Jersey, and all of that part of New York (about two-thirds) which lies south of Lake Ontario; and in New England, all of Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, together with the southern part of Vermont and New Hampshire. These, then, are the States from which we may expect the early settlers of Woodbury County to have come if Fiske's statement is correct.

For the purpose of securing the data required for this brief study a blank was prepared, which, together with a letter explaining the same, was sent to about one hundred and forty old settlers of Woodbury County. The blanks were in the following form:

- 1 — Name.
- 2 — Present address.
- 3 — Place of birth (Give both State and County).
- 4 — Date of birth.
- 5 — Nationality.
- 6 — When did you move to Iowa?
- 7 — From what State?
- 8 — When did you move to Woodbury County?
- 9 — From what County, if from another County in Iowa?

¹ Fiske's *Civil Government in the United States*, p. 81.

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10 — Please give the names and addresses of other old settlers in your neighborhood.

To these inquiries replies were received from ninety-two individuals. Two of the replies were incomplete and could not be used. Appeal was then made to other sources, with the result that the desired information was gathered concerning ten additional old settlers. Thus, facts were at hand relative to one hundred different individuals — a convenient number with which to deal. By a comparison and analysis of the different items, some interesting results are ascertained.

Taking up, in the first place, the matter of the nativity of the one hundred old settlers whose migrations are here investigated, we find that twenty-six of them were born in foreign countries and seventy-four in the United States. A somewhat different statement of results may be made by adding those born in Canada and in the United States, in which case it may be said that twenty-two were born in Europe (including the British Isles) and seventy-eight in America. Twenty-six per cent of foreign-born settlers seems to the writer to be a rather large proportion in view of the fact that Woodbury County is in the very heart of the United States and that it was settled so late in the history of our country — at a time when so many Americans were moving westward. And yet that same “lure of the land” which drew the Americans out of Vermont and New York proved, no doubt, equally attractive to the foreign immigrant.

Of the twenty-six old settlers born outside of the United States, Germany gave birth to eight, England and Ireland to five each, Canada to four, Switzerland to two, and France and Denmark to one each. These facts give Germany the lead, unless those born in England, Ireland, and Canada are added together and the total of fourteen is

credited to the British Empire. In this group of foreign settlers those of Teutonic stock predominate over those of Celtic stock in about the proportion of two to one.

The years 1850 and 1870 have been mentioned above as bounding, in a rough way, the period of the settlement of Woodbury County. In the former year the number of States in the American Union numbered thirty-one, in the latter year thirty-seven. A comparison of the facts relative to the seventy-four old settlers who were natives of the United States shows them to represent thirteen States as follows: twenty-four were born in New York; eight each in Vermont and Pennsylvania; seven in Ohio; six in Illinois; four each in Indiana, New Hampshire, and Connecticut; three in Massachusetts; two each in Virginia and Iowa; and one each in Maine and Missouri.

If the States here mentioned are grouped into sections, the result shows that, of the seventy-four individuals under discussion, there were born twenty in New England, thirty-four in the middle Atlantic States (including Virginia and West Virginia), none in the southern States, eastern division, seventeen in the east central States (including Kentucky), three in the west central States (including Missouri), and none in the southern States, western division. Thus it is seen that the middle Atlantic section leads with thirty-four to its credit, and that New England comes second with twenty. In the two divisions of the north central States, taken together, twenty also were born. None seems to have been born in either division of the southern States, but this is because the grouping adopted above, following the plan of present day geographies,² includes Virginia among the middle Atlantic States and Missouri in the western division of the north central States.

There are twenty-eight States either wholly or largely

² Frye's *Complete Geography*, etc.

east of the Mississippi River. As far as the facts under analysis are concerned only eleven of these gave birth to pioneers of Woodbury County. The only southern State to contribute was Virginia. A more remarkable fact, perhaps, is that in those sections in which the largest numbers were born there were States (located side by side with those most largely represented) which in themselves gave birth to none of the old settlers. Thus, in New England every State is represented except Rhode Island. In the middle Atlantic section three States are represented (New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia), while four are not (New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia). It is rather interesting to speculate as to why New York and Pennsylvania should give birth to so many Woodbury County pioneers, relatively speaking, and neighboring States to none. It is true, however, that West Virginia, Maryland, and most of New Jersey are south of the latitude of Iowa. In the eastern division of the central States three are represented (Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois), and three are not (Michigan, Wisconsin, and Kentucky). Michigan and Wisconsin were not old enough to be the birth-place of pioneers who should settle new lands as early as 1850. While Kentucky was old enough, it was probably far enough to the south of the latitude of Iowa and especially of Woodbury County, to make the latter fact sufficient reason for her failure to send us any old settlers.

