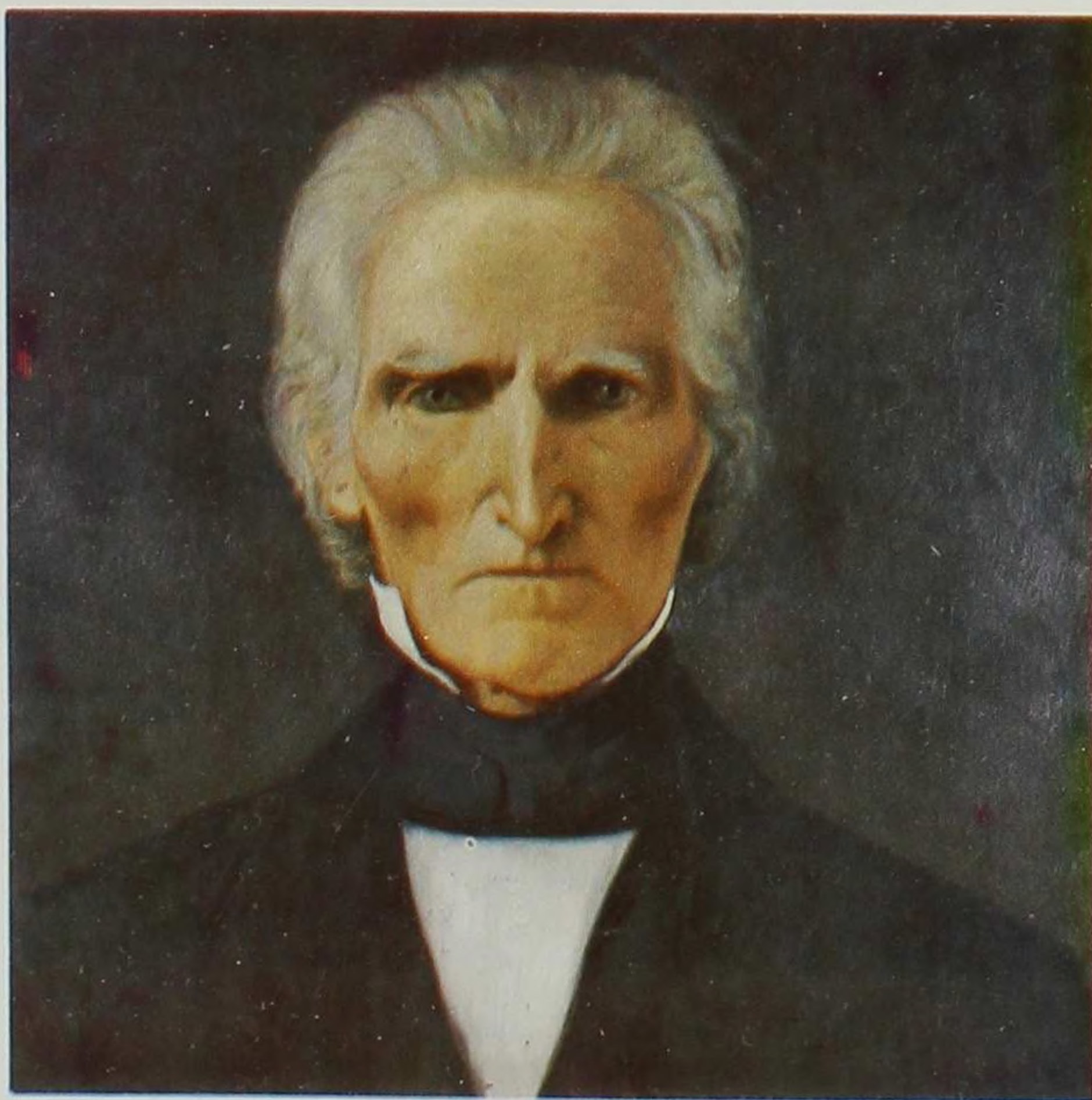


The PALIMPSEST



Robert Lucas — First Territorial Governor

Iowa in the Days of Lucas

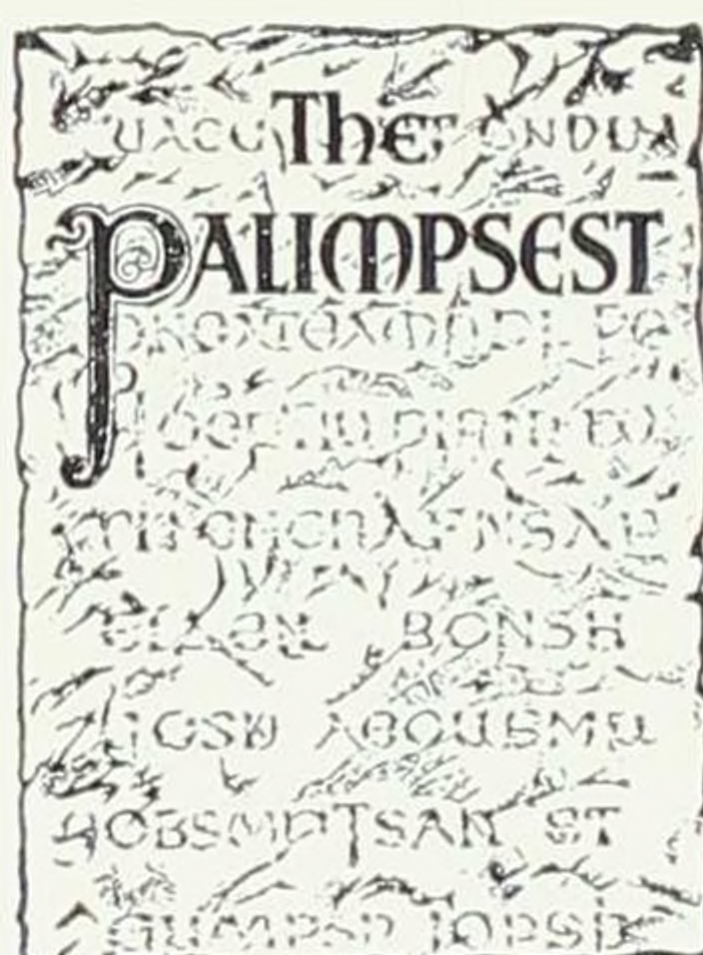
Published Monthly by

The State Historical Society of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

JUNE 1963

Special 125th Anniversary of Territory of Iowa — Fifty Cents



The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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IOWA IN THE DAYS OF LUCAS

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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Illustrations

All photos, manuscripts, and maps reproduced herein are in the possession of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Author

William J. Petersen is Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Plum Grove, the home which Robert Lucas built in 1844 after retiring as Governor of the Territory of Iowa, has been restored by the State Conservation Commission.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER JULY 28 1920 AT THE POST OFFICE AT
IOWA CITY IOWA UNDER THE ACT OF AUGUST 24 1912

PRICE — Included in Membership. Regular issues, 25¢; Special—50¢

MEMBERSHIP — By application. Annual Dues \$3.00

ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa

THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. XLIV

ISSUED IN JUNE 1963

No. 6

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The Birthday of the Territory

On the Fourth of July in 1838 the Territory of Iowa was born. Throughout the Black Hawk Purchase the pioneers had made preparations to celebrate on that memorable Wednesday both the birth of their Territory and the sixty-second anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Formal exercises dignified the observance of the holiday at Dubuque, Burlington, Fort Madison, West Point, and Denmark, and similar celebrations were probably held in other places between Keokuk and Fort Snelling.

Long before the eventful day, patriotic citizens gathered to appoint committees on arrangements, to choose officers of the day, and to plan a banquet with appropriate toasts. A bad storm caused some delay in the preparations at Dubuque, but the importance of the occasion was not overlooked. "The Anniversary of our National Independence, and the birthday of that Territory in which are our adopted homes," declared the *Iowa News*, "should

enliven us to action, and make us act with a spirit of patriotism."

The observance of the Fourth of July was an important social event in the life of the frontier. It afforded an opportunity for the pioneers to get together and discuss the weather, the prospects for good crops, and the coming land sales. Politicians could display their patriotism and oratorical prowess. Community behavior was an index to the character of the people and the times. The speeches and toasts at the banquets gave composite expression to the hopes and fears, the opinions and prejudices of the pioneers.

Drenching rain early in the morning of July 4th prevented many "country friends" from attending the Dubuque celebration. It was not until 1:30 in the afternoon that the procession marched to the Catholic Church where Stephen Hempstead read the Declaration of Independence and James Churchman delivered the Oration. After singing several national songs, the procession reformed and marched to an arbor where 150 persons partook of a "substantial repast".

After dinner thirteen scheduled toasts were drunk amid enthusiastic applause. "The Day We Celebrate" was greeted by the band blaring Hail Columbia. Appropriate music followed each toast: thus Washington's Grand March was

played for "The Heroes and Sages of the Revolution"; Independence March accompanied "The Declaration of Independence"; and the Star Spangled Banner greeted the tribute to the American flag. The stirring strains of Yankee Doodle acclaimed the modest toast, "*The People* — The fountain of truth, whence flows the stream of political honesty".

The last four regular toasts dealt with matters closer to hearth and home. "The new Territory of Iowa" was accompanied by a timely sentiment: "May the high-toned honor and patriotism of her citizens command the highest respect abroad and cherish the most social feeling at home." Having been closely associated with Wisconsin, the citizens of Dubuque did not forget to toast "Our Sister Territory". A political barb can be detected in the toast to "The Press", for its attendant sentiment, "Free, fearless, and independent — watchful sentinels were a few base webs removed", was apparently aimed at partisan editors. The thirteenth toast honored "The Fair of Iowa — May they all be bless'd with matrimonial felicity; kind, warm hearted souls, God bless them." As the band bravely struck up Haste to the Wedding, a lump must have formed in the throat of many a lonely bachelor, for women were scarcest in the mineral region.

The first in a series of seventeen volunteer toasts was proposed by Dr. Stephen Langworthy to the new Territory "just rising in the political horizon of the west." Patrick Quigley quaffed his sentiments to the national Democratic Administration which, in his opinion, received its support from "honest industry" and was destined to "gloriously triumph in 1840, over Bank monopolists, chartered swindlers, speculating legislators, and judicial knaves." Next followed a toast to the town of Dubuque. The bitter animosity of Dubuque Irishmen for England was reflected in three toasts, and Dennis O'Shea, in proposing the name of "Iowa — The beautiful and fertile land of my adoption", could not forget "Old Erin — The land of my nativity." The Panic of 1837 was not forgotten by Chauncey Swan who hoped the pioneer would "have a head to plan, a heart to persevere, and an arm to bring him out" of economic adversity. Five drinks later Swan proposed a toast to "The Mercantile Aristocracy of Du Buque — May they never triumph over the working Democracy of Miners."

Burlington celebrated the birthday of the Territory in a "handsome style". James W. Grimes read the Declaration of Independence, David Rorer delivered the Oration, and Charles Mason served as Marshal. Judge David Irvin presided

at the "sumptuous repast" prepared by Mrs. Parrott of the Wisconsin Hotel. After the cloth had been removed and the ladies had retired, Cyrus S. Jacobs addressed the meeting. Eighteen regular toasts were proposed, each followed by music appropriate to the sentiment. The first eleven toasts commemorated the Fourth of July, George Washington, the Union, the President of the United States, the American flag, the Federal Government, the Chief Executive, the Congress of the United States, the Supreme Court, the Navy, and the Army. The remainder of the program was concerned with subjects nearer to the pioneers of 1838: Wisconsin Territory, Governor Henry Dodge, the Mississippi River, the town of Burlington, the squatters in the Black Hawk Purchase, and the fairer sex. When a toast was given to the "Territory of Iowa", the band struck up *She Is All My Fancy Painted Her*.

Twenty-eight volunteer toasts followed, three-fourths of which related to local affairs. Sickness prevented John B. Newhall from appearing, but his toast to Washington, Franklin, and Warren was read and warmly applauded. Six other toasts dealt with the national scene. Eight pioneers rose to honor the newly-born Territory of Iowa. John Lorton hoped the Territory would "bloom like the rose"; R. Cook declared her "present prospects

indicate her future greatness"; and Joseph Newhall felt that the "unrivalled beauty and expanding charms" of "Uncle Sam's youngest daughter" gave promise that she would be "the first to be united in the band of our glorious confederation." J. H. McKenny slyly toasted the "Fair of Iowa" who, unlike the Territories of Iowa and Wisconsin, seemed "better satisfied with union".

In contrast to the Dubuque toasts on Ireland and the lead miners, the citizens of Burlington rose five times to honor the farmers. G. W. Kelly described the sturdy sons of the soil as "brave and meritorious"; Reuben Chance praised their "industrious, enterprising and patriotic" nature and trusted they would "ever look out for snakes". W. W. Chapman saw Iowa farmers "united in defence of their homes", while G. W. Willhite expressed a similar thought when he proposed, "May union prevail, in time of land sale." Israel Robertson struck a prophetic note when he declared: "Iowa Farmers — If poor in purse, rich in spirit — the bone and sinew of the Territory, and powerful in the political field." John R. Woods trusted that the farmers of Iowa would "live to see this our delightful country, made by their hardships and dangers, the brightest star that graces the flag of our confederacy."

In Fort Madison the citizens met in Jacob Cut-

ler's new building at the ringing of the bell to celebrate Independence Day. Henry Eno read the Declaration of Independence and Philip Viele delivered the Oration before a large and attentive audience. "It was a chaste piece of composition," the Fort Madison *Patriot* declared, "containing a brief historical sketch of the settlement and progress of this country — the character of the founders of the republic — their zeal and perseverance in establishing institutions of learning and religion — and an urgent appeal to the citizens of IOWA to imitate the example of such fathers".

At three o'clock a large number sat down to dinner in an arbor, prepared for the occasion on the bank of the Mississippi. Chief Black Hawk was present, "decently clothed in citizen's dress." After the cloth was removed and the ladies had retired, thirteen formal toasts were drunk, mostly in cold water. Nine hearty cheers broke forth upon the reading of the fifth toast: "Iowa, this day taking its rank as a Territory. Soon may its star shine bright on the azure of our National Banner." Next came a toast to the Constitution — "framed by our Sires, their sons will sustain it."

Personal and local sentiments were usually more warmly applauded than those referring to the nation. Thus, a toast to the "hardy, brave, generous and hospitable" pioneers evoked nine

lusty cheers whereas the Army and Navy elicited only three. As the customary climax, the final prepared toast was to the ladies — “the prettiest flowers that bloom on our beautiful prairies”. When the program reached the informal phase, James G. Edwards volunteered a toast to “Our Illustrious Guest, Black Hawk”, whereupon the old chief responded in person, saying he was glad to eat with his white friends and to be at peace, though he could not forget that he was once a great warrior.

Six hundred friends of “civil and religious liberty” gathered at West Point in Lee County to celebrate Independence Day. The American flag was hoisted before sunrise and “continued to wave beautifully and triumphantly throughout the day.” At noon a large procession formed and marched to a grove where the public exercises began with prayer by the Reverend A. Ewing, who served as chaplain of the day. The Declaration of Independence was then read, after which Eli Stoddard “pronounced the Oration” in an “elegant manner” which gave “universal satisfaction” to all, many saying it surpassed anything “ever heard from the lips of any orator”.

A “sumptuous dinner” was served gratuitously, after which the cloth was removed and the usual thirteen scheduled toasts delivered. Twelve vol-

unteer toasts were also drunk — including one to liberty-loving Kentuckians everywhere. Many a bachelor responded enthusiastically to a toast which expressed hope that the girls of West Point would “continue to grow in virtue and intelligence as fast as they grow in size and beauty.” A correspondent to the Fort Madison *Patriot* was “happy to state that the moderation and propriety which characterized the proceedings of the day and all who partook in its festivities, were unequaled by that of any celebration of the kind we ever before witnessed. Such was the veneration in which the day was observed, that it might reflect honor upon any community of free and enlightened citizens.”

A visitor at Denmark reported that the residents of that Congregational community, believing that their liberties were “more endangered by the use of intoxicating drink than all foreign enemies”, had determined to celebrate the Fourth of July by suppressing the liquor traffic. After Asa Turner had opened the meeting with prayer and read the Declaration of Independence, J. P. Stewart of Burlington delivered an address on the evils of intemperance, after which “the total pledge was read, to which fifty-three gave their names and a teetotal temperance society was organized”.

