

A DECADE OF IOWA CENTENNIALS

1938-1947

One hundred years ago a new and as yet unnamed Commonwealth awaited the cue for its entrance on the national stage. The setting had been long prepared. West of the Mississippi River and north of the State of Missouri lay a land of rolling prairies. The soil was rich and deep. In summer its hills and valleys were covered with thick high grass, and bright flowers dotted the landscape — pink, white, lavender, and blue in the spring, red, yellow, and purple in the late summer and autumn. Timber grew along the water courses and in the rougher areas. Extreme heat in summer and bitter cold in winter were not uncommon, but for the most part the climate was pleasant and healthful. Rain and snow gave sufficient moisture for plants. The growing season was long enough for all crops grown in temperate climates.

For centuries this prairie land had been occupied only by a few nomadic or semi-nomadic Indian tribes. France, Spain, and England had each laid claim to the Mississippi Valley, but used the inland empire only as a pawn in the game of conquest. Then in 1803 a new nation, the United States of America, bought the western half of the Great Valley at a bargain sale, one of the few in history. Both politically and economically the Louisiana Purchase was a master move.

Another generation passed before the westward movement of Americans reached the new purchase; the land was left largely to its Indian occupants. Then the tide of white settlement, drawn ever westward by the magnetic pull of the rich farming lands, reached the Mississippi River.

There the pioneers paused for a few months, fought the brief and inglorious Black Hawk War, and then moved on across the river into what is now Iowa.

This westward movement across the Mississippi Valley was no conquest by kings or governments, no occupation of conquered territory by soldiers: it was a democracy on the march. By boat or covered wagon, on horseback or on foot, the pioneers came into Iowa — farmers, traders, miners, millwrights, bankers, mechanics, carpenters, lawyers, doctors, teachers, preachers, priests, politicians, druggists, merchants, and with them came women and children — all bound for the land of promise (not a promised land). Men heard that the rich lands of the Black Hawk Purchase (in 1832) would soon be on sale at \$1.25 an acre; each community could largely decide its own problems; the area was dedicated to free labor by the Missouri Compromise. This was the paradise of pioneers.

In the groups which soon found homes west of the Mississippi might be found men from New England, tired of plowing the rocky hillsides for scant crops, Quakers from the slave States, hoping to renew their pledge of freedom and equality before God, pioneers from the ague-stricken lowlands of southern Illinois and Indiana, emigrants from Europe, seeking a new home where poor men could hope to become land owners, business men, looking for profitable locations, young professional men hoping to grow up with new communities, politicians, seeking the offices to be.

By the beginning of 1838, the Commonwealth of Iowa had already taken shape and character, although it was not yet named. The Sauk and Fox Indians had ceded a strip of land west of the Mississippi River in 1832 and after the first of June, 1833, settlers had entered claims there with the tacit approval of the United States government. In 1836, Keokuk's Reserve had been sold to the United States,

adding some 256,000 acres to the public domain. The following year, an additional triangle of land (1,250,000 acres) was ceded by the Sauk and Fox, including a part or all of the present counties of Linn, Johnson, Washington, Buchanan, Benton, Iowa, Keokuk, Jefferson, Van Buren, Fayette, Cedar, and Davis.¹

That part of the Louisiana Purchase north of Missouri and west of the Mississippi River left without civil government after 1821 had been included in Michigan Territory in 1834 after a murder and extralegal execution at Dubuque had called attention to the need for laws and courts.² In 1836 Iowaland had been made a part of the newly created Territory of Wisconsin.³ Two counties were established by the legislature of Michigan Territory — Dubuque and Demoine. As settlements grew these counties were divided and new ones established — Lee, Van Buren, Henry, Louisa, Muscatine, Clayton, Jackson, Benton, Lynn [Linn], Jones, Clinton, Johnson, Scott, Delaware, Buchanan, Cedar, and Fayette.⁴

¹ For an account of these land cessions by the Sauk and Fox see Petersen's *The Terms of Peace in The Palimpsest*, Vol. XIII, pp. 74-89; Kappler's *Indian Affairs. Laws and Treaties*, Vol. II (Treaties), pp. 349-351, 474, 475, 495, 496; Petersen's *The Second Purchase in The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 88-97.

² Price's *The Trial and Execution of Patrick O'Conner at the Dubuque Mines in the Summer of 1834* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. I, pp. 86-97; Petersen's *Iowa in Michigan* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XV, pp. 43-55; Swisher's *Government Comes to Iowa* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XV, pp. 67-78; Shambaugh's *Documentary Material Relating to the History of Iowa*, Vol. I, pp. 60-73.

³ Swisher's *Creation of the Territory* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVII, pp. 69-78; Shambaugh's *The Constitutions of Iowa*, pp. 50-58; Shambaugh's *Documentary Material Relating to the History of Iowa*, Vol. I, pp. 78-99.

⁴ For a history of the establishment of counties in Iowa see Garver's *History of Establishment of Counties in Iowa* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. VI, pp. 375-456; Swisher's *History of the Organization of Counties in Iowa* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XX, pp. 483-576. For the organization of the first two counties see Gallaher's *Government in Iowa* (in 1836) in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVII, pp. 79-96.

Churches had been built.⁵ Schools had been opened. Three newspapers had been started — the *Du Buque Visitor*, May 11, 1836; *The Western Adventurer and Herald of the Upper Mississippi*, at Montrose, on June 28, 1837; and the *Iowa Territorial Gazette and Burlington Advertiser*, moved to Burlington on July 20, 1837.⁶ Mail was delivered at first from Illinois post offices, but Gibson's Ferry (Augusta), Iowa (Montpelier), Peru, and Wapello had post offices before 1838.⁷ The Miners' Bank of Dubuque, chartered in 1836 and opened for business in 1837, was the first bank in Iowa and the only one legally incorporated until after the Constitution of 1857 was adopted. It lasted through the entire Territorial period.⁸

The first Fort Des Moines⁹ (at the mouth of the Des Moines River) was established in 1834 and from it Colonel S. W. Kearny and his dragoons had marched out in 1835 on the expedition up the Des Moines Valley and northeastward to the Mississippi.¹⁰ Albert M. Lea, one of the lieutenants on this journey, had published a little book in 1836 which suggested the name for Iowa Territory.¹¹

⁵ For the building of the first church see Gallaher's *The First Church in Iowa* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. VII, pp. 1-10.