Glancing for a moment at the individual States and the number of Woodbury County pioneers to whom each gave birth, it is seen that New York leads with Vermont, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois following in order. New York's lead is large — in fact more of our number were born within her boundaries than within those of her three closest competitors taken together. New York gave birth to more of our old settlers than all of the rest of the middle Atlantic

section together; more than all of New England; and more than all of the central States. Indeed New York was the mother of twenty-four per cent of the one hundred pioneers whose careers form the basis of this study; of thirty-two per cent of the seventy-four who were born in the United States. New York, Vermont, and Pennsylvania — three contiguous States — taken together, gave birth to forty out of seventy-four or fifty-four per cent of those born in the United States.

If Virginia and Missouri are counted as southern States, as has been the rule in American history, then three of our number were born in the South as against seventy-one in the North. Three, also, were born west of the Mississippi as against seventy-one east of it. Iowa was a free State and would not admit slaves. This fact coupled with that other fact that Iowa was far to the north, and out of the latitude of the southern States, probably accounts for the smallness of the number born south of the Mason and Dixon line.

Another item on the blanks sent out called for the nationality of each old settler; but owing, perhaps, to the fact that sufficient explanation was not given, it would not be safe to draw many conclusions from the data returned. For example, some counted themselves as "Americans" whose parents were evidently born abroad; while others answered "of German descent" whose ancestors had undoubtedly been in the United States for several generations. To be brief, forty-four out of one hundred indicated a foreign ancestry, although we learned above that only twenty-six had been born outside of the United States. The numbers returned for each nationality were: Americans, forty-seven; "Yankees", nine; English, nine; Germans, nine; Irish, eight; French Canadians, three; French, two; Welsh, two; Swiss, two; Dutch, one; and Danish, one;

together with six who gave a double nationality. It is interesting to note that nine called themselves "Yankees", of whom five were born in New England. Adding these nine Yankees to the group of Americans, we have fifty-six of the latter. About all that it seems safe to say on the subject of nationality is that twenty-six were born abroad and that the number of bona fide Americans is fifty-six. This leaves eighteen to be accounted for. Undoubtedly all of them could classify as Americans of some degree. As between Teutons and Celts, the proportion seems to be about four of the former to one of the latter. One element (namely, the French Canadian) did not figure as largely in the returns as the writer had reason to expect from the large number of that class who trapped and traded in this section in its early days. Indeed, only three designated themselves as French Canadians. The reasons for such a small number need to be noticed, and so this matter will be recurred to again in another connection.³

Of the twenty-six pioneers born abroad (out of the one hundred studied) twenty-four made at least two moves, coming first to some other one of the United States and migrating later to Iowa. Still another made two moves, coming from Ireland to Canada and thence to Iowa. Only one came directly from his foreign home to Woodbury County. Of the twenty-four who stopped in other States before coming hither, seven came first to Illinois, four to New York, four to Ohio, two to Nebraska, two to Wisconsin, and one each to New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Tennessee, and Missouri.

It has already been explained that one foreign-born pioneer moved from Ireland to Canada and thence to Iowa, and that a second one moved directly from Canada to this State. Somewhat earlier in the paper it was noted that two

³ See below, p. 381.

were born in Iowa. One of these never left his native State, while the other one moved to Kansas and back again. In the following analysis the latter case is ignored, that is to say, the move to Kansas and back is ignored and the individual is treated as a native Iowan who never left his State. Eliminating these four cases, we have the result that ninety-six pioneers, out of one hundred, came to Iowa from some other State of the American union. Of the ninety-six, seventy-two were native-born and twenty-four foreign-born, as has already been shown.