Eighty persons sat down to a table “spread

with the bounties of Providence" and served in an "admirable style". After dinner several toasts were volunteered and drunk in cold water. No doubt that arch-enemy of liquor, James G. Edwards, was glad to learn that at the Denmark celebration there was "no need of brandy and wine to aid the tongue or mind on such an occasion." After the temperance society was formed, other abstainers signed the pledge, making "in this infant settlement, eighty-five, who taste not, touch not, handle not, the accursed thing."

Such were the festivities which marked the birth of the Territory on July 4, 1838. There were no firecrackers, no traffic jams, no baseball games. If some people went fishing or raced horses or danced, those methods of celebration were not mentioned in the newspapers. There was, however, a general feeling of reverence for the founding fathers and gratitude for the institutions that they had established. The observance of the day was also characterized by an abiding self-confidence among the pioneers in their own ability as architects and builders of a mighty commonwealth west of the Mississippi. The Fourth of July a hundred years ago was cherished as the occasion for sober contemplation of great political achievements and a splendid destiny.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

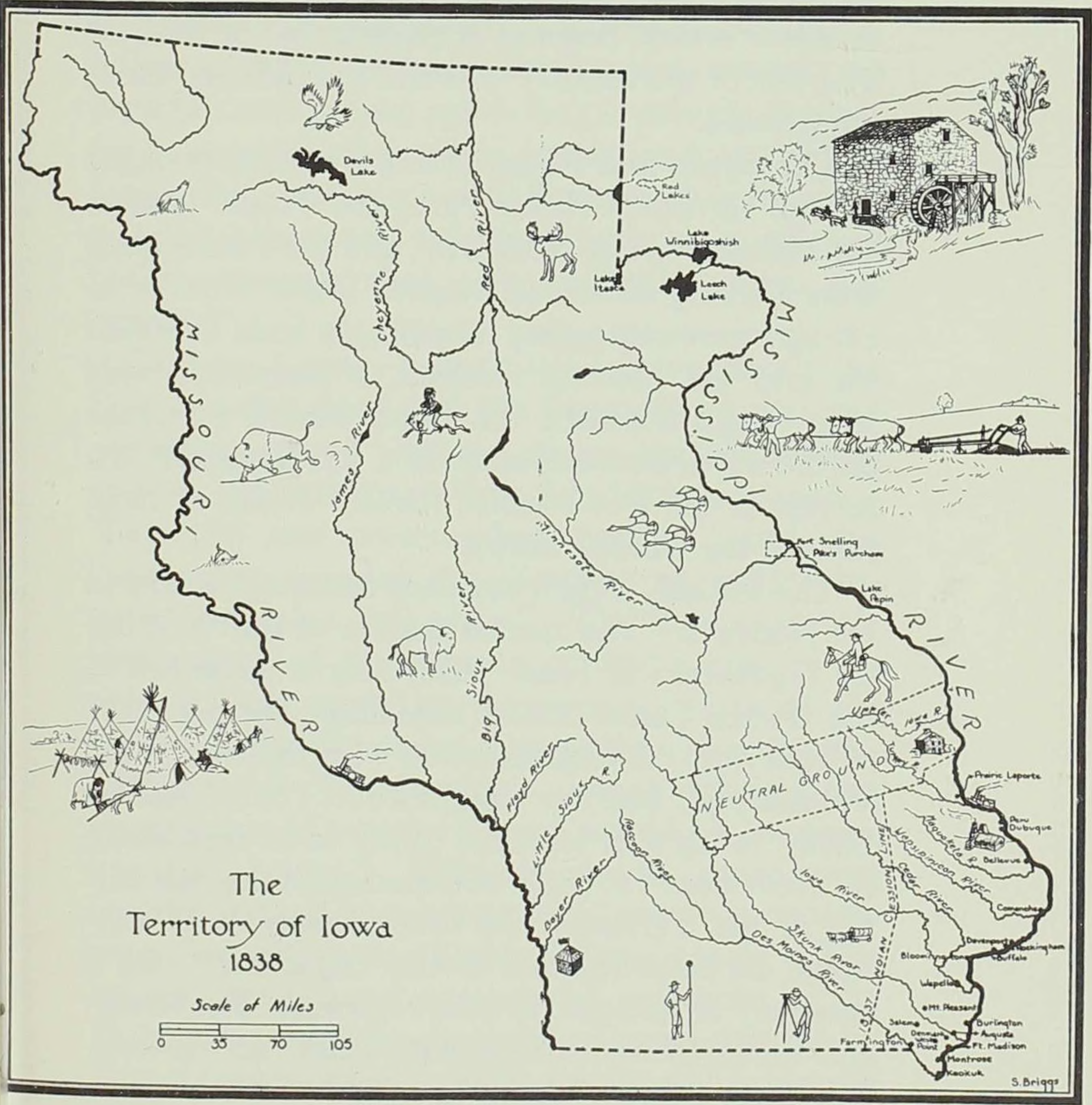
The Geography of Iowa Territory

"Iowa Territory! What an euphonious name!" exclaimed the Burlington editor when the "glorious" news arrived that the Territory of Wisconsin had been divided and that the Territory of Iowa would come into being on July 4, 1838. "We are now the Territory of *Iowa*" he continued, "an independent Territory — of a salubrious climate — fertile soil, industrious and rapidly increasing population, and of such geographical dimensions as will admit of our public functionaries fully and justly administering the laws and thereby fully securing the rights of the people — This is a great event, and great will be the consequences."

The act of Congress directed attention to geographical conditions. Area, climate, and resources were subjects of comment. "We behold the young Territory of Iowa," wrote the editor of the *Iowa News*, with a population of more than twenty-three thousand, acquired "within the short space of five years from the date of her purchase from the Indians, with thriving villages scattered all over her fertile prairies, and within two years from her first organization as a component part of the Territory of Wisconsin."

Although confined to a region west of the Mississippi River, the Territory of Iowa was nevertheless a wilderness empire of far-flung bounds. From Lake Itasca to the mouth of the Des Moines River, the Father of Waters flowed almost half its length (1100 miles) along the eastern border. From Itasca the eastern boundary extended northward to the pine-clad western reaches of the Lake of the Woods and intersected the forty-ninth parallel. On the north this vast domain was bounded by Canada for a distance of approximately three hundred and fifty miles between the Lake of the Woods and a point due north of the source of the White Earth River on the west. Except for a few miles, the western boundary was formed by the White Earth River and the muddy Missouri as it coursed for more than a thousand miles through the buffalo country to the northern boundary of the State of Missouri which formed the southern boundary of the Territory of Iowa.

The Territory of Iowa contained an area of nearly 200,000 square miles — larger than any State in the Union except Texas. Embraced in the arms of two mighty rivers, the vast region of prairie, plain, and forest land in the heart of the continent possessed fabulous resources. Only about 10,850 square miles of the Territory were open for settlement in 1838. This tract in the



The
Territory of Iowa
1838

Scale of Miles
0 35 70 105

S. Briggs

southeast corner had been divided into twenty-one counties which boasted a population of 22,819. The rest of the country was still the Indians' hunting ground.

The Sauks and Foxes had moved their villages west of the Black Hawk Purchase. A few Ioways still camped on the Nodaway, and the Potawatomi were filtering into southwestern Iowa. The Winnebago were straggling unwillingly from Wisconsin into the Neutral Ground, a forty-mile-wide strip which bounded the Black Hawk Purchase on the north and extended in a southwesterly direction to the Des Moines River. North of them roamed the warlike Sioux.

The Indians were a constant source of worry to the pioneers. The special session of the Wisconsin legislature in June, 1838, sent a memorial to the United States Senate explaining the necessity of ratifying the treaties made with the Sioux, the Winnebago, and the Chippewa in 1837. Robert Lucas, in his first message to the Iowa legislature on November 12, 1838, recommended that the militia of the Territory "be divided into three divisions, six brigades, and twelve regiments" with a company of Rangers to each regiment. The Rangers, mounted and armed with rifles, rifle pistols, and short swords, were expected to be "most efficient" in Indian fighting. "I am satisfied", Lucas

told the legislature, "that troops thus organized, equipped *and disciplined, expressly for Indian fighting*, WITH STRICT DIRECTIONS NEVER TO THROW AWAY A FIRE, *nor to halt in pursuit*, first using their *rifles*, then *their pistols*, and as the last resort, their *swords*, would be more than an equal match for an equal number of the most efficient Indian warriors that ever assembled upon our frontier."

Andrew Logan, editor of the Davenport *Iowa Sun*, was delighted with the "many handsome and promising towns" located along the Mississippi and in the interior. Fort Madison occupied a "beautiful and commanding position" and was "progressing under the direction of well cultivated judgment and taste." The high character and energy of the citizens of Burlington, in his opinion, had made an enterprising place of the capital of the Territory, despite the "peculiar disadvantages" of its location. Logan believed any place above Muscatine Slough would be "unquestionably healthy". Dubuque was a "prosperous, healthy and public-spirited town" whose prospects were "extending on a highly flattering scale". The mineral wealth and agricultural resources of the Dubuque area were destined to make that city a "great trading town". With pardonable pride, the enthusiastic editor described Davenport's location

as "beyond all comparison" the most beautiful. "The interior of the territory is all rich, beautiful and productive, from end to end," he asserted. "Sober and industrious farmers may flock in from all quarters, and find a rich reward for pleasant and moderate toil. The interior of the territory is healthy, and every section of land admits of easy cultivation."

The Fort Madison *Patriot* prophesied that Iowa would soon be "knocking at the doors of Congress to be admitted into the Union." Many immigrants were settling along the Skunk River, which the *Patriot* felt was a "beautiful stream deserving a better name".

The Dubuque *Iowa News* welcomed the arrival of thirty or forty Scotch families on the Maquoketa from the Selkirk colony on the Red River of the North." "Their trip was truly a tedious one, coming as they did across the uninhabited country, without roads, and in small carts drawn by oxen." They saw few Indians on the long journey and were not molested.

Dr. Isaac Galland, who had lived in Iowa since 1829, praised the fertile Des Moines Valley. The "swift and shallow" water of the "transparent" Des Moines abounded in fish, he declared. Springs of excellent water were "found in great profusion along its shores". The bottom lands

are not very extensive, except in some places, but, Galland explained, "they are of a rich alluvial soil, covered generally with a heavy growth of forest trees, such as black and white walnut, hackberry, sugar tree, cherry, locust, mulberry, coffee nut, some buckeye, and all the varieties of oak".

J. N. Nicollet, the eminent French explorer and mathematician, journeyed far up the Missouri River in 1838. He found the swift current of the Missouri and the constant shifting of its sand-bars the "principal and most insurmountable" obstacle to navigation. The elevation of the Missouri above the Gulf of Mexico, according to Nicollet, was double that of the Mississippi. He estimated the altitude of Council Bluffs at 1,023 feet and that of Davenport at 528. Although Fort Pierre on the Missouri was in the same latitude as the lower end of Lake Pepin on the Mississippi, the former was 1,456 feet above sea level while the latter was but 710 feet. "These numerical relations", explained the observant explorer, account for the swifter current of the Missouri and "establish the fact, that the average level of the Missouri valley above the ocean is nearly twice more elevated than that of the Mississippi."

Nicollet found the vegetation of the Missouri and Mississippi valleys less abundant north of the Platte River on the west and Rock Island on the

east. Groves were smaller and the fringes of timber along the streams were narrower. Horse briar, fox and false grapes, gray dogwood, currants, and gooseberries were common undergrowth. "In the higher situations, and at the head of creeks," Nicollet noticed "the black walnut and mulberry, basswood, nettle-wood, intermingled with the common hawthorn, prickly ash, &c. On the high grassy or rocky banks, the black and bur oaks constitute the principal growth, but occasionally intermixed with the wild cherry, red cedar, hornbean, wild roses, and sumach. The low prairies bordering the rivers have a deep, fertile soil, and abound with sedge-grasses and leguminous plants."

Many conflicting reports about the climate were published. The editor of the *Iowa Territorial Gazette* was delighted with the weather at Burlington. "The climate of this extensive region", he declared on October 6, 1838, "is perhaps as propitious to health, as that of any country in the world. Its remoteness from the ocean secures it from those insalubrious winds which bring with them such a host of pulmonary disorders on the northern seaboard, while its high and dry soil and pure atmosphere, preserves it from the fatal fevers to which the flatter surface and more fervid sun of the lower Mississippi, often subject the denizens of the south."

Father Samuel Mazzuchelli had travelled extensively in Europe and the west and accordingly had some basis for comparison with other regions. "The climate", he asserted, "is much colder than in Europe under the same latitude; from the month of November to the end of March the thermometer generally keeps below the freezing point, and in the depth of winter falls often to twenty or even thirty degrees below in the more northern sections of the country. Snow covers the ground for about three months and the rivers are frozen over so completely as to serve during the winter as the most solid of pavements, not only for men but for draught animals also, so that journeys of hundreds of miles are made upon their frozen waters. The months of June, July and August are quite hot but upon the immensity of the great natural plains, ordinarily even in summer, one enjoys a cool and refreshing breeze."

The Territory of Iowa was a land of great beauty. Albert M. Lea described the general appearance as "one grand rolling prairie, along one side of which flows the mightiest river in the world, and through which numerous navigable streams pursue their devious way towards the ocean." Beautiful rivers and creeks could be found everywhere, many of them fed by lakes.

Not only those who lived in Iowa Territory

sang her praises. "The birth of a Territory and such a Territory, is no ordinary event", announced the *Saint Louis Bulletin*. "It will be the birth of a young giant, which in a few short years will exert a powerful influence in the whole Union — and one whose strength and proportions and beauty will be without a rival."

The economic significance of the Iowa country was recognized by New York and New Orleans, the two great rivals for the trade with the West. A New York legislative committee declared that Westerners "evidently prefer the market on the Atlantic; and they are making prodigious efforts to reach it." The *New Orleans Bee* believed Iowa and Wisconsin would form a mighty addition to the already dominant power of the Mississippi Valley, of which New Orleans "must forever be the mart, and centre of attraction." The editor was not unmindful of the fact that a railroad might some day connect the Mississippi with the Great Lakes, but was certain that the Father of Waters would always "form the main channel of communication of its upper branches with the ocean and with foreign lands."

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Robert Lucas

A large crowd gathered on the Burlington levee early in the morning of August 15, 1838. News had spread that the steamboat *Brazil* was nearing port with Robert Lucas, the anxiously-awaited Governor of the Territory of Iowa, among her passengers. Mayor George Beeler, Cyrus S. Jacobs, William H. Starr, and William B. Conway, the Secretary of the Territory, were among the prominent citizens assembled on the river bank to welcome the new executive. Various reports had trickled westward concerning the character and personality of Robert Lucas. Every one knew that he was a man of action: his long career as a soldier and a politician was ample testimony of that. But what would his attitude be toward the new Territory of Iowa? Would he rule like a sergeant or be sympathetic with the needs of the people? Undoubtedly many who watched the *Brazil* dock hoped to read the destiny of the Territory in the countenance of the first Governor. The erstwhile "Acting Governor", Conway, gained little comfort from this encounter.

A brisk, erect, dignified figure strode down the gangplank of the *Brazil*. Although only about five

feet ten inches in height, Robert Lucas probably seemed taller because of his straight military bearing. His thick wavy hair, frosted by fifty-seven years of intense activity, was combed straight back from his high forehead. Blue eyes, deep-set beneath beetling eyebrows, a slightly aquiline nose, straight firm mouth, all combined to give a somewhat severe expression to his thin face. Middle age had not robbed him of his vigor and restless energy. Grim determination, resourcefulness, and pride were basic qualities in the character of the courageous soldier and ambitious politician that was Robert Lucas. His past in Ohio had revealed these traits: his life in Iowa was to demonstrate them more fully.

Governor Lucas swung into action as soon as he arrived at Burlington. That very afternoon he issued a proclamation apportioning members of the Territorial legislature and providing for their election. Scarcely had this been done when an invitation was tendered him by leading Burlington citizens to attend a public dinner in his honor. Lucas thanked the committee graciously, but asked that the dinner be postponed until after he returned from a tour of the Territory. During the next three days he attended to problems of state and then set out on August 18th to visit the various towns as far north as Dubuque.

From early morning until late at night Lucas conferred with the leading citizens in each community. All were impressed with his sincerity, his energy, and his sterling character. A Dubuque editor liked his "plain and easy address" and commanding appearance. He believed this "practical farmer", whose constitution had been "shattered by toil", would "appreciate honest industry, and guard well its interest".