⁶ Stout's *The First Five Years* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVII, pp. 129-136; Petersen's *Du Buque Visitor* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVII, pp. 117-128.

⁷ For a list of the post offices in Iowa before 1840 see Petersen's *Some Beginnings in Iowa* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XXVIII, pp. 34, 35.

⁸ Gallaher's *The First Bank in Iowa* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 103-112; Preston's *History of Banking in Iowa*, pp. 10-34.

⁹ Gallaher's *Fort Des Moines in Iowa History* in *Iowa and War Series*, No. 22.

¹⁰ Petersen's *Across the Prairies of Iowa* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XII, pp. 326-334.

¹¹ Lea's *Notes on The Wisconsin Territory* (reprinted in 1936 by the State Historical Society of Iowa under the title *The Book that Gave to Iowa its Name*); Gallaher's *Albert Miller Lea* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XXXIII, pp. 195-241.

Towns had been started, some destined to become cities, many others to languish or to die. Lea's map (based on conditions in 1835) listed Peru, Du Buque, Bellevue, Parkhurst, Davenport, Throckmorton's Landing, Iowa (Montpelier), Burlington, Madison (Fort Madison), Keokuk, Gibson's Ferry (Augusta), and Richland. A law authorizing the incorporation of towns having a population of 300 or more had been passed by the Wisconsin Territorial legislature.¹²

Surveying the Half-Breed Tract in Iowa had begun as early as 1832, but it was not until 1836 that the systematic survey of township lines in the Iowa area was started. The year 1837 saw the survey of the Black Hawk Purchase nearly completed. The Federal government was soon prepared to sell the land to settlers who had, so far, only the extralegal right of claim owners.¹³

After much debate and many recriminations, the capital of the original Territory of Wisconsin had been (in 1837) located at Burlington until March 4, 1839, and there Jeremiah Smith had built a capitol building in which the legislature met in the autumn of 1837. Unfortunately this building was burned on December 13, 1837.¹⁴

The year 1838 promised to be a busy and important period for the Iowa area and this activity continued throughout the Territorial years; centennial anniversaries are fre-

¹² *United States Statutes at Large*, Vol. V, pp. 70, 71, 178, 179; *Laws of the Territory of Wisconsin, 1836-1837*, pp. 65-70. For references on Iowa towns, see Petersen's *Two Hundred Topics in Iowa History*, pp. 62-65. For lists of abandoned towns see Mott's *Abandoned Towns, Villages and Post Offices of Iowa* in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vols. XVII and XVIII.

¹³ Swisher's *Township Surveys in the Iowa Country* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XXXV, pp. 3-21; Shambaugh's *Frontier Land Clubs or Claim Associations*, reprinted from the *Annual Report of the American Historical Association*, 1900, Vol. I, pp. 67-84. See also the list of references in Petersen's *Two Hundred Topics in Iowa History*, pp. 28, 29.

¹⁴ Haefner's *The Capitol at Burlington* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 98-102; Shambaugh's *The Constitutions of Iowa*, pp. 61-68.

quent and important. Settlers continued to pour into the area. New communities, with homes, stores, churches, schools, and courts, grew up almost overnight.¹⁵ New governments — Territorial and State, municipal and county, were organized. Elections were held. Indian tribes were dispossessed and moved out. Societies were formed. Schools were established. Roads were laid out. Ferries were authorized and bridges were built. Two Constitutions were drafted. The State of Iowa was born and began to function.

To present a detailed list of all the events which happened in Iowa from the first of January, 1838, to the first of January, 1848, would be difficult and tedious. Each community has its own anniversaries — the first settlers, the first school, the first churches, the first courts, the post office, business enterprises, storms, crimes, and all events which make up community history. It is the purpose of this brief article to suggest only some of the highlights of this decade of centennials, to point out some of the more important activities and events which are of interest to the Commonwealth as a whole. Many other events might be listed.

Centennial celebrations need not, of course, be limited to towns, counties, communities, institutions, or organizations in existence before 1847. Iowans everywhere may celebrate the purchase of Louisiana (including the Iowa area), the creation of the Territory of Iowa, and the admission of Iowa as a State, just as all Americans, whether they live in the original States, in Iowa, or in Alaska, celebrate the Declaration of Independence and the adoption of the Constitution. The outstanding events of this decade of Iowa centennials are, of course, the creation of the Territory of Iowa (on June 12, 1838) and the admission of the State of Iowa

¹⁵ For a description of Iowa in 1837 see Petersen's *Land of Promise* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 65-77.

(on December 28, 1846). In these events all Iowans have an interest.

The demand for a separate Commonwealth west of the Mississippi seems to have developed almost as soon as the original Territory of Wisconsin began to function. This movement appears to have been partly due to the geographical boundary — the Mississippi River. Rivalry soon developed between the east and west sections which were almost equal in population. Again individual initiative, the spark of democracy, took the lead. A meeting held at Burlington on September 16, 1837, recommended that the people residing west of the Mississippi River select delegates to a convention. No doubt Burlington had visions of being the capital city of the proposed Territory.

The idea received popular favor. Extralegal delegates representing the counties west of the Mississippi convened in the hall of the Legislative Assembly at Burlington on November 6, 1837, and organized as a "Territorial Convention", which sat for three days. Its meeting coincided with the convening of the Wisconsin Territorial legislature. On November 8th, this "convention" drew up three memorials to Congress, one of which emphatically urged a division of Wisconsin Territory and the organization of the area west of the Mississippi as a separate Territory. Members of the Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin Territory were impressed and on November 17th the House adopted a similar memorial. This was signed by the President of the Council on November 23rd, although there is no record of a vote in the Council. It was then sent to Congress.¹⁶

In spite of some opposition in Congress, the wish of the settlers was granted, and on June 12, 1838, President Martin Van Buren signed the act establishing the Territory of

¹⁶ Shambaugh's *The Constitutions of Iowa*, pp. 61-67; letters from Louise Phelps Kellogg, dated May 26, June 1, 1937.