These ninety-six settlers came into Iowa from eighteen different States. The States from which they came, together with the number in each case, are as follows: from Illinois, twenty-six; New York, fifteen; Ohio, eleven; Wisconsin, eight; Pennsylvania and Indiana, five each; Massachusetts, Virginia, Vermont, Missouri, and Minnesota, three each; Connecticut, New Hampshire, Michigan, and Nebraska, two each; and from Tennessee, Montana, and California, one each. The number that moved to Iowa from each State is radically different from the number that was born in each. A glance at the first and last columns of the accompanying table will show how true is this statement. (See Table I.)

The migrations of ninety-six persons to Iowa may seem to be a simple matter, but in reality it is one of great complexity. The case of New York may be taken as an illustration. In that State twenty-four of our pioneers were born. Nine of them moved directly from the Empire State to Iowa. The other fifteen came to this State indirectly, that is to say, they moved first to other States and came thence to Iowa. Of this number seven came by way of Illinois, four by way of Wisconsin, and one each by way of Massachusetts, Ohio, Vermont, and Montana. Altogether fifteen came directly from New York to Iowa. This num-

ber was made up of the nine natives of the former State, already mentioned, and six who came into New York from the outside. Two of the six entered New York from other States — one each from Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The other four came from foreign countries — two from Germany, one from England and one from Ireland. Thus thirty old settlers were born in New York or came through that State to Iowa. Fifteen came direct to this State and fifteen through other Commonwealths. The cases of several other States are as complicated as that of New York — just as many elements entering in, although not so many pioneers may have been concerned.

Because of this complexity it is out of question to review all of the facts relative to each State. They are presented in detail, however, in the accompanying table. (See Table I). Column one shows how many pioneers (out of ninety-six) were born in each State. Column two shows how many of these came directly to Iowa, and column three how many came indirectly. Columns four and five indicate the number that came from other States and from foreign countries, respectively, through each State to Iowa. The last column shows the number that came directly from each State to this one. The numbers given in the first column should equal the sum of those given in the second and third columns. The numbers found in the last column should equal the sum of those in the second, fourth, and fifth columns. It will also be noticed that columns three and four total the same, as they should.

With the facts before us as vividly as the table presents them, it is possible to make several valuable comparisons. Let us take first the figures of the first two columns, those showing the number of births in each State and the number of the same that came directly to Iowa. The facts show that all that were born in the three States of Virginia, Illinois,

and Missouri came directly to this State. Maine is the only State representing the other extreme. From other States the native-born pioneers came directly to Iowa in such ra-

TABLE I

	Total number born in each State.	Number born in each State who came directly to Iowa.	Number born in each State who came to Iowa through other States.	Received from other States and sent on to Iowa.	Received from foreign countries and sent on to Iowa.	Total number sent directly by each State to Iowa.
Maine	1	0	1	0	0	0
New Hampshire	4	1	3	0	1	2
Vermont	8	2	6	1	0	3
Massachusetts	3	1	2	2	0	3
Connecticut	4	1	3	1	0	2
Total for section	20	5	15	4	1	10
New York	24	9	15	2	4	15
Pennsylvania	8	4	4	0	1	5
Virginia	2	2	0	1	0	3
Total for section	34	15	19	3	5	23
Ohio	7	4	3	3	4	11
Indiana	4	2	2	2	1	5
Illinois	6	6	0	13	7	26
Michigan	0	0	0	2	0	2
Wisconsin	0	0	0	6	2	8
Total for section	17	12	5	26	14	52
Minnesota	0	0	0	3	0	3
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	2	2
Missouri	1	1	0	1	1	3
Total for section	1	1	0	4	3	8
Tennessee	0	0	0	0	1	1
Montana	0	0	0	1	0	1
California	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total scattered	0	0	0	2	1	3
Grand Totals	72	33	39	39	24	96

tios as one out of four, four out of eight, or nine out of twenty-four. The general average of all these different ratios is found in the totals which show that out of seventy-two native-born pioneers, thirty-three, or nearly forty-six per cent, came direct from the State of their birth to this State.

The results of this comparison for each section follow:

New England, 5 out of 20 or 25 per cent came direct to Iowa.
 Mid. Atlantic, 15 out of 34 or 44 per cent came direct to Iowa.
 North Central, 12 out of 17 or 70 per cent came direct to Iowa.

As might have been expected the percentage increases as the section is located closer and closer to Iowa.