A descendant of sturdy Quaker ancestors who settled in Pennsylvania in 1679, Robert Lucas actually was a product of two frontiers. His father, William Lucas, was born in the wilds of western Virginia. There, at Shepherdstown, Robert Lucas was born on April 1, 1781. His early schooling consisted largely of mathematics and surveying, a training which proved invaluable when he moved to the Northwest Territory in 1800.

Despite his Quaker ancestry, Robert Lucas was distinctly a military man. Perhaps he inherited his warlike spirit from his father who had fought in the Revolutionary War. At any rate Lucas himself began his military career in 1803 when he received a commission from the Governor to enlist volunteers for the Ohio militia. From that beginning he rose in rank until he became a major general in the militia and a colonel in the United States Army. When the War of 1812 broke out

Lucas helped organize a battalion of volunteers from his militia. During the early part of the conflict he served as a detached officer in General William Hull's disastrous campaign. The daily journal which he kept clearly reveals his courage and resourcefulness whether employed as a scout or in the heat of battle. It also demonstrates his habit of meticulous care. When Colonel Lewis Cass made his report on Hull's discreditable conduct, he embodied sentences and even paragraphs from the daily record of Robert Lucas.

The soldier was also schooled in the ways of government and politics. As early as 1803 he began his career as a surveyor. Two years later he was appointed justice of the peace for Union Township in Scioto County. In 1808 he was elected to the lower house of the Ohio legislature. Between 1814 and 1830 he served all but two years as State Senator. Nominated for Governor by the Democrats in 1830, he was defeated but, having served meanwhile in the House of Representatives, he was again nominated for Governor in 1832 and this time emerged triumphant. A more significant partisan honor was his selection as temporary and permanent chairman of the Democratic Convention at Baltimore. He was re-elected Governor of Ohio in 1834 — an unusual tribute in the Buckeye State. His most notable service to Ohio

during his four years as chief executive was his victory in the Ohio-Michigan boundary dispute.

On September 4, 1838, soon after his return to Burlington, the Governor attended a "most sumptuous" banquet at which C. S. Jacobs acted as president. The customary thirteen prepared toasts and twenty-five volunteer toasts were drunk by the hundred guests present. After pointing out the salient facts in the new Governor's career, Jacobs offered the following tribute: "Our distinguished guest — We honor him as the gallant soldier in war — we honor him as the enlightened legislator and magistrate in peace, and we honor him for his virtue as a private citizen." A tremendous cheer greeted the Governor as he modestly arose in response.

Robert Lucas was not thinking of his military career, Ohio politics, or boundary troubles as he stood before his Burlington audience. Hopes for good government and a peaceful administration were uppermost in his mind. He was thinking of the amazing resources of the Territory and the admirable character of the settlers. Closing his speech, he proposed a toast to "The citizens of Iowa — Hospitable, intelligent, and enterprising. May their energies be united in support of such measures as are best calculated to advance the interests of the Territory — promote virtue — in-

crease intelligence — and secure the lasting prosperity and happiness of the people.”

Unfortunately for Lucas his three years as Governor of Iowa were destined to be as stormy as his career in Ohio. The seed of discord had been planted even before he set foot in the Territory. President Van Buren first offered the Governorship to General Henry Atkinson who refused the office. The delay and uncertainty caused much dissatisfaction in the Territory. Robert Lucas was finally commissioned on July 7th but did not hear of his appointment until ten days later, whereupon he promptly accepted. Preparing at once to assume his new duties, he left Cincinnati for Iowa on August 1st. Low water delayed the progress of his trip and he did not reach Burlington until two months after Congress had created the Territory.

Meanwhile, Secretary Conway had arrived and begun acting as Governor. Had he been less officious and attended only to emergencies, he would not have aroused the ire of Governor Lucas. But Conway, self-confident and ambitious, assumed more responsibilities than the circumstances warranted. On the very day Lucas arrived at Burlington he handed the Governor a copy of his proclamation apportioning members of the legislature and ordering an election. No one knows what Robert Lucas said, but it is significant that he issued

the proclamation himself and that Conway left for Davenport within an hour after the Governor's arrival. From that beginning William Conway was continually at odds with Robert Lucas. He opposed whatever the Governor proposed and stirred up dissension. In Lucas, however, he encountered a determined and resourceful antagonist.

On November 12, 1838, the first Territorial legislature convened in the Methodist Church at Burlington. Most of the thirty-nine pioneer legislators were young men. They listened attentively as the Governor read his first message. It was a noteworthy document that clearly revealed the sagacity and long experience of Robert Lucas. Education, the compilation of a criminal code, the suppression of gambling and intemperance, the organization of an efficient militia, and strict economy in financial matters were but a few of the subjects upon which the Governor recommended legislation.

The Legislative Assembly set to work with enthusiasm and a grave sense of importance. The first month of the session was marked by a sharp clash between Secretary Conway and the law makers over the purchase of penknives, tin cups, and similar perquisites. The Secretary's flippant, sarcastic answer to the request deeply offended the Council which promptly informed him it would

not "tamely submit to the insults and derision of any officer of this Territory". This quarrel had scarcely abated when a more serious dispute arose between the Governor and the legislature over Territorial expenditures. When Lucas refused to approve bills involving the payment of salaries for twenty-three assistants to the Legislative Assembly, the legislators promptly questioned his right to veto such measures, a right which was clearly provided in the Organic Act.

With characteristic determination Lucas stood firm throughout the controversy, displaying remarkable calmness for a man of such an impetuous nature. Although Conway and a small majority of the legislators sought his removal from office, many others saw the wisdom and legality of the Governor's position. When the session closed, Parvin recorded in his diary, "Legislature adjourned in confusion. All drunk with few exceptions."

The firm stand of Governor Lucas against the excesses of the Territorial legislature was supported by President Van Buren. At the same time the United States Treasury refused to pay the bills authorized by the legislature. Moreover, a letter from the Comptroller's office, on June 7, 1839, showed serious discrepancies in the Secretary's accounts. The death of William B. Conway at Bur-

lington during the opening days of the second Legislative Assembly probably saved him from many unpleasant situations at the same time that it removed a thorn from the side of Robert Lucas.

The first year of Governor Lucas's administration had been marred by bitter internal controversy. The second year was destined to produce a stormy battle with Missouri over the southern boundary of the Territory of Iowa. As early as 1816 John C. Sullivan had surveyed an Indian cession which later was ambiguously identified with the northern boundary of the State of Missouri. The influx of settlers into the area north of this line after the Black Hawk Purchase caused Missouri to cast covetous glances in that direction. In 1836, the Governor was authorized by the State of Missouri to survey the northern boundary and J. C. Brown ran the line in the following year. This line would have deprived Iowa of a generous slice of the southern tier of Iowa counties. When Missouri ordered its officers to collect taxes in this area, Governor Lucas advised Van Buren County citizens to refuse. Not long afterward a Missouri sheriff was arrested and brought to Burlington. Thereupon, the Missouri militia was called to enforce the law while Lucas issued a proclamation calling out the Territorial troops. After such a display of force the question was adjudicated.

Here was just the kind of a battle that delighted the stern, unyielding Governor. His vigorous action preserved the original boundary of Iowa and won a lot of popularity for the old veteran.

Though the remainder of his administration was comparatively calm, the election of a Whig President led to the removal of Lucas in 1841. Many Iowans expressed genuine regret that his strong hand had been removed from the pilot wheel.

Robert Lucas was inordinately fond of politics. In 1843, five years after coming to Iowa, he returned to Ohio temporarily. His old friends prevailed upon him to run for Congress, but he was defeated and returned to Iowa City the following year. Straightway he was nominated by the Democrats as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1844. Although opponents accused him of being a "confirmed office-seeker", he won the election. His work on the committees on State Boundaries, State Revenue, and the Executive was statesmanlike.

When James K. Polk was elected President, Lucas hoped to be reappointed Governor of the Territory of Iowa but James Clarke was chosen. Two years later, when Iowa was about to be admitted into the Union, Lucas again fixed his eyes upon the Governorship. He was then sixty-five years old, however, and his uncompromising nature had

made many enemies. Younger men entered the field and Ansel Briggs, who in 1839 had carried a letter of introduction to Lucas from the Governor of Ohio, was nominated by the Democrats and elected first Governor of the State.

Robert Lucas retained his keen interest in public affairs to the very end. When he retired to the friendly atmosphere of Plum Grove he still found time to engage actively in the temperance movement, to advocate the development of the public school system, and to promote railroad building. At Burlington in 1839 he was chosen president of the Iowa Territorial Temperance Society. Thirteen years later his name was included in a select list of prominent temperance leaders in the United States. On December 14, 1848, in the Old Stone Capitol at Iowa City, Lucas was chosen president of a State convention of teachers and friends of education in Iowa. In the following year he became a member of the Board of Trustees of the State University of Iowa. Always a firm believer in the development of the West, Lucas in his later years transferred his support from canals to railroads. During 1850 he took a prominent part in two railroad conventions — one attended by the friends of the Dubuque and Keokuk Railroad, the other by proponents of the line from Davenport to Council Bluffs.

Despite the fact that he had been a Democrat for over half a century, Lucas revealed a remarkable ability to break with the past. It required a great principle — the slavery issue — to cause him to forsake the Democratic party when Franklin Pierce was nominated and cast his vote for Winfield Scott, the Whig candidate. He even presided at a Scott meeting in Iowa City and gave an address which was "loudly and frequently cheered by the delighted audience, among which were a number of ladies." It was his last recorded political speech, made with conviction in the camp of his former opponents. He died at Plum Grove on February 7, 1853, and was buried at Iowa City.

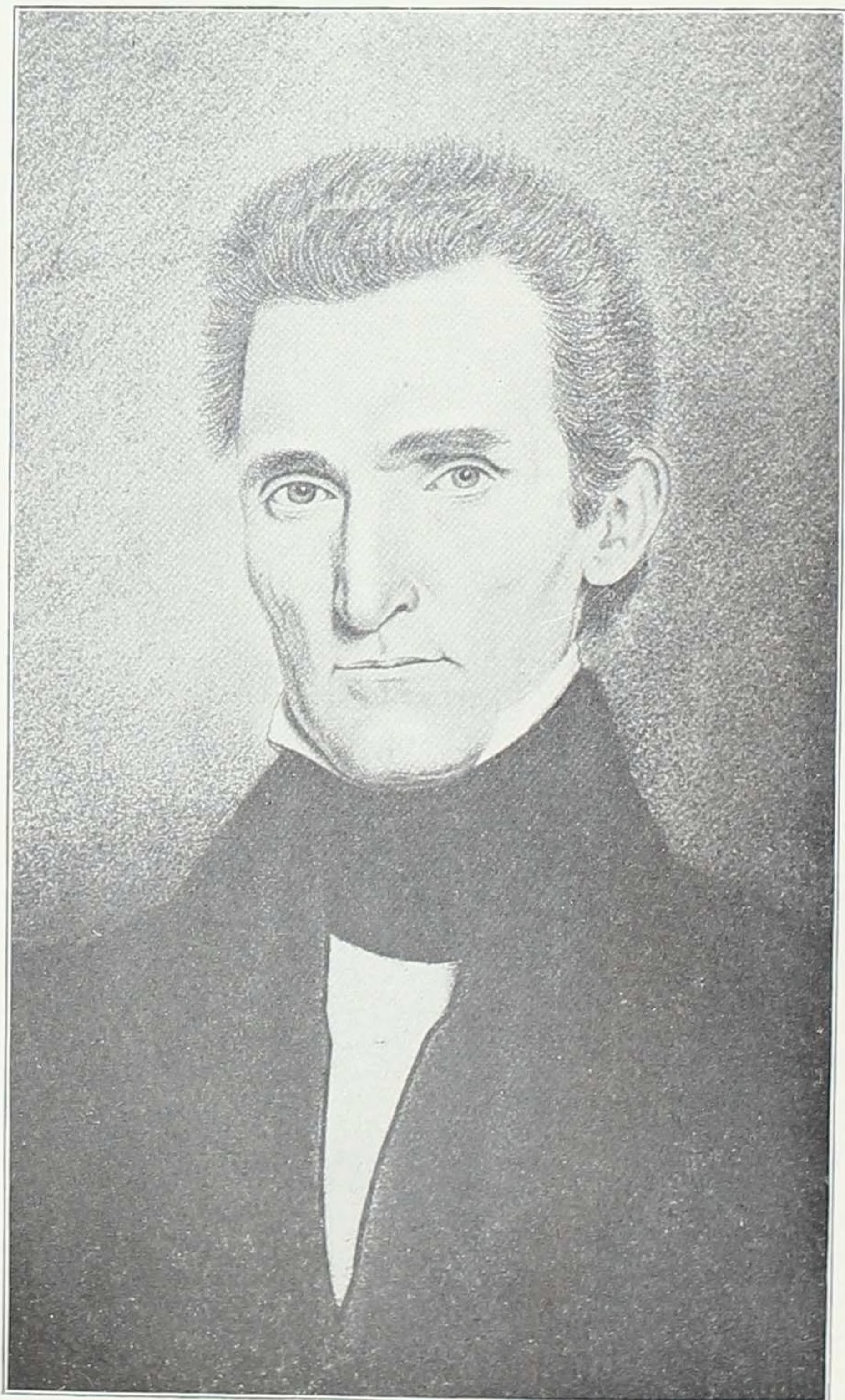
Robert Lucas brought to the young Territory of Iowa the strong arm of the soldier and the steady influence of a practical politician. A crusading idealist, he accepted the Methodist faith at an early date. He detested gamblers and drinkers and would not appoint such men to office. He gave freely of his time and energy to all causes that embraced the common good. A man of intense convictions and genuine patriotism, Lucas never wavered in the cause of duty. His frank and rugged honesty must have left a deep imprint upon all who knew him. The history of Iowa was enriched by his political services.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN



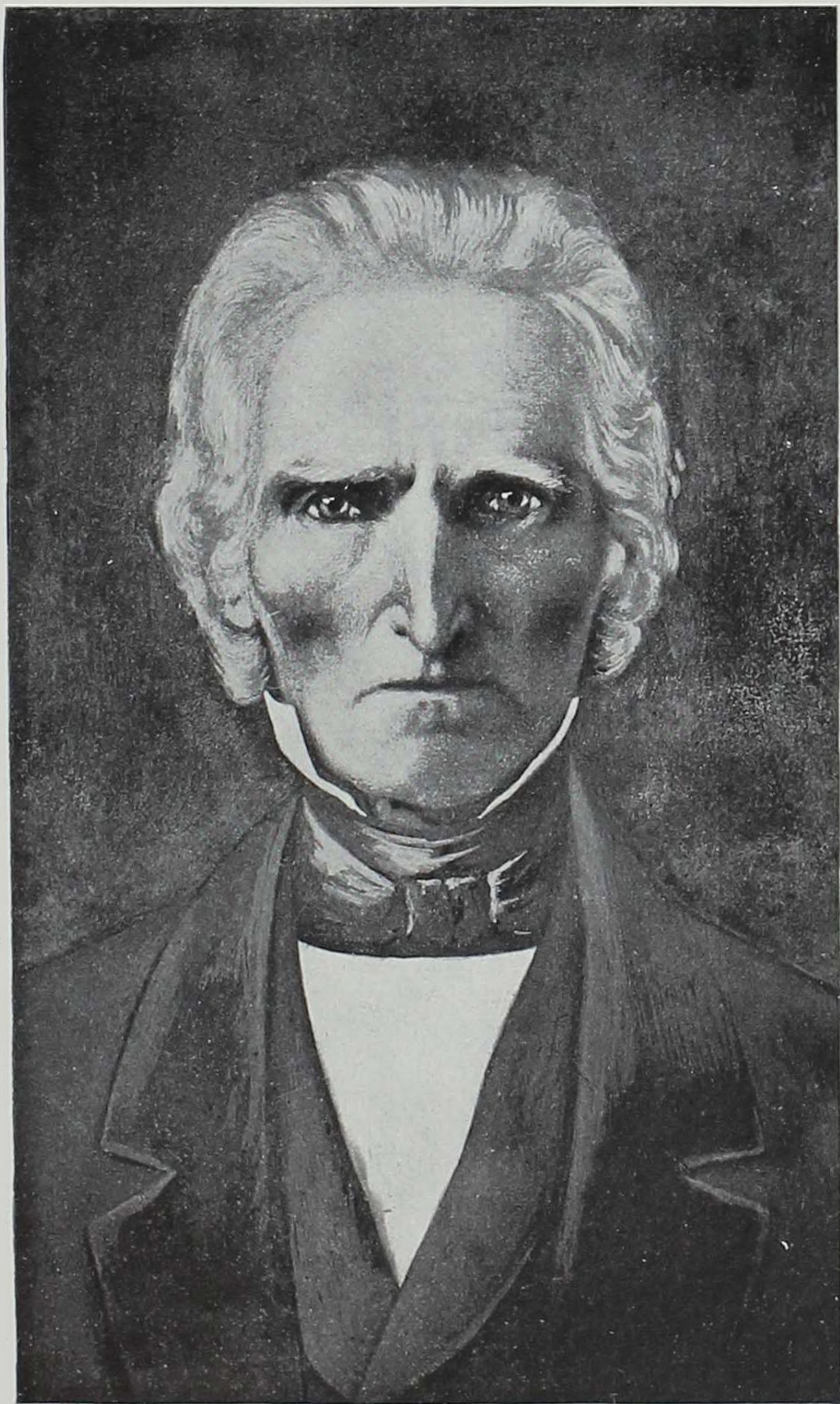
From a Water Color Painting

Robert Lucas — Soldier of the War of 1812



From a Crayon Sketch

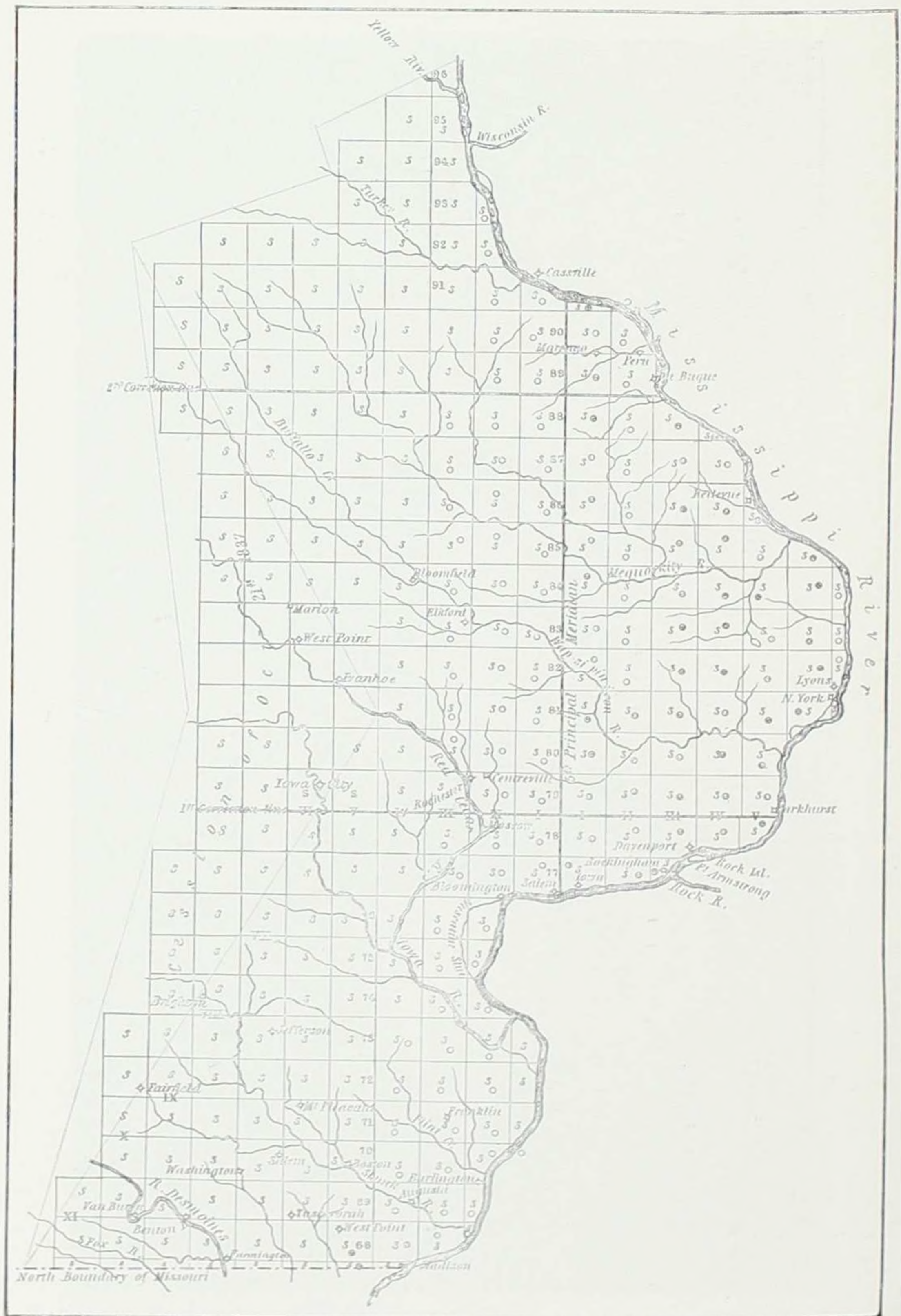
Robert Lucas — Early Ohio Politician



From an Oil Painting by George H. Yewell

Robert Lucas — Iowa Governor and Elder Statesman

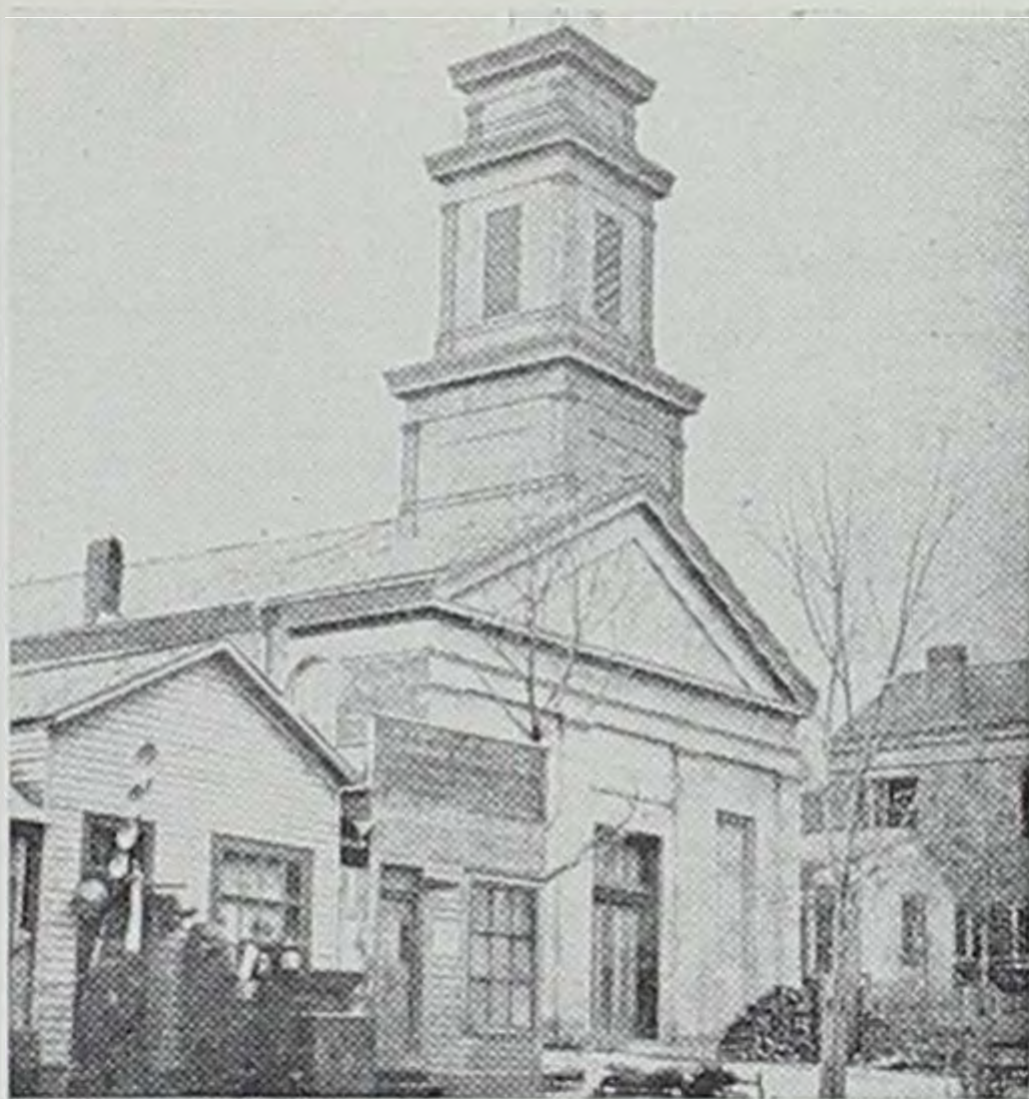
PUBLIC SURVEYS IN IOWA IN 1841



Surveys in Iowa began in 1837 and had reached the Second Black Hawk Purchase before Lucas retired as Governor of the Territory of Iowa in 1841. The first public land offices were established at Burlington and Dubuque in 1838.

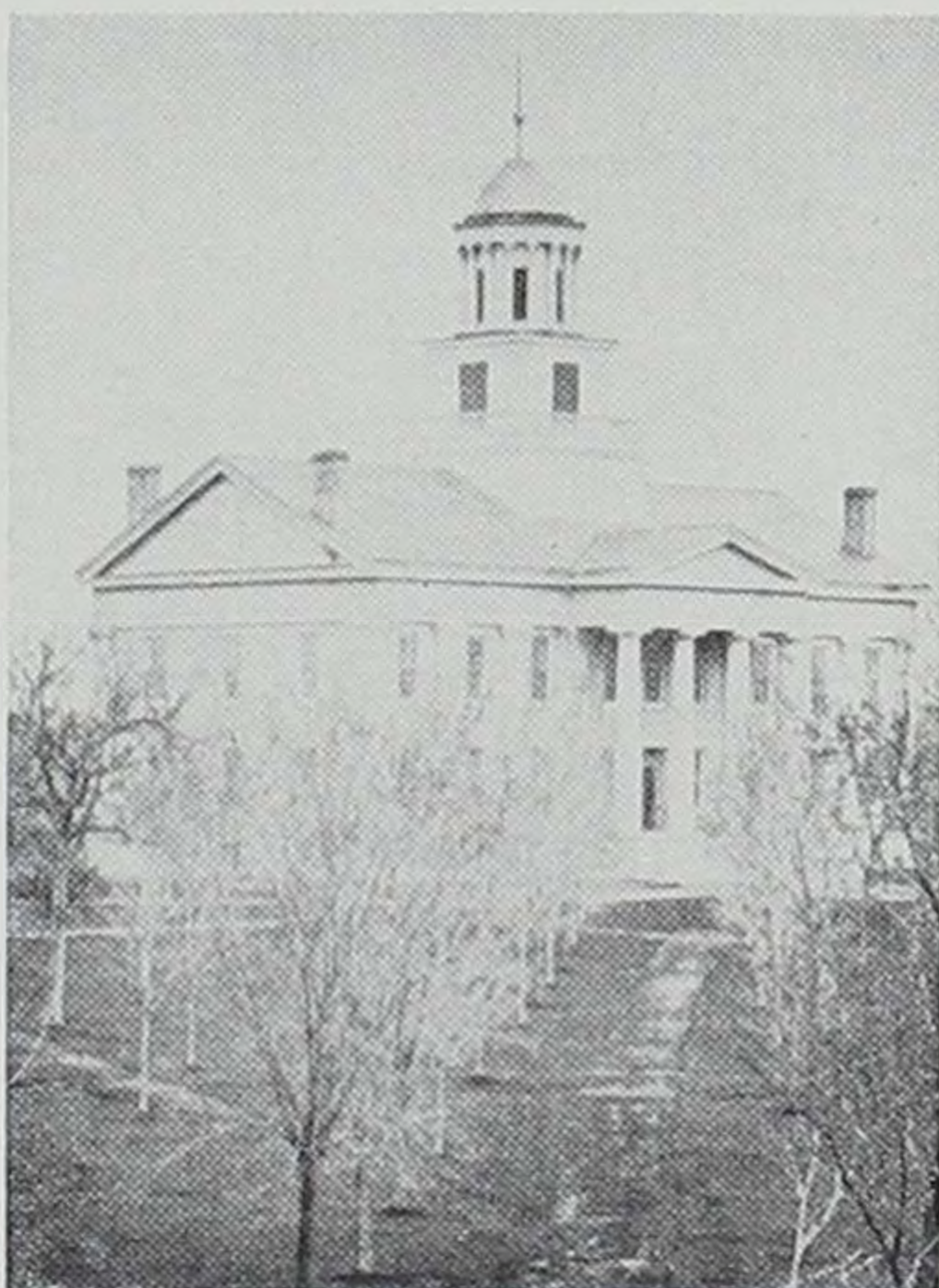
OLD ZION CHURCH, BURLINGTON

Served the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Iowa for three sessions (1838-1841). A Fourth of July celebration was held in Old Zion in 1839 over which Robert Lucas presided, Augustus Caesar Dodge read the Declaration of Independence, and James W. Grimes was orator of the day. Governor Lucas conferred with the Sauk and Fox Indians in Old Zion in 1840.



OLD STONE CAPITOL, IOWA CITY

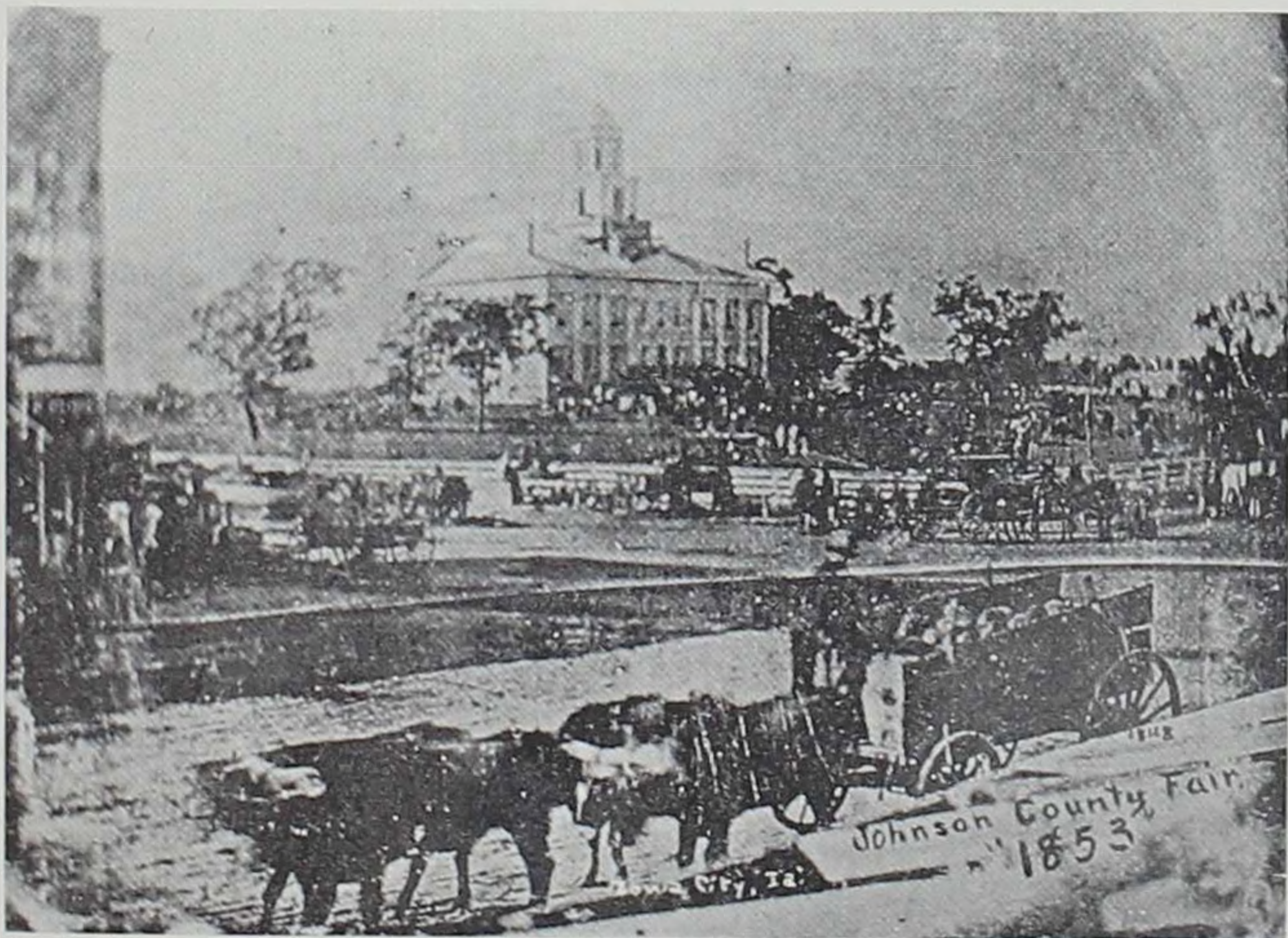
Site selected in 1839, cornerstone laid by Governor Lucas on July 4, 1840. Architect was John Francis Rague. Lucas was a member of the Constitutional Convention which met in Old Capitol in 1844. During his last years in Iowa City, Lucas attended many functions here.



below

OLD CAPITOL IN IOWA CITY IN 1853

This photo, taken the year Lucas died, reveals Iowa City in its ox-cart days. The General Assembly and the Supreme Court still convened in Old Capitol; the State University of Iowa and the State Historical Society of Iowa were still unborn.