Iowa, including approximately all the area west of the Mississippi north of the northern boundary of Missouri, westward to the Missouri and White Earth rivers and northward to the Canadian boundary. This Organic Act went into effect on the following 4th of July.¹⁷ An informal celebration of this enactment and of the Declaration of Independence occurred at Fort Madison on July 4th. Black Hawk, a pathetic elderly figure, made what proved to be his farewell public appearance on this occasion, for he died on the third of the following October.¹⁸

Governor Robert Lucas, appointed to head the new Territorial government on July 7, 1838, arrived in Iowa Territory on August 15th, taking up his executive office at Burlington. Here he met William B. Conway, the Secretary of Iowa Territory, who had been Acting Governor in the absence of Lucas. Ten days later Governor Lucas proclaimed September 10th as the date of the first election of members of the Iowa Territorial legislature and this election was duly held. The members elected convened at the call of the Governor at Burlington on November 12, 1838, meeting in the Old Zion Church. The members were, relatively, young men; the average age of the members of the Council was forty-two, that of the Representatives thirty-five. Of the thirty-nine members, twenty-three were farmers.¹⁹

These legislators were pioneers, used to creating or at least reestablishing institutions and making the laws necessary for the protection of pioneer society. Several acts of some permanent importance were adopted. The incorporation of agricultural societies was authorized (December 19, 1838), and an act establishing common schools was passed

¹⁷ Shambaugh's *Documentary Material Relating to the History of Iowa*, Vol. I, pp. 102-116.

¹⁸ Cole's *Life of Black Hawk* (manuscript).

¹⁹ Parish's *Robert Lucas*, pp. 167-179.

(January 1, 1839). Nor was higher education disregarded. On January 23rd, the legislature authorized the establishment of seminaries at Fort Madison, West Point, Burlington, Farmington, Bentonsport, Rockingham, Keosauqua, Dubuque, and Davenport. On January 25th, provision was made for a road, known later as the Old Military Road, which was to run from Dubuque to the Missouri boundary. An act of the same date established a penitentiary at Fort Madison "to receive, secure, and employ" 136 convicts. A great seal for Iowa Territory was authorized by a joint resolution adopted on January 4, 1839.²⁰

Perhaps the most important act of the First Legislative Assembly was the location of the capital. After much bickering and debate, the legislators agreed to appoint three commissioners who were to select a site in Johnson County. This act was approved on January 21, 1839. A capital was to be established on the site selected and named "Iowa City". May first (1839), was set for the meeting of the commissioners and Napoleon, then serving as the county seat, was the meeting place. When the day arrived, however, only one commissioner, Chauncey Swan, was on hand: two were necessary for legal action. What to do? A young man from a nearby farm, Philip Clark by name, answered this question by riding thirty-five miles to the home of John Ronalds in Louisa County, and back, bringing the tardy official with him. There were no British troops on the way, though there may have been a few Sauk and Fox Indians in

²⁰ *Laws of the Territory of Iowa, 1838-1839*, pp. 180-183, 227-229, 244-248, 365-369, 430, 431, 516; Van Ek's *Great Seals of Iowa in The Palimpsest*, Vol. V, pp. 378, 379. It appears that the Iowa political leaders were not slow to take advantage of the generosity of the Federal government. The Organic Act made provision for a grant of \$20,000 for public buildings. On July 7, 1838, an unobtrusive item in a general appropriation act granted another \$20,000 for public buildings without specifying where they were to be erected. This money was used for the penitentiary. On August 29, 1842, an additional grant of \$15,000 was made by Congress for the penitentiary. — *United States Statutes at Large*, Vol. V, pp. 239, 240, 266, 537.

the neighborhood, but this ride compares favorably with the feat of Paul Revere. It meant riding seventy miles in twelve hours over the rough trails or the unmarked prairies of Iowa. There were some who wondered whether Chauncey Swan's watch was running all the time, but at any rate the second commissioner arrived when the hands said five minutes of twelve — midnight being the deadline — and the race was won.

On the fourth of May, the commissioners made their choice of a site on a hill looking down on the Iowa River and there drove a stake to mark the location of Iowa City. Two months later, on July 4th, a celebration was held on the site, the Stars and Stripes floating from the top of an oak tree trimmed of its branches.

Plans were soon made for the construction of a capitol building. John F. Rague was employed as the architect and a contract was made for the erection of the building. A year later, on July 4, 1840, the cornerstone of the capitol (now known as the Old Stone Capitol) was laid.²¹

When Congress created the Territory of Iowa it made provision for ascertaining the southern boundary which was in dispute because of inconsistencies in the surveys. That fall Albert M. Lea was commissioned to report which line was correct. He reported on January 19, 1839, that the designations of the various lines were conflicting and that Congress should decide which line should be considered legal. Congress did not, however, act at this time and the pioneers along the boundary were soon quarreling over county lines and jurisdictions.

Governor Lucas entered into the dispute with zest. On July 29, 1839, he issued a proclamation urging the Iowa of-

²¹ For the story of the founding of Iowa City see Shambaugh's *Iowa City: A Contribution to the Early History of Iowa*; and Hoffman's *John Francis Rague — Pioneer Architect of Iowa* in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. XIX, pp. 444-448.

ficials to maintain the rights of Iowa and the United States. Some bee trees, just north of the boundary claimed by Iowa, were cut down by Missourians and came near to precipitating a war between the State of Missouri and the Territory of Iowa. Governor Lucas ordered the muster of Iowa militia on December sixth. The Missouri militia had already been assembled. But fortunately cooler heads prevailed and it was agreed that the dispute should be left to Congress for decision. The "Honey War" as it was called was ended when, on December 12th, the Missouri militia disbanded.²²

A census taken in 1838 reported 22,859 white persons in Iowa Territory. Two years later there were 43,112. In 1844 the number had increased to 75,152. By 1846 when Iowa was admitted as a State the population had reached 102,388 and a year later it was 116,454.²³

On January 18, 1838, the legislature of Wisconsin Territory (in session at Burlington) passed an act fixing the boundaries and locating the county seats of Lee, Van Buren, Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Muscatine, and Slaughter counties. Several changes were made in the boundaries of these counties after the Territory of Iowa was created. Jefferson County was created on January 21, 1839, and on January 25th the name of Slaughter County was changed to Washington. On the third of March, 1839, Congress authorized the Iowa Territorial legislature to provide for the election or appointment of sheriffs, judges of probate, justices of the peace, and county surveyors.²⁴

²² Eriksson's *The Honey War in The Palimpsest*, Vol. V, pp. 339-350; *Report Made by Albert Miller Lea on The Iowa-Missouri Boundary* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XXXIII, pp. 246-259.

²³ *Historical and Comparative Census of Iowa, 1836-1880*, p. 168.