Another fruitful comparison may be made of the number of pioneers born in each State and the total number that came directly from each State to Iowa. (See columns one and six of Table I). One might expect these numbers to be practically the same, but this supposition is far from the truth. Not all that were born in each State came directly to Iowa as we have already seen, and certainly not all that came from each State were born in the Commonwealth from which they happened to come.

The total number of pioneers that came directly from the various States to Iowa was made up of three groups: first, those born in the States from which they came; second, those received from other States; and third, those received from foreign nations. The first of these three groups has just been discussed. The facts relative to the second may be found by reference to column four of Table I. A comparison of columns four and six shows what proportion of the numbers sent to Iowa by each State was received from other States. Four States, indeed, (New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, and Tennessee) received none; while four others (California, Montana, Minnesota, and Michigan) received all they sent from this source. In most cases such accessions were small, only four States (Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois) receiving as many as three each. Wisconsin with six and Illinois with thirteen are easily in the lead. This is logical since these States border Iowa on the east and were natural gateways into the latter in the early days.

The results of this comparison by sections are instructive. In the following table the figures in the first column indicate the persons received from other States; the figures of the second column indicate the persons sent to Iowa.

New England	received	4 out of 10 sent, or 40 per cent.
Middle Atlantic	received	3 out of 23 sent, or 13 per cent.
East Central	received	26 out of 52 sent, or 50 per cent.
West Central	received	4 out of 7 sent, or 57 per cent.

From this showing it is seen that the middle Atlantic section received the smallest percentage of pioneers sent to Iowa from other States. It is logical, again, that the north central sections should receive the largest percentage from the same sources because they are on the road to Iowa, so to speak. In the case of New England the percentage is large; but this may be abnormal since the total number of individuals was so small that the movements of one or two had an undue effect upon the results. Finally, it may be said that the total number of pioneers received from other States was thirty-nine out of ninety-six sent to Iowa, or six more than the number of native-born sent directly from their native States.

The third group which goes to make up the ninety-six sent directly to this State comprises the foreign-born. The figures for this group are to be found in column five of Table I. A comparison with column six shows the proportion of the foreign-born to the total number sent. Eight States received none from this source, while five received one each, and two received two each. New York, Ohio, and Illinois received the largest numbers; the two first named States four each, and the last named seven. Nebraska and Tennessee received all the pioneers whom they sent to Iowa from this source — which, of course is only a coincidence.

If we tabulate the results for the sections we get the fol-

lowing percentages — the first figures stand for the number of foreign-born received:

New England received 1 out of 10 sent to Iowa, or 10 per cent.
 Middle Atlantic received 5 out of 23 sent to Iowa, or 22 per cent.
 East Central received 14 out of 52 sent to Iowa, or 27 per cent.
 West Central received 3 out of 8 sent to Iowa, or 43 per cent.

The percentages favor the western sections. While all of the foreign-born pioneers under consideration came ultimately to Iowa, it is a fact that their original attraction was for the western States in preference to the eastern sections. The total number of foreign-born received was twenty-four or exactly twenty-five per cent of the whole number sent directly to Iowa.

It is not to be understood that the contingents sent to Iowa by the various States were made up in every case of all three of the elements mentioned above. Indeed, this was true of only five States, namely, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. Wisconsin sent no native-born pioneers to Woodbury County; New Hampshire and Pennsylvania contributed none received from other States; while Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Virginia sent none who were born abroad. Four States, namely, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana (Territory), and California sent neither native-born nor foreign-born settlers — their whole contingents being received from other States. Nebraska and Tennessee sent only foreign-born. The number of pioneers of each class sent by the sections are as follows:

<i>States</i>	<i>Native-born</i>	<i>Born in other States</i>	<i>Foreign-born</i>
New England	5	4	1
Middle Atlantic	15	3	5
East Central	12	26	14
West Central	1	4	3

From this tabulation it will be seen that the native-born element was the most important one in the contingents sent

by New England and the middle section; while the two divisions of the north central section received from other States the largest single element in their contributions — in each case exactly one-half of the total number sent.