Gentlemen of the Council

and House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly

Through the intervention of several Provisions we have been permitted to convene at this time, for the purpose of organizing the first Legislative Assembly, under the provisions of an Act of Congress passed the 12th day of June A.D. 1838 entitled "An Act to divide the Territory of Wisconsin and to establish the Territorial Government of Iowa." This Act must be viewed by us, as ~~the~~ Constitutional Charter of the Territory; It prescribes our powers, defines our duties, directs our actions, and points out our rights and privileges - It declares that the Legislative power shall be vested in the Governor and a Legislative Assembly, and shall extend to all rightful subjects of Legislation - This declaration, brings within the power of the Legislature all subjects that relate to the Organization of the local Government of the Territory (that does not contravene the act of Congress, or the Constitution of the United States) all subjects that relate to the protection and preservation of the lives, liberties, property and reputations of the people of the Territory - The promotion of commerce, manufactures and immoral practices, and such other subjects as tend to the advancement of the public good, the general improvement of the Territory, and the promotion of the peace happiness and prosperity of the people. This important trust - has been reposed in us by our Country - and we have ~~under~~ the most solemn Obligation faithfully and imperially to perform the same - We must also consider that the eyes of the people of the United States are gazing upon us - that they all have an interest in this Territory and feel an anxious solicitude for its prosperity, which must either be advanced or retarded by our acts.

individual distress,
and means to c
perform an act

INTERIOR VIEWS OF



Fireplace in Kitchen



A Corner of the Front Bedroom

OF
RESTORED LUCAS HOME



Front Parlor Showing Stairway Leading to Second Floor

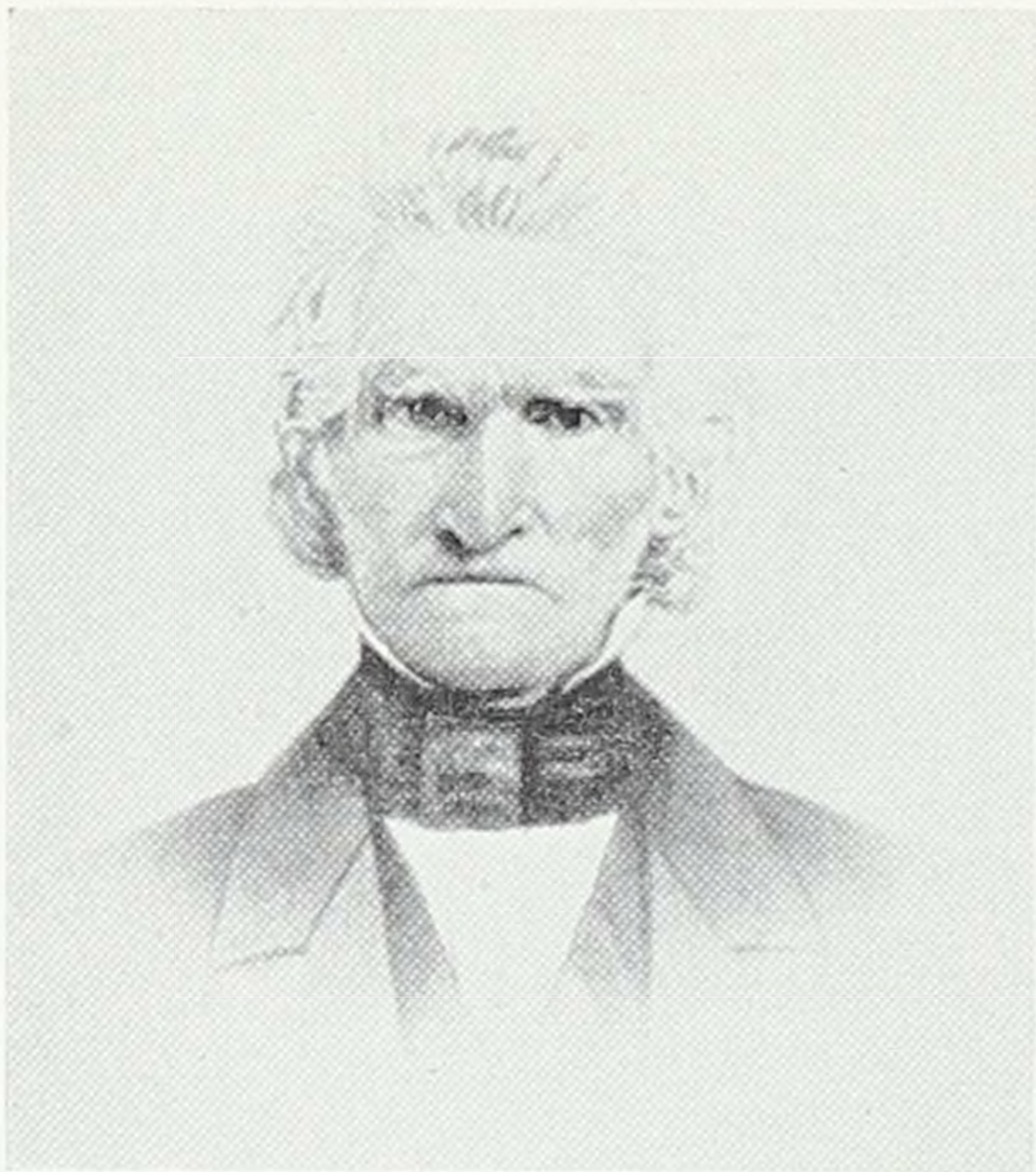


Lucas Portrait in Front Parlor

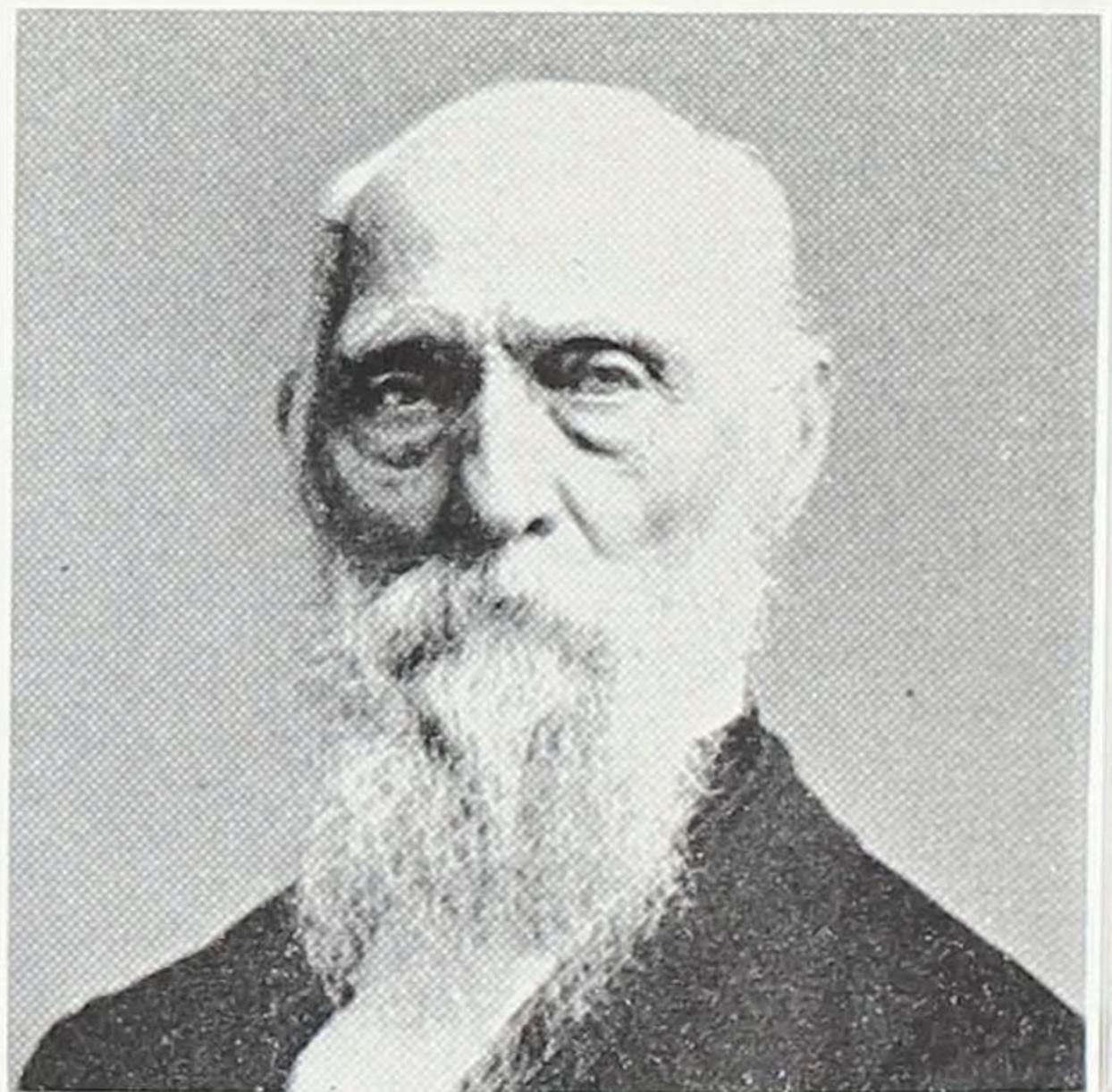


Original Lucas Desk in Sitting Room

ASSOCIATES OF LUCAS IN TERRITORIAL DAYS



ROBERT LUCAS — In His Later Years



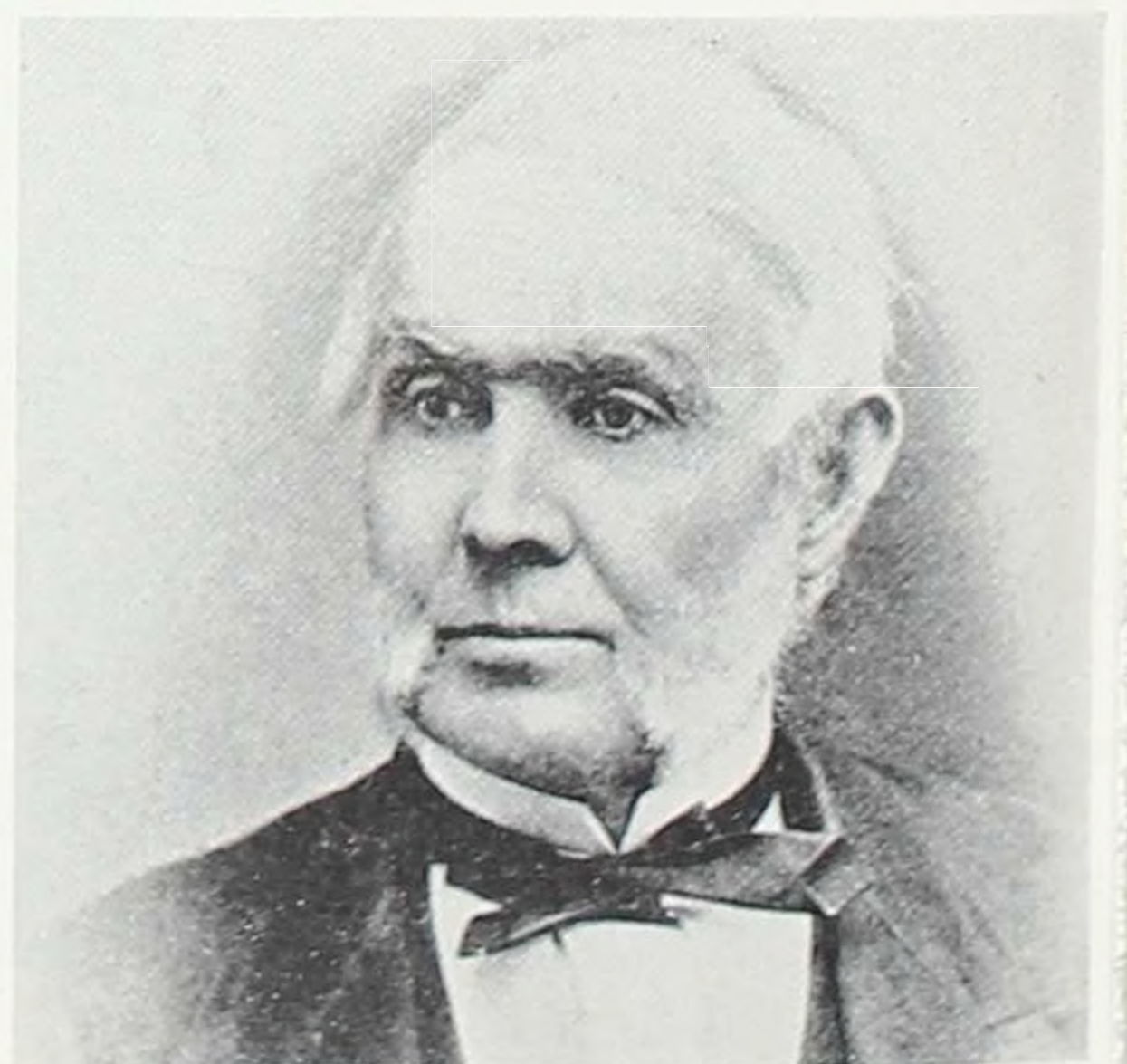
WM. W. CHAPMAN
Delegate to Congress — 1838-41