²⁴ *Laws of the Territory of Wisconsin, 1837-1838*, pp. 381-384; *Laws of the Territory of Iowa, 1838-1839*, pp. 89-101; *United States Statutes at Large*, Vol. V, p. 357.

Later in the Territorial period (on February 17, 1843) nine new counties were established — Davis, Appanoose, Wapello, Kishkekosh (changed to Monroe on January 19, 1846), Mahaska, Iowa, Poweshiek, Tama, and Black Hawk. Marion County was created on June 10, 1845. On January 13, 1846, twelve counties were established — Wayne, Lucas, Warren, Polk, Marshall, Jasper, Story, Boone, Dallas, Madison, Clarke, and Decatur. Two counties — Allamakee and Winneshiek — were established by a law dated February 20, 1847, and five counties — Ringgold, Taylor, Page, Fremont, and Pottawattamie — were carved out of the Pottawatomie cession by an act approved on February 24, 1847.²⁵

Bellevue and Peru had, it appears, not attained the population of 300 required for the incorporation of towns under an earlier law and so, on January 12, 1838, the Wisconsin legislature authorized these communities to incorporate despite the lack of population. Apparently it was not easy for local communities to establish municipal government by voluntary action. At any rate, on January 19, 1838, the first special charters were issued for "cities" in Iowa — Burlington and Fort Madison were given ready-made charters. During the period of Iowa's Territorial government, fourteen additional charters were granted to Iowa cities, some municipalities being given a second charter. Bloomington (now Muscatine) was granted a charter on January 23, 1839, and Davenport was supplied with a form of government two days later. Salem, on January 14, 1840, and Du-

²⁵ *Laws of the Territory of Iowa, 1843-1844*, p. 142, 1845, pp. 66, 93, 1845-1846, pp. 73-75, 108; *Revised Statutes of the Territory of Iowa, 1842-1843*, pp. 131-135; *Laws of Iowa, 1846-1847*, pp. 32, 33, 37, 81, 114, 115. For additional references on Iowa counties see Petersen's *Two Hundred Topics in Iowa History*, p. 26. A list of Iowa counties with the dates of establishment and organization is given in Swisher's *History of the Organization of the Counties in Iowa* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XX, pp. 574-576.

buque, on January 17, 1840, were given incorporation acts by the Second Legislative Assembly. Farmington (January 11, 1841) and Nashville and Iowa City (January 15, 1841), Mount Pleasant (January 25, 1842), Keosauqua (February 17, 1842) were later incorporations by special acts of the Territory of Iowa. New or revised charters were also granted during this period to the towns of Farmington, Davenport, Fort Madison, Iowa City, and Burlington. Dubuque had three charters. Fairfield received a charter from the State of Iowa on February 9, 1847, and Keokuk was granted a charter on February 23rd. A number of these charters were, it appears, never used, the pioneers being familiar with the adage, "You may lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink".²⁶

A general law for the organization of townships by the various boards of county commissioners was approved on February 17, 1842. A number of townships had already been established by special acts. Townships at that date had relatively large powers. They were responsible for roads, for the care of the poor, for the regulation of fences, and the marks or brands on livestock.²⁷

While the capitol at Iowa City, almost perfect in its proportions and symmetry, rose slowly, the government continued to function. On the sixth of December, 1841, the Territorial legislature convened for its first session at Iowa City, but not yet in the capitol. Instead it met in a frame building, constructed by a public-spirited citizen, Walter Butler. It was not until a year later — on December 5, 1842, that the legislature met in the still incompleting capitol.

²⁶ Robeson's *Special Charter Cities in Iowa*, pp. 187-189; *Laws of the Territory of Wisconsin*, 1837-1838, pp. 212, 213, 470, 481; *Laws of the Territory of Iowa*, 1838-1839, pp. 248, 265, 1839-1840, pp. 72-75, 124-128, 1840-1841, pp. 33-36, 88-91, 97, 100, 1841-1842, pp. 14-16, 41-47, 74-80, 107-110, 1845, pp. 73-85, 1845-1846, pp. 114-124; *Laws of Iowa*, 1846-1847, pp. 49-52, 104-114, 154-160.

²⁷ *Revised Statutes of Iowa*, 1842-1843, pp. 617-625.

tol building. It was to continue to meet there until the removal of the capital to Des Moines in 1857.²⁸

Governor Robert Lucas, a Democrat, was removed to make room for John Chambers, a Whig, who was appointed to office on March 25, 1841, and reached Burlington on May 12th taking the oath of office the following day. Evidently he was not superstitious. A little more than four years later Chambers yielded the office of Governor of Iowa Territory to James Clarke, a Democrat, whose appointment was dated November 18, 1845.²⁹

At the first election (September 10, 1838), William W. Chapman was elected Delegate to Congress. On March 3, 1839, Congress fixed October 27, 1840, as the end of his term of office and authorized the election of a Delegate to serve until March 4, 1841. Augustus Caesar Dodge was the choice of the Iowa voters at the election held on October 5, 1840. According to the act of Congress, his term began on October 28th, but he did not take his seat until December 8, 1840, when Congress convened. He was reëlected in 1841 and 1843 and held office until December 28, 1846, when the act formally admitting Iowa as a State was approved.³⁰

In the meantime, the movement toward statehood went on. When Governor Robert Lucas delivered his message to the Territorial legislature on July 14, 1840, he recommended that the voters be permitted to express their opinion as to whether or not a constitutional convention should be held. In response to this — or perhaps in spite of it — an act was adopted on July 31, 1840, providing a referendum on the holding of a constitutional convention. The vote,

²⁸ Shambaugh's *Iowa City: A Contribution to the Early History of Iowa*, pp. 57, 58; Lathrop's *The Capitals and Capitols of Iowa in the Iowa Historical Record*, Vol. IV, pp. 97-124.

²⁹ Parish's *Robert Lucas*; Parish's *John Chambers*, pp. 113, 114, 122.