Having treated in this detailed way of the various elements that went to make up the total number of pioneers who came from the different States directly to Iowa, a brief comparison should be made between the latter and the total number that was born in each State. The figures may be found in columns one and six of Table I. There it will be seen that a total of seventy-two pioneers⁴ of Iowa were born in twelve different States, and that a total of ninety-six came to this State from eighteen different States. It may also be noticed that pioneers were born in only one State (Maine) which sent none directly to Iowa; while seven States which gave birth to none, sent settlers to our State. Six States gave birth to more than they sent, one to the same number, while twelve sent more than were born within their borders. It has already been mentioned that New York gave birth to the largest number with Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Ohio following in order, while Illinois sent the largest number directly to Iowa, with New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin coming next in order. As a rule the States farther east gave birth to more of our numbers, but those farther west sent us the larger contingents. The comparison by sections is instructive.

New England gave birth to 20 pioneers, sent Iowa 10.

Middle Atlantic gave birth to 34 pioneers, sent Iowa 23.

East Central gave birth to 17 pioneers, sent Iowa 52.

West Central gave birth to 1 pioneer, sent Iowa 8.

From this showing it may be seen that there is a relative falling off in the first set of figures and a relative gain in the second, without exception, as we come westward. The

⁴ Excluding from consideration the two born in Iowa.

middle Atlantic States were the birth-place of the largest number of pioneers (thirty-four or nearly one-half of the seventy-two born in the United States) and yet its percentage relative to the number actually sent was not as great as that of New England. By far the largest number of settlers came directly from the north central section, even that division west of the Mississippi making a respectable showing.

It appears, then, that the early settlers of Woodbury County were largely born in the middle Atlantic and New England States and that they came to their future home chiefly from the east central and middle Atlantic States. This brings up the question of the route, or routes, by which they came westward — a question already touched upon in an indirect way, but one of such importance that it needs further treatment. Table I contains two columns of figures (the third and the fourth) which tell in a general way the story of the routes taken by the westward moving pioneers. By comparing the figures of column three with those of column two for a moment it will be seen that New England sent fifteen out of twenty born in that section to Iowa indirectly; that is to say, they moved first to other States and came thence to this State. The middle Atlantic States sent nineteen out of thirty-four by the same indirect route; but column three does not show by what States these pioneers came to Iowa. Column four contains the same total of figures as three, referring indeed to the same thirty-nine individuals; but while it shows the numbers received by certain States which sent them on to Iowa, it does not indicate the States from which they were received. These two sets of facts, needed to throw light upon the subject of the routes taken, are shown in Table II.

Table II is designed to illuminate the facts given in columns three and four of Table I. Down the left-hand side of

the table appear the names of the States and countries in which the one hundred pioneers who comprise this study were born. In column one is given, merely for convenient

TABLE II

	Total Born in Each	Maine	New Hampshire	Vermont	Massachusetts	Connecticut	New York	Pennsylvania	Virginia	Ohio	Indiana	Illinois	Michigan	Wisconsin	Minnesota	Nebraska	Missouri	Tennessee	Montana	California	Canada	Sent Indirectly	
Maine	1	0																		1		1	
New Hampshire	4		1					1		1		1											3
Vermont	8			2	1	1						2	1				1						6
Massachusetts	3				1							1											2
Connecticut	4					1	1				1			1									3
New York	24			1	1		9			1		7		4					1				15
Pennsylvania	8						1	4		1		1	1										4
Virginia	2								2														0
Ohio	7									4	1			1	1								3
Indiana	4										2	1			1								2
Illinois	6											6											0
Michigan	0												0										0
Wisconsin	0													0									0
Minnesota	0														0								0
Nebraska	0															0							0
Missouri	1															0	1						0
Iowa	2																1						0
Tennessee	0																						0
Montana	0																	0					0
California	0																		0	0			0
Germany	8						2			1		5											8
England	5						1			2		1		1									5
Ireland	5		1				1	1															5
Canada	4						1												1		1		5
Switzerland	2										1	1					1					1	3
France	1													1									2
Denmark	1									1						1							1
Sent Directly		0	2	3	3	2	15	5	3	11	5	26	2	8	3	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	1

reference, the total number born in each. Reading across the page from left to right one may see, by reference at the same time to the names at the top of the table, by what

States — that is by what routes — the native-born of each State and country came to Iowa. The total number sent indirectly by each State and country is given in the last column, at the right-hand side of the table. The number of native-born pioneers sent directly to Iowa by the States of their birth are given in the squares which run diagonally across the table from the upper left-hand corner toward the lower right-hand corner — the numbers being indicated by heavier type in order to differentiate them from the others of the table. The figures in heavy type are omitted in making up the totals given at the right-hand side of the table.