ENOS LOWE, President
Constitutional
Convention — 1844

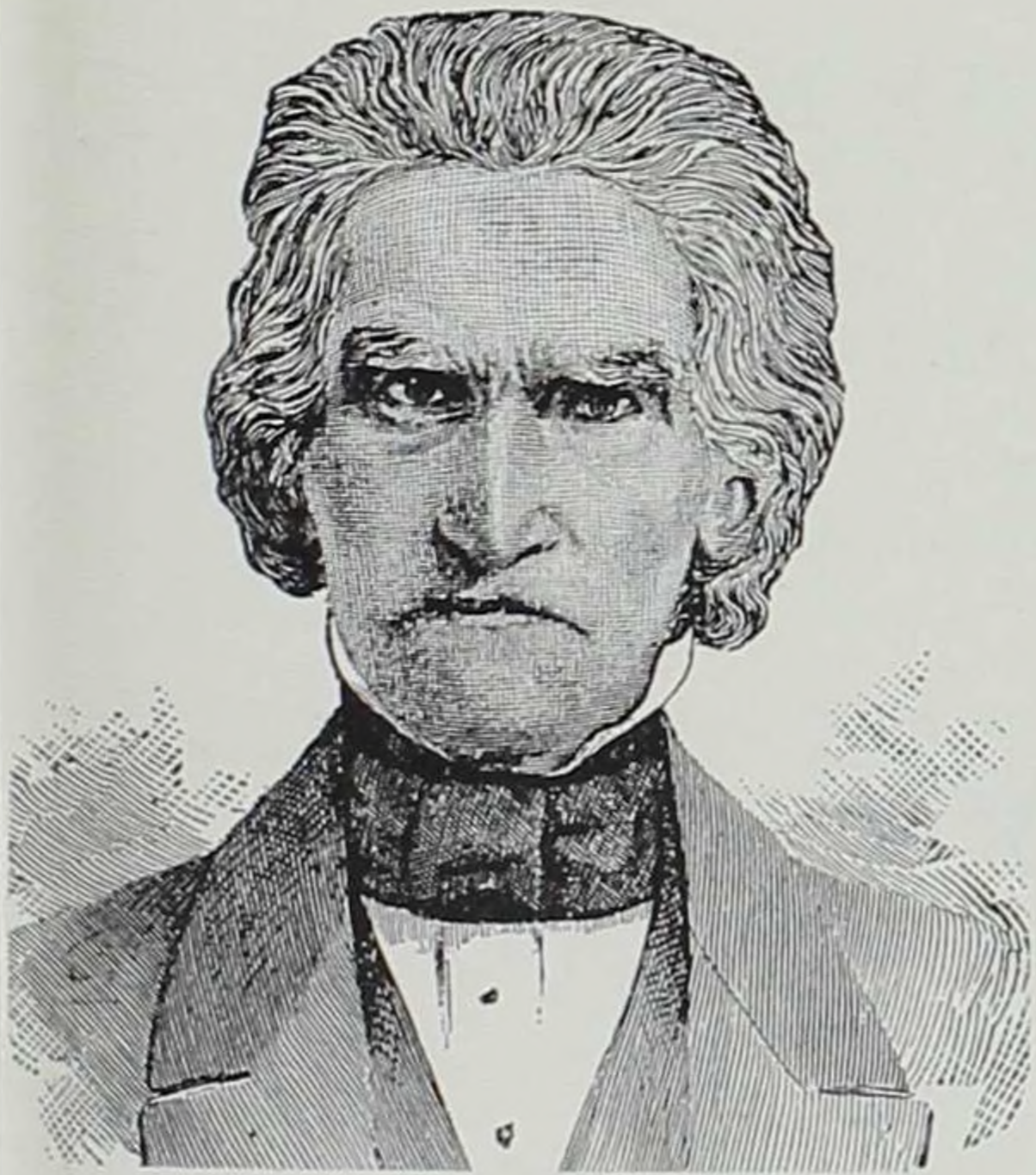


RALPH P. LOWE
Constitutional Convention — 1844

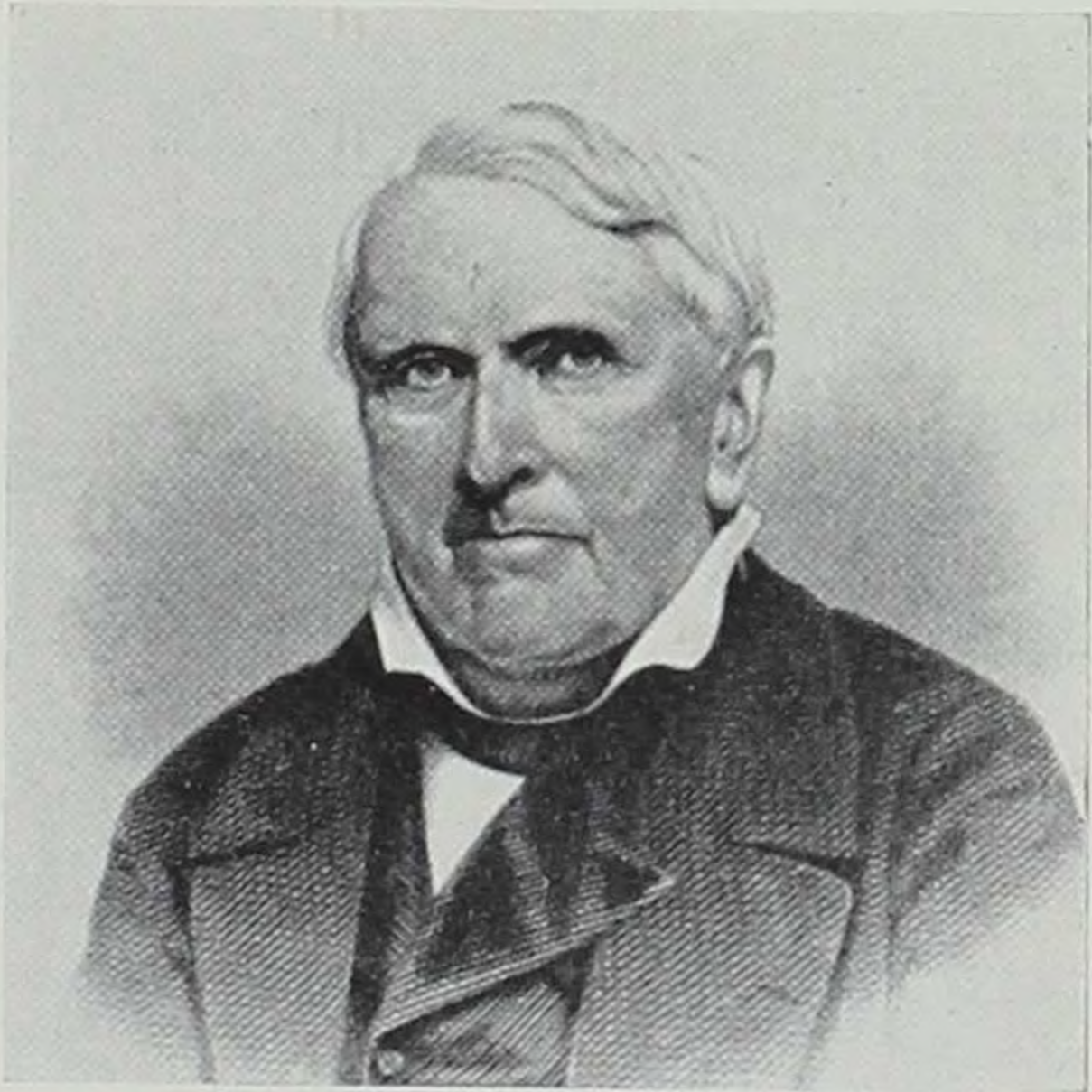


RALPH P. LOWE
4th State Governor — 1858-60

TERRITORIAL AND STATE GOVERNORS

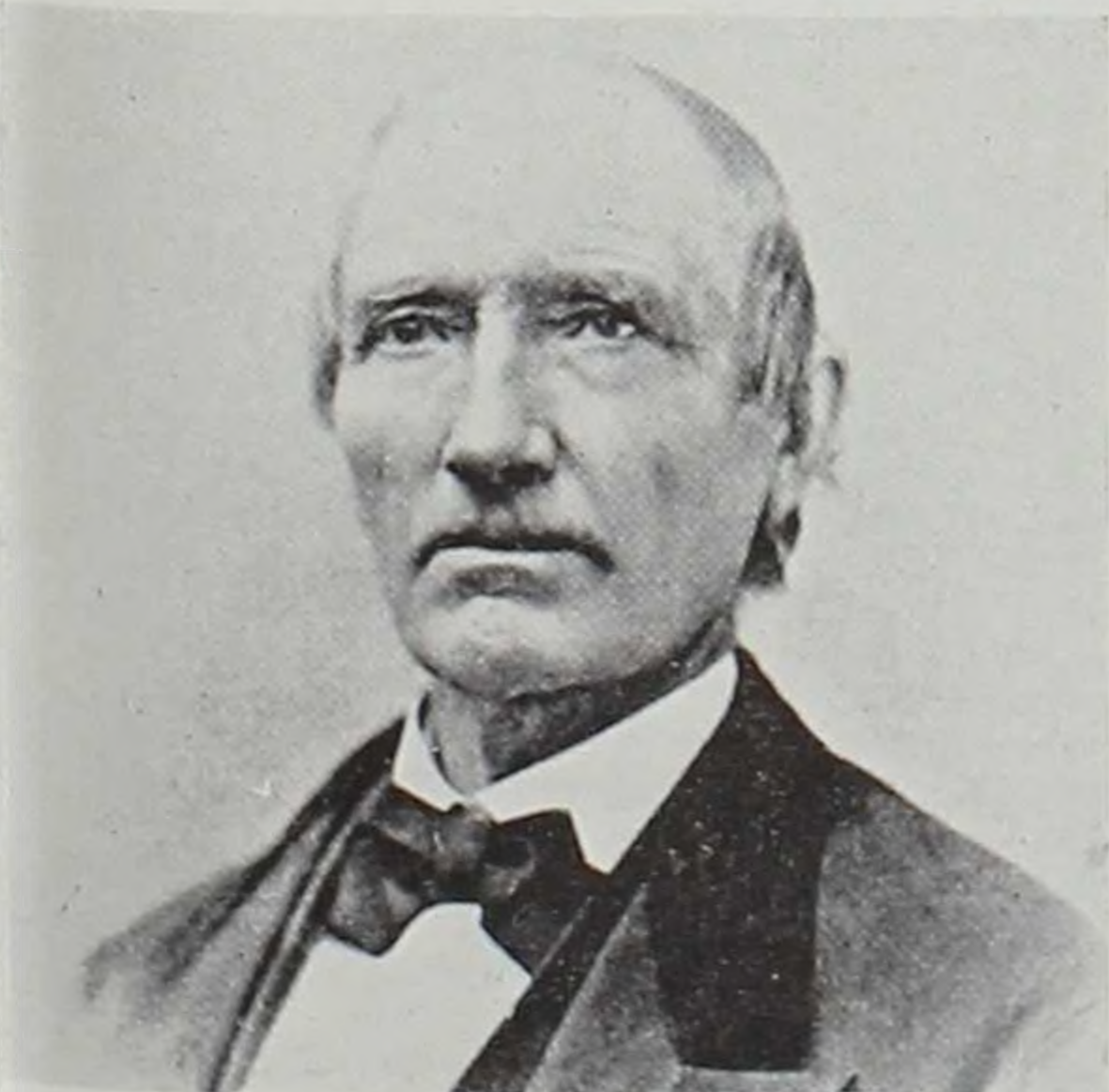
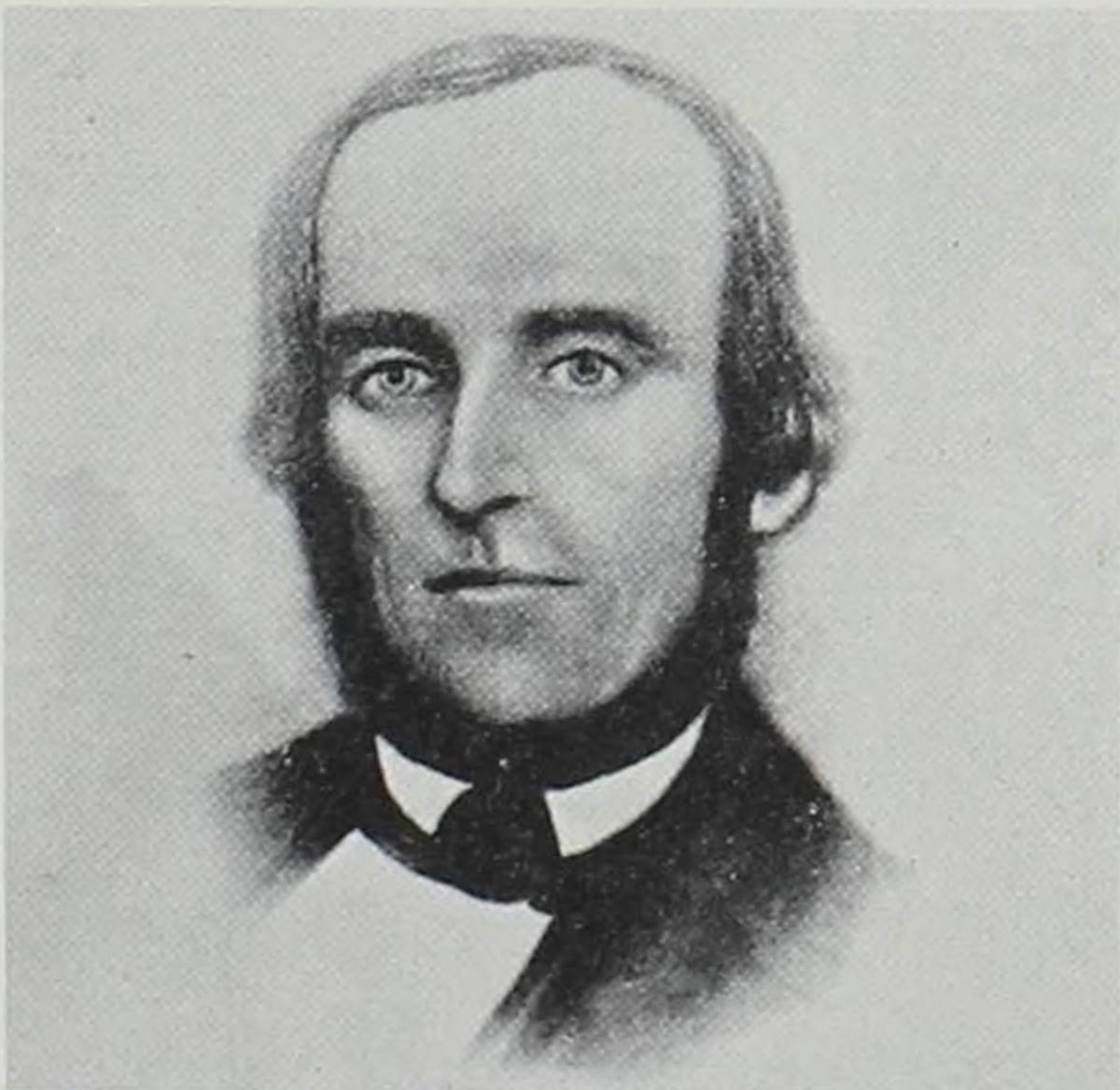


ROBERT LUCAS — 1838-41



JOHN CHAMBERS — 1841-45

JAMES CLARKE
1845-46



ANSEL BRIGGS — 1846-50



STEPHEN HEMPSTEAD — 1850-54

THE STATUTE LAWS
OF THE
TERRITORY OF IOWA,

ENACTED AT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF SAID TERRITORY, HELD AT BURLINGTON, A. D. 1838-'39.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

DU BUQUE:
RUSSELL & REEVES, PRINTERS.
1839.

Title page of the laws enacted by the First Legislative Assembly and
signed by Governor Robert Lucas.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

OFFICERS OF IOWA TERRITORY.

Governors :

| | | |
|---------------------------|------|--------------|
| Robert Lucas, <i>d</i> , | from | 1838 to 1841 |
| John Chambers, <i>w</i> , | " | 1841 to 1845 |
| James Clarke, <i>d</i> , | " | 1845 to 1846 |

Secretaries :

| | | |
|----------------------------|------|--------------|
| Wm. B. Conway, <i>d</i> , | from | 1838 to 1839 |
| James Clarke, <i>d</i> , | " | 1840 to 1841 |
| O. H. W. Stull, <i>w</i> , | " | 1841 to 1848 |
| Samuel J. Burr, <i>w</i> , | " | 1843 to 1845 |
| Jesse Williams, <i>d</i> , | " | 1845 to 1846 |

Supreme Court.