³⁰ *United States Statutes at Large*, Vol. V, p. 357; Pelzer's *Augustus Caesar Dodge*, pp. 64, 72, 73, 84, 105.

cast on October 5, 1840, was 2907 to 937 against the holding of a convention. Two years later, by an act approved on February 16, 1842, a second referendum was held on August 1, 1842. Again the voters turned down the proposal for a constitutional convention; this time the vote was 6825 against the proposition and 4129 for it.³¹

But the formulation of a Constitution was inevitable. On February 12, 1844, the Iowa legislators provided for another referendum on the proposal to choose delegates to a convention at the election which would be held on April 1, 1844. The act also made plans for the convention, in case the vote was affirmative. The proposition carried by a large majority and the election of delegates occurred at the election held on August 5, 1844. This convention convened in the capitol at Iowa City on October 7, 1844, and adjourned on November first. The Constitution drafted at this session was twice submitted to the voters of Iowa — on April 7, 1845, and on August 4, 1845, and was twice rejected, largely on account of a dispute over the boundaries. The boundaries fixed by the Constitution of 1844 (known as the Lucas boundaries), were the same as the present boundaries of Iowa on the east, south, and west, but extended farther north. An act of Congress, approved on March 3, 1845, had authorized the admission of Iowa and Florida — a free and a slave State. The boundaries specified for Iowa (known as the Nicollet boundaries) would have extended the new State only about three-fourths of the way to the Missouri River and about forty-five miles north of the present northern boundary.

On January 17, 1846, the Territorial legislature made provision for a second convention to be elected at the general elections on April 6, 1846. The delegates elected at

³¹ Shambaugh's *The Constitutions of Iowa*, pp. 99, 100, 104, 106; *Laws of the Territory of Iowa*, 1840, Extra Session, pp. 46, 47.

this time assembled in the capitol building at Iowa City on May 4, 1846, adjourning fifteen days later. The Constitution drafted by this group was submitted to the voters on August 3, 1846, and was approved, although by the small majority of 456 votes out of a total of 18,528. On the following day (August 4, 1846) Congress adopted a second act accepting the boundaries proposed by the Iowa Convention (previously recommended, on March 27, 1846, by the House Committee on Territories).³²

In accordance with the statute of January 17, 1846, Governor James Clarke issued a proclamation on September ninth setting Monday, October 26, 1846, as the date of the first election of State officers. On November fifth he designated November 30, 1846, as the day for the convening of the newly elected General Assembly and on December second sent his last message to the legislature. The following day Ansel Briggs was inaugurated as the first State Governor. The last step in the making of a new State was the act of Congress approved by President James K. Polk on December 28, 1846, formally accepting the Constitution of Iowa and admitting Iowa as a State. Iowa had made her entrance on the stage of national affairs.³³

At this first session of the General Assembly a Great Seal, an elaborate design still in use, was provided by an act approved on February 25, 1847.³⁴

But government was not the only interest of the Iowa settlers. They had, for the most part, come for land. When would the government put the lands on sale? The first land offices in Iowa — one at Dubuque and one at Burlington —

³² See Shambaugh's *Maps Illustrative of the Boundary History of Iowa* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. II, pp. 369-380.

³³ *Laws of the Territory of Iowa, 1843-1844*, pp. 13-16, 1845-1846, pp. 37-40; Shambaugh's *The Constitutions of Iowa*, pp. 115, 116, 185-212; *United States Statutes at Large*, Vol. V, pp. 742, 743, 789, Vol. IX, pp. 52, 53, 117.

³⁴ *Laws of Iowa, 1846-1847*, Ch. 112.

were established on the day the Territory of Iowa was created — June 12, 1838. Settlers in these districts could buy the farms on which, up to this time, they were merely "squatters". The proclamation for the first sale of public lands in Iowa was issued on July 6, 1838. The first purchase of land at Burlington was made on October first under a preëmption law of June 22, 1838. The land office was opened at Dubuque on September 24, 1838, and the first public sale of land was held there on November 5, 1838, and at Burlington on November 19th.

At the public sale held in accordance with this proclamation, Augustus Caesar Dodge, register of the Burlington office, sold some 236,396 acres of land at \$1.25 an acre. On June 30, 1842, the land office at Burlington was closed and on August 1, 1842, an office was opened at Fairfield. The Dubuque office was transferred to Marion on February 20, 1843. The only other land office established in Iowa during this period was located at Iowa City by an act of Congress approved on August 8, 1846. In the meantime the survey of the public lands went on, the surveyors following the Indian retreat across Iowa. By 1847, the area west approximately to a line running north and south through the site of Des Moines had been surveyed.³⁵

Most of the settlers were anxious that the land on which they had located be put on sale, desiring to secure legal title to their claims. Some, however, wished for a longer time in which to collect the hard-earned cash for payment, for the government took no notes, no mortgages. Cash or land warrants were required.

To protect their claims during the period which frequently intervened before the land was put on sale, the Iowa pi-

³⁵ Donaldson's *The Public Domain*, p. 174; Swisher's *Township Surveys in the Iowa Country* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XXXV, pp. 10-13; Pelzer's *Augustus Caesar Dodge*, pp. 57, 61; Newhall's *Sketches of Iowa* (1841), pp. 47-49.

oneers often organized claim clubs or claim associations. These extralegal associations did two things for their members: they settled disputes over claims and protected the claimant in his recognized rights until the land was put on sale; and they saw to it that no speculator was allowed to bid on a member's approved claim and raise the price above \$1.25 an acre.

A claim association had been formed in the vicinity of Burlington as early as October 12, 1833, and the plan moved westward with the twilight zone of settlement beyond the lands sales. The Johnson County Claim Association adopted its constitution on March 9, 1839. Claims or contracts made concerning improvements on them were generally recognized by Territorial laws although they were extralegal and settlement on the public domain not on sale was prohibited by Federal law. On January 15, 1839, the Iowa Territorial legislature passed a law entitled "An act to provide for the collection of demands growing out of contracts for sales of improvements on public lands." The following year (1840) the Iowa Territorial Supreme Court rendered a decision holding such contracts legal.³⁶

To keep order during the removal of the Indian tribes and the advance of white settlers, the United States government established four temporary forts in the Iowa area during the years 1838-1847. In the spring of 1840, a company of soldiers moved over from Fort Crawford and on May 31st encamped on Turkey River among the Winnebago Indians. The following year barracks were constructed and the camp was named Fort Atkinson. This fort had a relatively long life for it was not until February 24, 1849, that

³⁶ Shambaugh's *Early Land Claims in Des Moines County* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. X, pp. 255-260; Shambaugh's *The Constitutions of Iowa*, pp. 27-49; Hill v. Smith, Morris' *Iowa Reports*, 70; Shambaugh's *Constitution and Records of the Claim Association of Johnson County, Iowa*.