At the top of the table are found the names of the States and the one country which sent pioneers directly to Iowa. Glancing down the columns one may see, by reference at the same time to the names at the left-hand side of the table, from what States and countries — that is, by what routes — the pioneers sent to Iowa were received. The figures at the bottom of the table indicate the total number sent to Iowa directly by each State. In this case the numbers standing for the native-born pioneers sent directly (indicated by the heavy type) have been added. Table I was limited to those States of the American union which gave birth to or sent pioneers on to Iowa. Table II includes those foreign countries, as well, which performed similar services. The name of Canada occurs at the top of the table because it sent one native-born pioneer direct to Iowa. The name of Iowa appears on the table, but it affects only the figures of the first column.

The table under consideration shows very plainly two things: first, by what States, or routes, the native-born of each State and country were sent to Iowa when they did not come direct from their places of birth; and second, from what States and countries — that is by what routes — the

pioneers, exclusive of native-born, sent to Iowa by the different States, were received. Taking up the first group, who may be referred to as native-born pioneers sent to Iowa indirectly, we see that Pennsylvania sent four individuals by way of four different States, that Vermont sent six by way of five States, while New York sent fifteen by way of six States. The States through which these pioneers were sent are scattered from Vermont to California. The only preferences shown by individual States were a slight one by the Vermont pioneers for the Illinois route and a more decided one by New Yorkers for the Illinois and Wisconsin routes. Among the foreign-born, the English show a slight preference for Ohio and the Germans for New York; the only marked preference being that of the Germans for the Illinois route.

A comparison, section by section, reveals the following marked preferences for the route of the east central States:

	<i>By Central States</i>	<i>By all other sections</i>
New England sent	8	7
Middle Atlantic sent	15	4
Central States sent	3	2
Foreign nations sent	14	11

The totals for the sections show that, out of sixty-four pioneers sent to Iowa indirectly, forty came by way of the eastern division of the central States as against twenty-four by way of all other sections. If those coming by the western division of the central States are added to those sent by way of the eastern division, the results become forty-seven as against seventeen.

The results just presented are complemented by those growing out of a review of the second group of facts which Table II was constructed to illustrate. In noticing the States and countries from which the pioneers, sent to Iowa by the various States, were received we are giving atten-

tion to the same body of facts as those just analyzed but from a different point of view. Excluding native-born pioneers, a glance at the table shows that New York sent to Iowa six settlers received by her from five different sources, Wisconsin eight, received from five sources, Ohio seven received from six sources, and Illinois twenty received from nine different sources—that is, from nine States and foreign countries. In every case the sources were widely scattered. The chief sources for Illinois were New York, Germany, and Vermont; for Wisconsin, New York; for Ohio, England; and for New York, Germany.

Out of sixty-four pioneers sent indirectly to Iowa, New England shows no one source of supply predominating over another. The middle Atlantic States and the western division of the central States received from foreign nations a few more than from other sources. The east central States attracted fifteen from the middle Atlantic section, fourteen from foreign nations, and eight from New England.

From such analyses as these it is seen that the pioneers of Woodbury County came from many different places by way of many different routes. The tracing of the routes followed is complicated by the fact that a large number of the individuals concerned made two or more moves, instead of only one, in coming to Iowa. Three distinct elements enter into the proposition. In the first place, there are those native-born pioneers who came to Iowa from the places of their birth by indirect routes. Then there are those who came directly from certain localities. This number was made up of two groups, namely, native-born pioneers who came directly from the places of their birth and those received from other localities to be sent on to this State. The routes followed may, in a general way, be divided into two parts. First, many routes leading from the

birth-places of the pioneers converged upon certain intermediate points. Chief among these were Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, and New York. The chief section upon which the routes of pioneers converged was, of course, the north central section. The second part of the route taken led directly from certain centers to Iowa. The most important centers, as far as the States of the Union are concerned, are exactly the same as the chief converging points just mentioned; but, since the pioneers coming over these routes included an element of native-born settlers as well as those received from other sources, the centers in question may not be ranked in the same order. While Illinois leads, New York comes second, Ohio third, and Wisconsin fourth. The second part of the general route followed led directly from these States to Iowa. As far as sections are concerned, the main-traveled route led from the north central section with that from the middle States second, and that from New England third.