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Charles Mason, <i>d</i> , Chief Justice, | 1838 to 1846 |
| Thos. S. Wilson, <i>d</i> , | do do |
| Joseph Williams, <i>d</i> , | do do |
| George S. Hampton, <i>d</i> , Clerk, | do do |

U. S. Attornies.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------|
| Isaac Van Allen, <i>d</i> , | from | 1838 to 1840 |
| Charles Weston, <i>d</i> , | " | 1840 to 1843 |
| John G. Deshler, <i>w</i> , | " | 1843 to 1845 |
| Edward Johnston, <i>d</i> , | " | 1845 to 1846 |

Marshals.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------|--------------|
| Francis Gehon, <i>d</i> , | from | 1838 to 1841 |
| Thomas Johnson, <i>w</i> , | " | 1841 to 1842 |
| Isaac Leffler, <i>w</i> , | " | 1842 to 1845 |
| Gideon S. Bailey, <i>d</i> , | " | 1845 to 1846 |

Delegates to Congress :

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------|
| Wm. W. Chapman, <i>w</i> , | from | 1838 to 1841 |
| Augustus C. Dodge, <i>d</i> , | from | 1841 to 1846 |

Territorial Agents.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------|
| Chauncey Swan, <i>d</i> , | from | 1839 to 1840 |
| Jesse Williams, <i>d</i> , | " | 1840 to 1842 |
| John M. Coleman, <i>w</i> , | " | 1842 to 1845 |
| Ansen Hart, <i>w</i> , | " | 1845 to 1846 |

Treasurers :

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|--------------|
| T. Bayless, <i>d</i> , | from | 1838 to 1840 |
| Morgan Reno, <i>d</i> , | " | 1840 to 1846 |

Auditors :

| | | |
|------------------------------|------|--------------|
| Jesse Williams, <i>d</i> , | from | 1840 to 1843 |
| W. L. Gilbert, <i>w</i> , | " | 1843 to 1845 |
| Robt. M. Secrest, <i>d</i> , | " | 1845 to 1845 |

Surveyors General, Iowa and Wisconsin.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------|
| Albert G. Ellis, <i>d</i> , | from | 1838 to 1840 |
| Geo. W. Jones, <i>d</i> , | " | 1840 to 1841 |
| James Wilson, <i>w</i> , | " | 1841 to 1845 |
| Geo. W. Jones, <i>d</i> , | " | 1845 to 1846 |

LEGISLATURES AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS.

FIRST ASSEMBLY.

Begun and held at Burlington, November 12th, 1838.

Council :

Stephen Hempstead, *d*
J Keith, *w*
Geo. Hepner, *d*
J W Parker, *d*
Warner Lewis, *d*
Jesse D Payne, *w*
Charles Whittlesey, *w*
Robert Halston, *d*
L B Hughes, *w*
Arthur Ingram, *d*
James M Clarke, *w*
E A M Swazy, *d*
Jesse B Browne, *w* President
B F Wallace, *w* Secretary

House :

Wm Patterson, *d*
James Brierly, *d*
A B Porter, *w*
Thos Blair, *w*
Levi Thornton, *w*
Jabez A Birchard, *d*
Hardin Nowlin, *d*
Hawkins Taylor, *w*
Gideon S Bailey, *d*
James W Grimes, *w*
Geo H Beeler, *d*
S C Hastings, *d*
Chauncey Swan, *d*
Calvin J Price, *d*

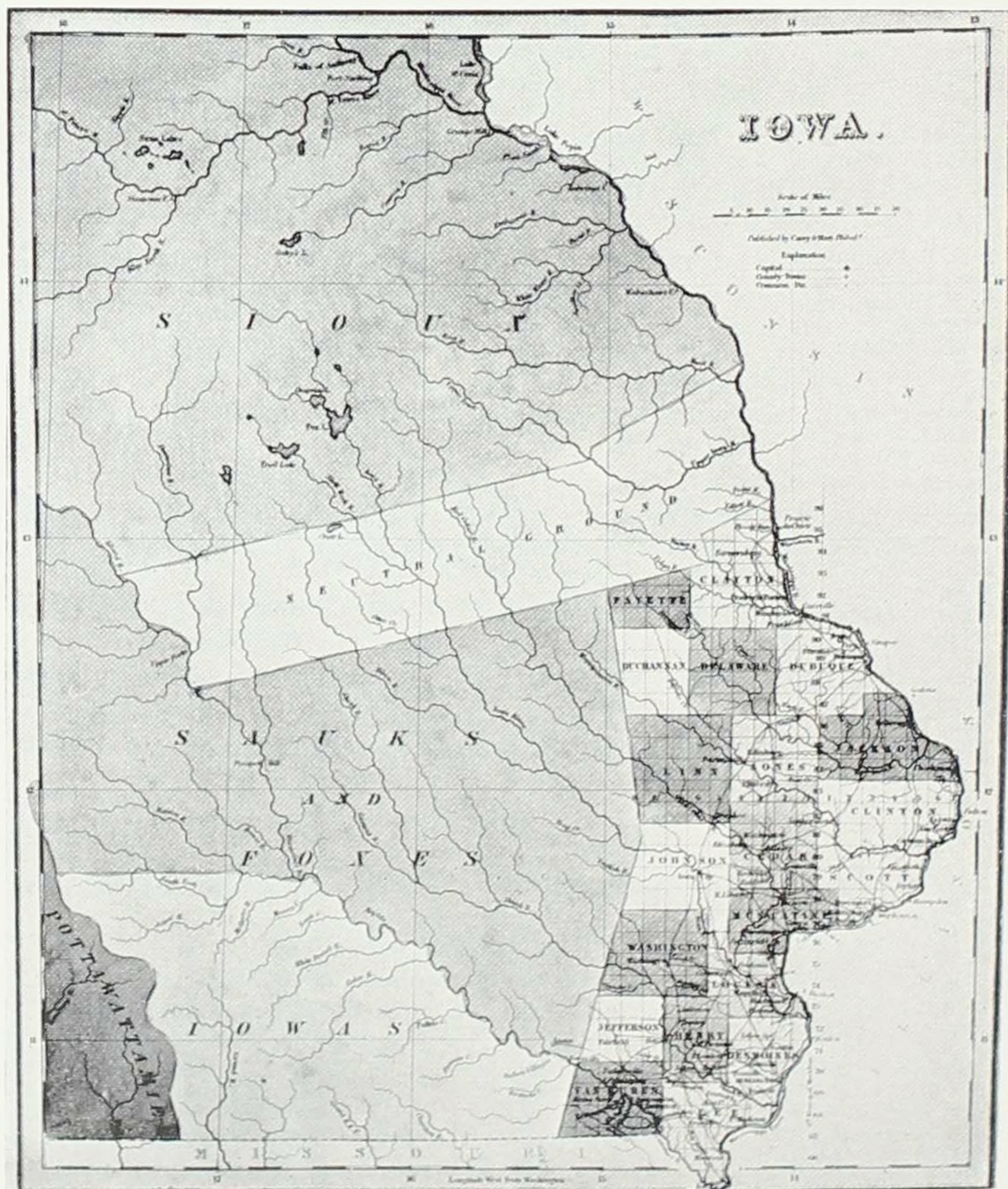
House :

Samuel Parker, *d*
George Temple, *d*
John Frierson, *d*
Robert G. Roberts, *w*
Andrew Bankson, *d*
James Hall, *d*
Wm G Coop, *d*
Van B Delashmutt, *d*
Wm L Toole, *w*
Laurel Summers, *d*
Thos Cox, *d*
Wm H Wallace, *w* Speaker
Jos T Fales, *d* Clerk

Those marked *d*, are Democrats ; *w*, Whigs ; *a n*, Anti-Nebraska ; *r*, Republicans.

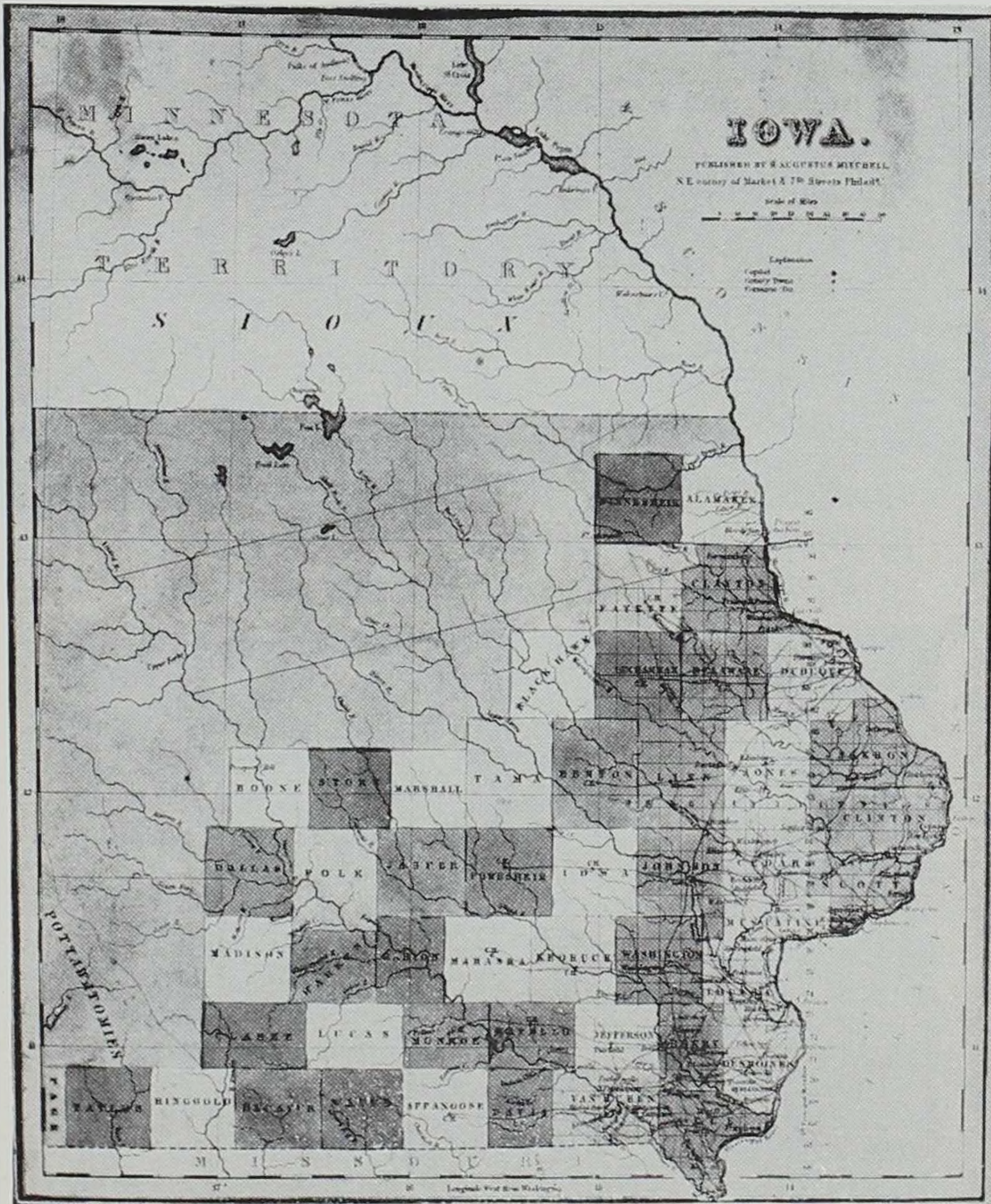
A page of the *Iowa State Almanac and Statistical Register for 1860* listing officers of the Territory and members of the Legislative Assembly who rubbed shoulders with Robert Lucas.

MAP OF THE TERRITORY OF IOWA IN 1838



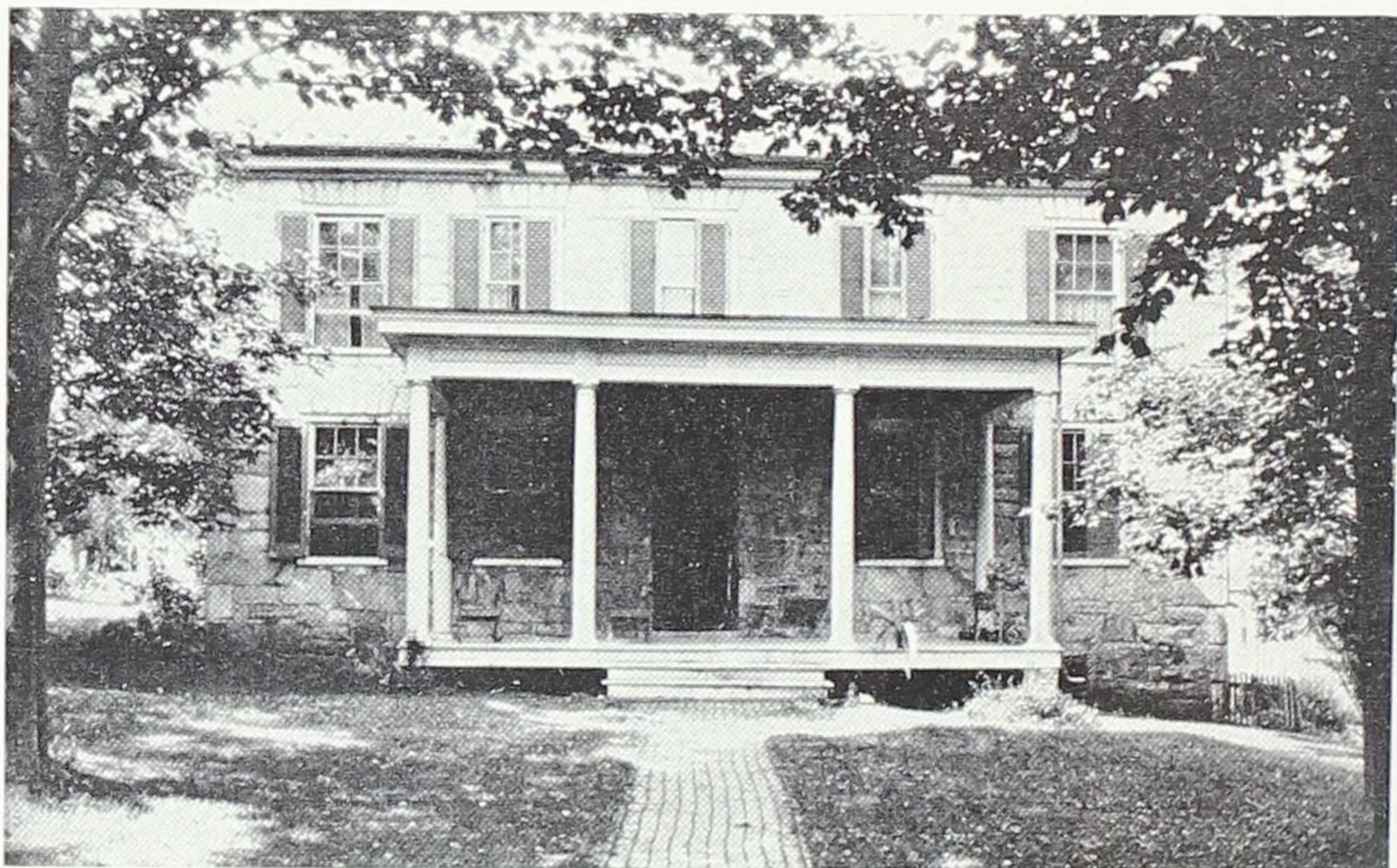
When Governor Robert Lucas arrived in Iowa in 1838 only twenty-one of the present-day counties had been carved out of the Black Hawk Purchase, the Half-Breed Tract, the Keokuk Reserve, and the Second Black Hawk Purchase. All central Iowa was destined to be sold by the Sauk and Fox Indians by the Treaty of 1842 while the Winnebago agreed to be removed out of the Neutral Ground by the Treaty of 1846. The problem of Indian Affairs faced Governor Lucas from the moment he arrived in Iowa.

MAP OF THE TERRITORY OF IOWA IN 1846



Between 1838 and 1846 the population grew from 22,859 to 96,088. The number of counties established showed a similar increase as settlers spilled over into central and northeastern Iowa. That the whole area was burgeoning is demonstrated by the Constitutional Conventions of 1844 and 1846 which led to the admission of Iowa into the Union on December 28, 1846. By the latter year the Lucas family was firmly entrenched in Plum Grove and the aging Governor could look forward to seven years of constructive life in the Hawkeye State.

HOME OF WILLIAM LUCAS IN VIRGINIA (NOW WEST VIRGINIA)



Here Robert Lucas spent his childhood and youth.

THE GRAVE OF ROBERT LUCAS IN IOWA CITY



The inscription reads: ROBERT LUCAS *Died Feb. 7, 1853; Aged 71 Ys. 10 Ms. & 6 Ds.* He served his country in the war of 1812. Was elected twice governor of Ohio. And was the organic governor of Iowa Territory. I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live.

Edward W. Lucas of Iowa City, great grandson of Robert Lucas, stands with his sons at the grave.