the soldiers tacked up the sign "Farewell to bedbugs" and withdrew.³⁷

On August 7, 1842, Captain James Allen arrived at Fort Atkinson with a company of dragoons from Fort Leavenworth. From there he marched to the vicinity of the Sauk and Fox agency some twenty miles west of Fairfield, and there occupied some cabins of the American Fur Company. This encampment was named Fort Sanford. On November 12, 1842, Captain Allen went to the mouth of the Raccoon River and there established a fort on the point of land at the junction of the two rivers which he named Fort Raccoon. The War Department, however, preferred Fort Des Moines. On May 17, 1843, the troops abandoned Fort Sanford and on May 21st settled down at Fort Des Moines where they remained until the spring of 1846. Fort Croghan, at the site of the present day Council Bluffs, was established on May 31, 1842.³⁸

In addition to the movements to and from these forts, the War Department kept detachments on the move across the border zone of Indian removal and white settlement. On September 17, 1841, Lieutenant Thomas McCrate's company of fifty dragoons encamped at Iowa City. Their presence, it was hoped, would influence the Sauk and Fox to agree to cede additional land, but the cession was delayed until 1842, when the soldiers supervised the treaty meeting at the agency (now the town of Agency, Wapello County). In the summer of 1844 and again in 1845, the dragoons under Captain Allen and Captain Edwin V. Sumner marched across Iowa to the north and northwest.³⁹

³⁷ Mahan's *Old Fort Atkinson* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. II, pp. 333-350.

³⁸ Van der Zee's *Forts in the Iowa Country* in *THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS*, Vol. XII, pp. 163-204. For additional references see Petersen's *Two Hundred Topics in Iowa History*, pp. 22, 23.

³⁹ Van der Zee's *Captain James Allen's Dragoon Expedition from Fort Des Moines, Territory of Iowa, in 1844*, and *Captain Edwin V. Sumner's Dragoon*

Another service performed by the Federal government was the distribution of mail. Approximately 160 post offices were established in Iowa during the period covered by the Territory of Iowa. In a number of cases, the name was changed or the post office was discontinued or moved to some nearby and more prosperous community.

The settlers who came to Iowa believed in education and in churches. During this early period communities usually provided common schools but the churches assumed the burden of providing secondary and college education. A law approved on January 13, 1841, provided for the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Less than a year later, on February 17, 1842, this act was repealed. Congress made two grants of land which were used for public schools — an act approved on September 4, 1841, granted 500,000 acres of public land for internal improvements (used for school purposes) and another act dated March 3, 1845, gave the proposed State of Iowa every sixteenth section for schools. By the time Iowa was ready for statehood, it was prepared to provide advanced education for its young people, although the denominational and privately supported colleges have continued to participate in this field. On February 25, 1847, the First General Assembly of Iowa founded the State University of Iowa.⁴⁰

In 1838 Reverend Asa Turner came to Denmark, Iowa. He was formally installed on November 5, 1840, and on the following day an Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers was formed, representing three churches.

Expedition in the Territory of Iowa in the Summer of 1845 in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XI, pp. 68-108, 258-267; Pelzer's *Marches of the Dragoons in the Mississippi Valley*, p. 91. See also Petersen's *Two Hundred Topics in Iowa History*, pp. 23, 24.

⁴⁰ *Laws of the Territory of Iowa, 1840-1841*, pp. 37, 38, 1841-1842, p. 93; *Laws of Iowa, 1846-1847*, pp. 188, 189; *United States Statutes at Large*, Vol. V, pp. 455, 789, 790.

Turner was one of the promoters of Denmark Academy, incorporated by the Iowa legislature on February 3, 1843. This school opened in September, 1845.⁴¹

It was in 1843 that the Iowa Band arrived in Iowa — nine young ministers who came to Iowa as representatives of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches. On the fifth of November, seven of these men were ordained by the Denmark Congregational Association. On Monday, November 6, 1843, the band scattered to their widely separated posts — Keosauqua, Muscatine, Burlington, Farmington, Maquoketa, Cascade, Solon, Mount Pleasant, and the New Purchase. It was the members of this Iowa Band who were largely responsible for the establishment of Iowa College at Davenport, the first meeting looking forward to this project having been held at Denmark on March 12, 1844. On the tenth of June, 1846, J. J. Hill gave the first dollar for the college fund.⁴²

The Baptist Church organized its first district association at Long Creek (now Danville) fifteen miles west of Burlington in August, 1838. It was first called "The Iowa Baptist Association"; later it was known as the First Des Moines Association. The first Iowa Baptist Convention was held at Iowa City on June 3 and 4, 1842.⁴³

The Quakers, too, were early settlers in Iowa. On October 8, 1838, they opened the Salem Monthly Meeting of Friends, the first regular business meeting of this denomination in Iowa and the first west of the Mississippi River.⁴⁴

On April 21, 1839, the Right Reverend Mathias Loras

⁴¹ Christensen's *Denmark — An Early Stronghold of Congregationalism* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XXIV, pp. 108-130.

⁴² Hinkhouse's *One Hundred Years of the Iowa Presbyterian Church*, pp. 14, 19, Adams's *The Iowa Band*; Gallaher's *The Iowa Band* in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. XI, pp. 355-366.

⁴³ Mitchell's *A Century of Iowa Baptist History 1834-1934*, p. 29.

⁴⁴ Jones's *The Quakers of Iowa*, p. 44.

was installed as the first Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in Iowa. The services were held at the Cathedral in Dubuque. The assisting priests were Rev. Joseph Cretin, Rev. J. A. M. Pelamourgues, and Rev. Samuel C. Mazzuchelli.⁴⁵

The first Presbytery (the Iowa Presbytery) was organized by the Old School Presbyterians at Muscatine on November 6, 1840. The New School Presbyterians organized their first Presbytery at Yellow Springs (Kossuth) on April 12, 1842. It was designated the Des Moines Presbytery.

A document filed in the Henry County archives, dated March 11, 1843, established "The Mount Pleasant Collegiate Institute", under the control of the Methodist Episcopal Church. This institution, now Iowa Wesleyan College, received a charter from the legislature of Iowa on February 15, 1844. It is, so far as has been learned, the oldest college in Iowa having a continuous college existence, although the name has been changed several times.