The reader can get a clear mental picture of the general routes followed by conceiving a map with a heavy line leading from Europe to the north central States and a somewhat lighter line from Europe to the middle Atlantic section; a heavy line leading from the middle Atlantic section to the north central States, and a somewhat lighter one from New England to the same locality; and lastly a heavy line leading from the north central States to Iowa together with lighter lines from the middle Atlantic section and from New England to this State. A complete map showing all the by-paths followed by various groups or individuals would contain many more lines than those just indicated, but the picture here drawn shows the main-traveled routes and avoids the confusion which would arise from the crossing and re-crossing of lesser by-paths.

Before leaving this part of the subject it may be pointed

out that seven pioneers (out of ninety-six) entered Iowa by way of the southern States. Three of them came from Virginia, three from Missouri, and one from Tennessee. Four (out of ninety-six) came hither from western States as follows: from Nebraska two, and from Montana (Territory) and California one each. None of these four were natives of the States from which they came.

From the States which border upon Iowa there came a total of forty-two pioneers. It is interesting to note that thirty-four of these came from the two States on the eastern border, leaving eight to enter from the four States on the three other sides of Iowa. The numbers entering by way of each border State were: from Illinois, twenty-six; Wisconsin, eight; Minnesota, three; Nebraska, two; South Dakota, none; and Missouri, three. The large numbers coming from Illinois and Wisconsin are accounted for by the fact that those States were situated directly in the pathway of the incoming pioneers. Bearing in mind the fact that so much early travel was by way of the Missouri River, the one surprising result in the comparisons just made is that so few settlers, relatively speaking, came to Woodbury County from Missouri. Possibly the pioneers coming from Missouri desiring, like Daniel Boone, to be ever on the frontier, had moved on to newer regions before the data for this paper were gathered. The writer is sure that this occurred to a certain extent, especially in connection with the French Canadians to be mentioned below.⁵

Out of one hundred pioneers whose movements form the basis of this study, sixty-six came directly to Woodbury County upon reaching the State of Iowa; thirty-four stopped first in some other county before coming here. It may be of interest to note from what particular counties some of them came. A total of sixteen came from four

⁵ See below, p. 381.

counties as follows: from Dubuque, where the first settlement in the State was made, came eight; from Pottawattamie, four; and from Linn and Monona, two each. The other eighteen came from as many different counties scattered all over the State. Ten came from counties bordering on the Mississippi; nine from counties on the western border of Iowa. Of the latter, seven came from counties on the Missouri. If these were added to the three who came from the State of Missouri, it may be said that at least ten came by the Missouri River route.

The most interesting fact brought out in the last paragraph is the large number of pioneers coming to Woodbury County from Dubuque County located clear across the State on the Mississippi River. Of the eight who came from the latter county, one was native-born, two were from Pennsylvania, and five from foreign countries. Dubuque and Woodbury counties are in the same latitude. To-day they are connected by the Illinois Central Railway, but this consideration was of no great importance since seven of the pioneers came to Woodbury County before the railway was built.

From counties bordering on Woodbury there came five pioneers: one each from Plymouth and Cherokee on the north, one from Ida on the east, and two from Monona on the south.

Stopping in other counties of Iowa before coming on to Woodbury had the effect of increasing the number of moves made by our pioneers on their way hither. From the character of the questions asked on the blanks sent out it is not possible to determine the exact number of moves made by the one hundred pioneers on their way to Woodbury County. We are able, however, to figure out that twenty-two made at least one move; sixty at least two; and eighteen at least three moves before arriving at their destina-

tion. It is not surprising to find that all of the eighteen who moved at least three times are included in the number of those who came to Woodbury from some other county of the State.