The college trustees asked the Methodist Episcopal Church to sponsor the infant college. An Iowa District had already (1839) been organized by the Illinois Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The first Methodist Conference held in Iowa (the Rock River Conference) was opened at Dubuque on August 30, 1843. On August 14, 1844, the Iowa Conference, the first conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Iowa, was organized at Iowa City.⁴⁶

John B. Newhall, in his guide — published in 1841 — listed in addition the following religious denominations: Campbellites, Christians, Protestant Episcopal, Unitarians, Dunkards, and Mormons. On July 22, 1839, Abner Kneeland, a

⁴⁵ Kempker's *History of the Catholic Church in Iowa*, p. 25.

⁴⁶ *Historical Sketch and Alumni Record of the Iowa Wesleyan College, 1842-1917*, pp. 8-99; Waring's *History of the Iowa Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, pp. 92, 112, 119.

free-thinker, arrived at Salubria (two miles south of Farmington), hoping to found a non-religious community in Iowa.⁴⁷

A large number of newspapers were established in Iowa between 1838 and 1847. The *Fort Madison Patriot* began on March 24, 1838. The *Iowa Sun and Davenport and Rock Island News* started publication on August 4, 1838. The *Burlington Patriot*, started on June 6, 1839, changed to *The Hawk-Eye and Iowa Patriot* on September 5th of the same year. The *Iowa Standard* was begun at Bloomington (now Muscatine) on October 23, 1840, and was moved to Iowa City in June, 1841, where its name was changed to the *Iowa City Standard*. Later (1848) it became the *Iowa City Republican*. Bloomington, however, was supplied with news by the *Bloomington Herald*, later called the *Muscatine Journal*. The *Fort Madison Courier*, first issued on July 24, 1841, became the *Lee County Democrat* in December of the same year and in 1847 became the *Iowa Statesman*. The *Iowa City Argus*, started on July 31, 1841, was merged in March, 1842, with the *Iowa Capital Reporter*, which had first appeared on December 4, 1841. *The Miners' Express*, started at Dubuque on August 1, 1841, the *Davenport Gazette*, which began on August 26, 1841, the *Iowa Democrat and Des Moines River Intelligencer*, published at Keosauqua beginning in July, 1843, the *Iowa Transcript*, which began at Dubuque in May, 1843, the *Border Pioneer*, which was started at Keosauqua in October, 1844, the *Iowa Morning Star and Keokuk Commercial Message*, April 24, 1845, the *Iowa Argus and Lee County Commercial Advertiser*, also started at Keokuk in January, 1846, the *Des Moines Valley Whig*, begun at Keosauqua in July, 1846, the *Dubuque Tribune*, December 21, 1846, the *Keokuk Register*,

⁴⁷ Newhall's *Sketches of Iowa*, pp. 67-69; Whitcomb's *Abner Kneeland: His Relations to Early Iowa History* in the *Annals of Iowa* (Third Series), Vol. VI, pp. 340-363. Kneeland died on August 27, 1844.

May 26, 1847, the *Iowa Sentinel*, opened at Fairfield on June 12, 1847, the *Iowa Advocate and Half-Breed Journal*, started at Montrose on August 16, 1847, and the *Western Democrat* which began publication at Andrew in 1847 are other papers which were started in Iowa during the Territorial period. Some of these were short lived. *The Bride and the Lamb's Wife*, which began publication at Buffalo in 1842, and the *Colporteur*, which first appeared at Iowa City in November, 1844, were two religious papers instituted during this period.⁴⁸

It was James G. Edwards, editor of the *Fort Madison Patriot*, who on March 24, 1838, suggested the name "Hawkeyes" as the nickname for the people of Iowa.⁴⁹ It was Edwards who printed (in 1838) the first volume of laws issued from an Iowa printing office. The *Revised Statutes of the Territory of Iowa*, 1842-1843, compiled by a joint legislative committee and printed by Hughes and Williams of Iowa City in 1843, was the first code of Iowa.

Among the books *about* Iowa, the following may be briefly mentioned: Abel's *Travellers and Emigrants Guide to Wisconsin and Iowa*, Philadelphia, 1838; Smith's *Observations on the Wisconsin Territory* [contains ten pages on Iowa], Philadelphia, 1838; Colton's *The Western Tourist and Emigrant's Guide*, New York, 1839; Plumbe's *Sketches of Iowa and Wisconsin*, St. Louis, 1839; Smith's *The Western Tourist and Emigrant's Guide* [includes Iowa], New York, 1839, 1840; Colton's *Guide for the Territory of Iowa, with a Correct Map, Showing the Township Surveys*, New York, 1839, 1840; Williams's *A Description of the United States Lands in Iowa*, New York, 1840; Newhall's *Sketches of Iowa, or the Emigrant's Guide*, New York, 1841; Newhall's *The Brit-*

⁴⁸ The data on newspapers is from a manuscript thesis on early Iowa newspapers by Velma Critz Stout.

⁴⁹ Shambaugh's *The Naming of Iowa in The Palimpsest*, Vol. V, pp. 371, 372 (also issued as a Special Iowa number in May, 1926).

ish Emigrant's "Hand Book", and Guide to the New States of America, London, 1844; Barrows's Notes on Iowa Territory, Cincinnati, 1845; and Newhall's *A Glimpse of Iowa in 1846*, Burlington, Iowa, 1846.

In May, 1841, there appeared at Burlington a pamphlet giving the by-laws of the Masonic Lodge of Burlington. This is said to have been the first Masonic book printed in Iowa. The Burlington lodge, the oldest Masonic lodge in Iowa, was granted a dispensation by the Missouri Grand Lodge, on November 20, 1840. Its charter, dated October 20, 1841, designated it as "Des Moines Lodge No. 41". Many prominent men of Iowa belonged to this lodge and John C. Breckenridge was initiated by it. The Grand Lodge of Iowa was organized at Iowa City on January 8, 1844.⁵⁰

On the 11th of October, 1842, the Sauk and Fox Indians reluctantly made a treaty ceding all their remaining lands in Iowa to the United States. They promised to vacate the area east of a line passing north and south through Red Rocks in Marion County by May 1, 1843, and to withdraw entirely beyond the Missouri River by October 11, 1845. On both dates settlers lined up and rushed across the line as soon as the Indian title ended. On the fifth of June, 1846, the Potawatomi Indians signed a treaty relinquishing their lands in southwestern Iowa. The Winnebago Indians made their final cession of Iowa lands on October 13, 1846, giving up their claim to the neutral ground although their removal was delayed until 1848.⁵¹

It was on February 6, 1846, that the Mormons began the migration across southern Iowa on their long journey to Salt Lake. All that summer and autumn ox-wagons labored

⁵⁰ Morecombe's *History of the Grand Lodge of Iowa*, Vol. I, pp. 63-87, 192, 193.