In this very limited study of the pioneer settlers of Woodbury County, Iowa, the emphasis has been placed upon the source of supply, or the nativity of the pioneers, the routes by which they came to this county, and the number of moves made on the way. Relative to the first point, it was found that twenty-six out of one hundred were born abroad, chiefly in Germany, England, Ireland, and Canada. The three who came from Canada were French Canadians. It was remarked above⁶ that such a small number did not do justice to this particular people because it has been conclusively shown by Mr. C. R. Marks that the first settlers of the county were French Canadians and that they came to this locality in considerable numbers.⁷ The explanation may be found in the character of the French Canadians themselves. When they first came into this vicinity, probably as early as the thirties, it was in the capacity of traders, trappers, boatsmen, hunters, etc. They belonged largely to the river and the river trade, to the period of exploration rather than to that of settlement. It was their work to open up the new country, not to possess it permanently: they paved the way for actual settlers. When the latter came it was time for the French Canadian to move on up the river to newer and wilder regions — regions better suited to his particular kind of life. This was actually done by large numbers, and is a fact which, when taken in connection with the time that had passed before this

⁶ See above, p. 365.

⁷ Marks's *Past and Present of Woodbury County, Iowa*, p. 763 seq. See also his article entitled *French Pioneers of Sioux City and South Dakota* in the *South Dakota Historical Collections*, Vol. IV, pp. 255-260.

investigation was attempted, sufficiently accounts for the small showing made by the French Canadians in the population elements of the county to-day.

The figures showed seventy-four pioneers born in the United States — only three of them in the South. Among the sections, the middle Atlantic States led, with New England and the north central States following in order. Among the States, New York, Vermont, and Pennsylvania stood out especially prominent as the birth-place of Woodbury County pioneers, giving birth to forty out of the seventy-four native Americans, or fifty-four per cent. New York alone had twenty-four to her credit, contributing thirty-two per cent of the native-born Americans and twenty-four per cent of all. It is not too much praise to call the Empire State the "Mother of Woodbury County Pioneers".

We have also seen that our hundred pioneers moved into Iowa from eighteen different States, together with one coming from Canada. More than half came from the north central States, with the middle Atlantic States and New England coming next in order. Among the States, Illinois led with the large total of twenty-six to her credit. New York came second with fifteen, while Ohio and Wisconsin sent eight each.

The foregoing analysis has brought out the radical difference between the pioneers born in a State and those sent to Iowa — a difference, not only in numbers but also in composition. The complexity of the matter of the routes taken has also been revealed. Out of seventy-two native born, thirty-three came to Iowa directly from the States of their birth, thirty-nine indirectly by way of other States. Those coming from the various States were found to be made up of three classes: namely, native born, those received from other States, and those received from foreign

nations. The foreign born came chiefly by way of the north central States. Among the States they preferred Illinois, New York, and Ohio in order.

As to the general route followed, an attempt was made to divide it into two parts: first, converging upon certain sections and States; and second, leading from those places to Iowa. Later it was seen that a third part of the general route was to be found within the State of Iowa. The main-traveled routes were pictured as running from Europe to the north central and middle Atlantic States; from the latter section and New England to the north central States; and from all three sections, but especially from the north central section, to Iowa. Within the State the chief routes were from Dubuque and Pottawattamie counties to Woodbury.

Among other results it was found that four pioneers entered the State from States west of Iowa; seven from southern States; and forty-two from States bordering upon this one. The number coming from Missouri was surprisingly small. Thirty-four stopped in other counties of the State before moving to Woodbury. In general the pioneers studied may be said to have done much moving about before they settled down—much more, indeed, than facts brought out in the paper indicate.

Although this study has been based upon facts which concern only one hundred individuals, the writer has no reason to believe that the results would have been radically different, as far as percentages are concerned, if figures had been at hand relative to a much larger number. The one important exception of the French Canadians has already been noted. We may say, therefore, that the findings of this paper relative to the nativity of the pioneers of Woodbury County, Iowa, and to the routes traveled by them in coming to the county are reasonably accurate. What is

true of Woodbury County would, probably, be true also of northwestern Iowa. The same claim could not be made for the eastern and southeastern parts of the State which are much older sections and—to mention only one point—received large numbers of settlers from Kentucky, Virginia, and other southern States.

It may be said in closing that John Fiske's dictum, referred to at the beginning of this paper, namely, that "The westward movement of population in the United States has for the most part followed the parallels of latitude", has been found to be remarkably true when applied to the settlement of Woodbury County, Iowa.

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