⁵¹ For references on the removal of Indian tribes from Iowa see Petersen's *Two Hundred Topics in Iowa History*, pp. 14-19.

across southern Iowa as some 30,000 Mormon emigrants moved westward.⁵²

The Mexican War began in April, 1846, and during the following summer five hundred of the young men of the Mormons then camped at what is now Council Bluffs enlisted in the United States Army. This Mormon Battalion was mustered into service on July 16, 1846, and served one year.⁵³

On the fifth of May, 1840, Joseph M. Street, Agent for the Sauk and Fox Indians, died at the Agency and two years later on March 15, 1842, Chief Wapello died on a hunting trip in Keokuk County and, at his request, was buried beside his white friend at the Agency.⁵⁴

A meeting was held at Dubuque on March 31, 1838, at the call of John Plumbe, Jr., to discuss the possibility of building a railroad to the Pacific Ocean. Resolutions were adopted asking Congress to appropriate money for a survey of a route. In January, 1847, after a preliminary survey had been made by means of a congressional appropriation, Plumbe printed an address urging the importance of the early construction of a railroad to Oregon. That Plumbe's idea was not considered beyond reason is evident from a statement made by J. H. Colton in *The Western Tourist and Emigrant's Guide* published in 1839, "It is believed that a Rail-Road can be easily constructed to extend from the Mississippi at Du Buque across the Rocky Mountains, to the navigable waters of the Columbia river, or to the Pacific ocean".⁵⁵

⁵² For the story of the Mormon exodus see Van der Zee's *The Mormon Trails in Iowa* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XII, pp. 3-16.

⁵³ *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, Vol. VI, p. 837.

⁵⁴ Mahan and Gallaher's *Stories of Iowa for Boys and Girls*, pp. 139-145; Gallaher's *Indian Agents in Iowa* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, Vol. XIV, pp. 367, 383.

⁵⁵ King's *John Plumbe, Originator of the Pacific Railroad*, in the *Annals of*

During the late summer of 1839, David Dale Owen made a geological reconnaissance in Iowa, especially noting the mineral lands. A preliminary report of this survey was published in 1844 as a government document.⁵⁶

Another scientist who made a contribution to the knowledge of Iowa was J. N. Nicollet, who was employed by the Federal government in topographical work during the years 1838 until his death on September 11, 1843. His chief contribution was a map of the Upper Mississippi Basin, ordered printed on February 16, 1841, and published by the United States in 1843, with an explanatory report.

In July, 1839, the Supreme Court of the Territory of Iowa handed down its first decision. It ruled in the case of Ralph that a slave who came to Iowa with the consent of his owner was not a fugitive and could not be returned to slavery.

On September 2, 1847, nearly six hundred immigrants from Holland arrived at the site of Pella, the first of the distinct racial groups to appear.⁵⁷

Not all events which happened in Iowa were constructive; crime also organized. A Jackson Day ball at Bellevue on January 8, 1840, was the occasion for a killing and the feeling against an alleged gang of thieves became so high that on April 1, 1840, a pitched battle, known as the "Bellevue War", took place between the Sheriff of Jackson County and his deputies on one side and William W. Brown and his gang on the other. At least eight men fell in the melee. Thirteen of the bandits were captured, whipped, and ordered to leave the county.⁵⁸

Iowa (Third Series), Vol. VI, pp. 289-296; Colton's *The Western Tourist and Emigrant's Guide*, p. 171. In 1838, of course, the Pacific Coast was not recognized as being a part of the United States.

⁵⁶ Owen's *Report of Geological Exploration of Part of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois*.

⁵⁷ Van der Zee's *The Hollanders of Iowa*, p. 73.

⁵⁸ Reid's *Thomas Cox*, pp. 122-154.

This period saw the beginnings of several important industries in Iowa although exact dates can not be given. Lead mining antedated the settlement of Iowa. Agriculture came with the first pioneers. The farmer soon raised more hogs than he could use and the merchants, either retail or commission, soon began to buy and slaughter hogs. J. M. D. Burrows started buying dressed hogs from farmers in 1840 and later started a "pork house" at Davenport.

Gristmills and sawmills were early constructed on the creeks and rivers of Iowa. In addition to the native timber, logs were floated down the Mississippi and sawed into lumber at the river towns.

The census of 1840 gave the value of lumber produced in Iowa as \$50,280. On January 12, 1839, the Iowa legislature authorized Benjamin Nye to build a dam across Pine River. Five other dams were authorized at the same session and a general law was enacted making mills public utilities and regulating tolls.⁵⁹ Agricultural fairs are said to have been held in Iowa counties as early as 1841 or 1842.

The events mentioned here are merely a few of the things which happened in Iowa "one hundred years ago". Many others, equally important perhaps, could be given. Government, religion, education, agriculture, trade, manufacturing, banking, the professions, all have some events of interest during the decade from 1838 to 1847. Churches, social groups, schools, colleges, industries, newspapers, and local governments may find notable dates in this formative decade. Communities, counties, townships, municipalities may have centennial anniversaries during the next ten years.

History is not merely a knowledge of dates, names, and places; it is an understanding of the trends of human life. Somehow, whether by a Divine Providence, chance, or human design, the activities of men and women weave a pat-

⁵⁹ *Laws of the Territory of Iowa, 1838-1839*, pp. 337-346.

tern which continues some of the designs of the past and projects itself into the future. Happy are the people who inherit a past of constructive activity, a high standard of morals and intelligence, an adequate supply of the necessities of life, and lofty ideals of peace, justice, social responsibilities, and coöperative effort. The records of Iowa one hundred years ago go far to explain the Iowa of today. Even the jealousies, the political battles, the heartaches, the hard work, and the lack of medical and dental care had a part in the picture of Iowa a century ago.

He who considers not the past, "flies blind" into the future. It is well that we pause to honor the pioneers who established our government, started our schools, organized our churches, built our homes, stores, and mills, began our industries, and made farms out of the prairie, who found a wilderness and left behind them a Commonwealth. It is even more important that we get a clear perspective of the complicated, intricate, and ever changing pattern which is the history of Iowa. What more fitting time for such a survey than the centennial anniversaries which occur during the next ten years.

RUTH A. GALLAHER

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY IOWA