The Governor's Tour

Three enterprising towns — Burlington, Davenport, and Dubuque — contended for the seat of government of the Territory of Iowa in 1838. Although the first settlement in each of these pioneer villages had been made after June 1, 1833, they were all equally strong contenders for an honor that could prove to be a real political plum. Burlington had been the capital of the Territory of Wisconsin. More accessible to a majority of the legislators, this metropolis of southern Iowa was the choice of many of the politicians, who appreciated good food and lodging as well as traveling convenience. Although Davenport admitted that hotels and boarding houses and all the "pomp and circumstances" connected with "eating, drinking, and sleeping" should not be overlooked, the *Iowa Sun* urged the selection of that centrally located "lovely little town" by the Governor. Dubuque, the metropolis of northern Iowa, rejoiced in her manifest destiny but remembered that she had once missed becoming the capital of Wisconsin Territory by the collusion of Burlington with the proponents of Madison. The *Iowa News* hoped the Governor would "pay a visit to all the

prominent points in the Territory" before setting the wheels of government in motion. Informed of the jealous rivalry the moment he arrived, Governor Robert Lucas determined to make a tour of the Territory at once.

At two o'clock in the afternoon of August 18th, Robert Lucas boarded the steamboat *Knickerbocker* for Dubuque. He was accompanied by T. S. Parvin and Jesse Williams, the two young aides who had joined him at Cincinnati. Lucas found his quarters aboard the brand-new *Knickerbocker* very comfortable, for the boat had fifty "handsomely furnished" staterooms off the gentlemen's cabin. Captain Van Houton was described as a "fine chap" whose "energy and activity" matched his "urbanity and courteous deportment".

The *Knickerbocker* arrived at Muscatine at ten o'clock that evening, too late for Lucas to see much of the place. When the three tourists awakened the following morning the boat had left Davenport and was proceeding cautiously up the Rock Island Rapids, a "very difficult" stretch of river to navigate during low water. About noon Peter H. Engle, a candidate for Territorial Delegate to Congress, came aboard. Lucas and his companions formed a favorable opinion of Engle.

Puffing steadily upstream against the current, the *Knickerbocker* threaded her way through a

river pock-marked with sandbars. On the site of Clinton a few optimistic settlers were trying to start a town called New York. Bellevue was a flourishing village perched high on the river bank, well-protected from floods. Dusk was falling as they approached the grave of Julien Dubuque on a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi. The *Knickerbocker* reached Dubuque at night and Lucas took lodgings at the Washington Hotel, a temperance house operated by Richard Plumbe.

In the morning the three tourists walked about Dubuque. The town had been beautifully plotted but the "poor landing" did not escape their attention. After returning to the hotel, Lucas interviewed many citizens, including Judge Thomas S. Wilson of the Territorial Supreme Court. That afternoon one of the Langworthys drove Lucas and his companions through the country in his carriage. All were delighted with the view from the bluffs which Parvin noted were covered with grain on the outside and contained lead ore within. That night Parvin sorrowfully recorded: "The Gov. accepted (we refused) an invitation to take tea with Judge [John] King. Said he regretted his 'aids' did not accompany him as there were 3 very fine young ladies — one apiece, so did we!"

On Tuesday morning, August 21st, Lucas and Parvin accompanied R. Farwell to see some speci-

mens of "tiff" or crystalized quartz that had been obtained from the caves in the neighborhood of his diggings. In the afternoon they looked at T. C. Fassitt's fine collection of minerals, petrifications, and Indian curiosities. That evening they took tea with Judge Wilson and were delighted to learn that all present were from Ohio. "Hurrah for the Buckeye land", Parvin recorded in his journal.

Lucas spent two more days in Dubuque, meeting citizens, attending teas, studying the character, needs, and future prospects of the country. At seven o'clock on Friday morning, August 24th, he ferried across the Mississippi with his companions and took the stage for Galena. After the Governor's departure the editor of the *Iowa News* asserted that Dubuque citizens were "unanimously pleased" with Lucas and declared he was "just the man" for the new Territory.

The triumvirate had gone but a few miles when they met George W. Jones, Delegate to Congress, from the Territory of Wisconsin, who was on his way to Dubuque to visit Lucas. After a short chat they continued on their way, having received a hearty invitation to call at the Jones residence on Mount Sinsinawa. All at once their stage broke down and they had to "foot it" till the driver caught up with a wagon. From Jones's home they

secured a fine view of the surrounding country. After a short visit they set out once more for Galena, stopping at Water Melon Hollow long enough to be hoaxed into buying a green melon. It was three o'clock in the afternoon before they reached Galena which Parvin described as "a place of great business and built in opposition to nature".

At 7:30 the next morning they left Galena on the steamboat *Irene*. As they proceeded cautiously down the Fever (Galena) River the pilot rope broke and the *Irene* swooshed into the soft bank. Fortunately no damage was done. Soon they reached the Mississippi and churned rapidly downstream, reaching Davenport that evening. They were met on the bank by Secretary Conway.

Early the following morning, which was Sunday, Lucas and his aides walked about the town and along the river. During the remainder of the forenoon they read religious books, the table of their landlord being well supplied with them. That afternoon they ferried across the Mississippi to Stephenson and heard a New School Presbyterian preach a "plain old sermon". They were accompanied by J. W. Parker and Dr. A. C. Donaldson. Since both Lucas and Parvin had been on the Ohio and Mississippi for three Sabbaths in a row it was a pleasure to once more get "within

the gospel sound". Sunday evening was spent at the home of D. C. Eldridge, an enterprising Davenport merchant.

On the following day Parvin and Williams paid a visit to Antoine Le Claire, who was described as "an intelligent & shrewd fellow" of immense size. Meanwhile, Governor Lucas was busy interviewing many Davenport citizens who received him with "polite attention". The *Iowa Sun* did not know whether Lucas was "pestered with any vexatious enquiries" concerning the place where the legislature would be convened but believed that "justice and propriety" would result in the selection of Davenport.

On Tuesday, August 28th, Lucas set out overland for Rockingham four miles down the river. The stage broke down before they reached their destination but they were soon on their way again. While Lucas conversed with the citizens of Rockingham, Parvin and Williams accompanied Dr. E. S. Barrows back to the hills surrounding the town and secured a fine view of Rock River, Stephenson, and Davenport. On their return they came upon a melon patch and "feasted" to their hearts' content. Meanwhile, the citizens of Rockingham gave a public dinner for Governor Lucas at which nothing stronger than cold water was served. After all had drunk to his health, the Gov-

ernor made a short speech. They spent the evening with John H. Sullivan of Zanesville, Ohio, who was a leading citizen in this community of forty-five buildings, including homes, stores, and workshops.

On the following morning the gubernatorial party set out for Bloomington in a rude conveyance, being accompanied a short distance by J. H. Sullivan, E. S. Barrows, and A. H. Davenport. At noon they stopped at the home of a Mr. Viele, a gentleman from Troy, New York. Their hospitable host had three "grown up" daughters who quickly caught the eye of young Parvin. No where in the Territory had the weary travelers found any one living in finer style. Leaving the pleasant surroundings of the Viele home, they hastened onward along the bank of the Mississippi, rumbling into Muscatine at night. Parvin again noted that they could not see much of the town. Apparently, however, Lucas had no intention of selecting Muscatine as the capital, for when a steamboat came along a few hours later they took passage for Burlington.

At daybreak they arrived at "home sweet home" after a twelve-day tour of the Territory of Iowa. "Our object", Parvin recorded, "had been to view the country with the view of examining the claims of various parts for the seat of temporary

government and came to the conclusion that for the present that Burlington is the *place*."

Governor Lucas promptly rented an office and prepared for business. A few days later he attended a banquet given in his honor by the citizens of Burlington. In response to a toast the veteran statesman revealed that his tour had yielded much information about the Territory. When he received his commission, Lucas declared, he knew little about Iowa, "but supposed that her population was the same as is generally found in frontier settlements — hospitable, yet rude. In this, he was most agreeably disappointed. For intelligence and enterprise, he expressed his firm conviction, based on actual observation since his arrival, Iowa Territory would compare with any of the western, aye, and some of the eastern states, too. With a people of this character, it would be his greatest pleasure to co-operate, in the forming of laws calculated to secure them in the exercise of their political rights, to develop the resources of their country, and secure the prompt and easy administration of justice."

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Business and Industry

Business showed an upward trend in the Iowa country. At Dubuque the firm of G. A. Shannon & Company advised readers of the *Iowa News* in June, 1838, that they had just received a heavy consignment of goods direct from New Orleans. Included in the cargo discharged at the Dubuque levee were ten bags of coffee, ten sacks of fine salt, fifteen baskets of champagne wine, and ten boxes of champagne cider. There were also fifteen boxes of codfish, two boxes of tobacco, ten boxes of raisins, five boxes of lemons, and seventeen of tea. Ragged roustabouts rolled down the gang-plank fifteen kegs of nails, twenty-five kegs of tar, two barrels of sugar, five barrels of molasses, six barrels of common brandy, a barrel of common gin, and some New Orleans rum. The remainder of the cargo included anything from rifle powder and hair powder to cinnamon and nutmegs, with a general assortment of dry goods, saddlery, hats, boots, and shoes chucked in for good measure.

The Territory of Iowa was not self-sufficient. Southern and eastern manufacturers generally found a ready market for their products among

the 22,859 inhabitants of Iowaland. Though most of the pioneers were farmers they were unable to satisfy their own needs, and so large quantities of seed, grain, and livestock were imported. A flotilla of steamboats plied the upper Mississippi between Saint Louis and the mineral region to leave their tribute of freight and passengers at the rapidly sprouting towns along the way. On April 18, 1838, the Fort Madison *Patriot* declared that nearly 300,000 tons of merchandise had been transported over the Des Moines Rapids in 1837 and estimated that the amount to be carried in 1838 would be very much more.

Not all the merchandise transported over the Des Moines Rapids was destined for the west bank of the Mississippi. A considerable amount was discharged at the various towns in Illinois. Galena, the metropolis of the mineral region, received the lion's share carried above the rapids while Quincy was the leading market between Alton and the rapids. Ambrose Kimball, a Galena merchant, advertised in the Dubuque newspaper throughout the year 1838 that the steamboat *North Star* had delivered a cargo of sofas, bureaus, dining tables, center tables, the latest ladies' work tables, high post bedsteads, common bedsteads, and 1200 chairs that sold from \$14 to \$150 per dozen. Iowa pioneers often traded in

Galena, Quincy, and Saint Louis. Merchants stocked their counters with goods from Louisville, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh. The stationery and supplies for the Territorial legislature were purchased at Saint Louis.

Although a large amount of food, dry goods, hardware, household supplies, and implements were imported, industries were being established in the Black Hawk Purchase. Charles W. Pierce and James Prine established a shop above the land office in Burlington where they were kept busy making "all kinds of cabinet furniture and chairs cheap for cash." An advertisement in the *Iowa Territorial Gazette* called attention to the "Coachmaking, Carriagemaking, and Blacksmithing" business which was carried on at the shop of Sterling & Withington at Burlington. These two enterprising manufacturers promised to repair all wagons and carriages at the lowest charges and on the shortest notice. They were also prepared to make sleighs to order in a "very superior style". The village blacksmith was an integral part of the flourishing pioneer community in 1838.

At Dubuque a wheelright and plough maker named Adam J. Anderson informed readers of the *Iowa News* that he had taken a home immediately adjoining Mr. Young's blacksmith shop. Anderson planned to carry on the wheelright business

in all its branches, including plough and sleigh making. In his well-equipped shop he was prepared to repair carriages of all sorts on the shortest notice and lowest terms for cash and cash only.

D. C. Eldridge erected a large shop near his residence in Davenport and respectfully informed the readers of the *Iowa Sun* that he intended to engage in the business of carriage making and blacksmithing in all their various branches. Eldridge made or repaired steel springs in good style and constructed all kinds of sleighs. His business was in such a flourishing condition that he employed a number of first-rate journeymen, and hoped to merit the patronage of a generous public.

L. W. Babbitt established himself as Burlington's leading gunsmith in July, 1838. He was prepared to manufacture "Plain or *Fancy Rifles* and Fowling guns, Patent Percussion Pistols, warranted to shoot, as well as rifles of the same calibre, *Repeating Rifles*, Prison and common door locks, Printer's chases, Friskets and Sticks, State and County Seals, Blacksmith's and Joiner's stamps for marking tools, Hand screw Plates, &c, &c." This versatile gunsmith could alter flintlock rifles so as to fire with "cap or pill percussion powder". He was also expert at "re-stocking, cutting, sighting, drawboring" and other kinds of

repairing. Old rifles and fowling pieces, Babbitt pointed out, could be browned, plain or in imitation of stub and twist guns. The latter type of guns could be browned and warranted to look as good as new. Mr. Babbitt always kept a good supply of rifle and percussion powder on hand.

During the summer of 1838 William Dolan and William H. Ladd established a tin, sheet iron, and stove factory in Burlington. In contrast to the economic theory of apostles of scarcity, these two enterprising artisans wrote "Industry the Means and Plenty the Result" over their advertisement in the *Iowa Territorial Gazette*. Modestly they declared: "Both of us being practical workmen, and having had considerable experience in the business, the public may at all times, rely on getting good articles, on good terms, as we intend selling at the St. Louis prices, wholesale and retail. We have now and intend keeping constantly on hand, Stoves of every description, viz. Franklin box, ten and seven plates, also the premium cooking which gives general satisfaction; some are now in operation in this place, which we will refer to on application. P. S. Sheet Iron Stoves and Stove pipe, House guttering and spouting, made to order on the shortest notice."

Some of the more skillful craftsmen had made their way to the Iowa country. By 1838 A. W.

Carpenter, an experienced jeweler, had established his jewelry and watchmaker's shop in Fort Madison. His store was located "on Water Street at the sign of the Golden Watch". Carpenter invited the attention of the public to his general assortment of clocks, watches, and jewelry, as well as to the great variety of articles usually kept in his line. He believed his experience as a jeweler, together with the superior quality of his stock, would give general satisfaction to all his patrons.

To have a local jeweler was no small advantage for the straggling frontier towns. Citizens of Davenport had to cross the Mississippi to Stephenson where R. H. Kinney, a watchmaker and jeweler, had opened a store. Kinney used the columns of the *Iowa Sun* to inform residents of Davenport that he kept "constantly on hand an assortment of Watches, Jewelry, and Fancy Ware, consisting in part of the following articles. Patent Lever, plain, English, French and Swiss Watches; Steel plated and Ribband Watch Chains, Watch Keys and Seals, Ear ornaments, Finger Rings, Breastpins, Tea and Table spoons, Silver Pencil Leads, Pen and Pocket Knives, Pocket Compasses, Percussion Caps, Caps, Wallets, Visiting Cards, Scissors, Silver and Steel Spectacles, Silver Thimbles, Silver Tweezers, Violin Strings,

Belt Buckles, &c &c." The versatile Mr. Kinney repaired all clocks and watches and guaranteed that they would perform well.

Fort Madison could point with pride to its two tailor shops. E. A. Dickey was ready to execute all orders as a merchant tailor "in the most Fashionable Style". According to the *Fort Madison Patriot*, Matthews and Husted "have made arrangements to obtain the latest fashions from Philadelphia, and are prepared to cut and make garments of every description which they will warrant to *fit* with ease and neatness. They may at all times be found at their stand on Water Street, in the building recently occupied as Bul-lard's Grocery, where they will be pleased to see their Customers."

Few women were employed in any other than household duties. Even the schools were usually taught by men, though Mrs. Louisa King's school for young ladies in Dubuque, established in 1836, was still flourishing in 1838.

Women were so scarce on the mining frontier that the wages of domestic servants ran from eight to ten dollars a month. A Dubuque editor pointed out that women received five times as much for sewing as was paid female workers in Philadelphia. Miss R. M. Pearce informed the Davenport ladies that she was prepared to clean and

dress bonnets, in the neatest and most fashionable manner. "She is furnished with the latest fashions from the eastern cities", the *Iowa Sun* reported, "and from a thorough knowledge of her business, and a disposition to accommodate she hopes to receive a portion of public patronage."

Only four newspapers were published in Iowa in 1838. These establishments were also equipped to do all kinds of job printing. The *Iowa News* was well supplied with job type and the proprietors were prepared to "execute on the shortest notice, all kinds of plain and fancy job printing such as blanks of all kinds, bills of lading, business and visiting cards, ball tickets, labels, etc."

The amount of capital invested and the number of men employed in the printing and publishing industry were small in 1838 — probably not more than in 1840 when fifteen printers and an investment of \$5700 were recorded by the federal census. If this seems like a small beginning for what has become one of the major industries in Iowa, it should be remembered that the total population in the Black Hawk Purchase was only about half the present population of the city of Dubuque.

Most of the communities of Iowa Territory were supplied with a grist mill and sawmill in 1838. A number of these had been in operation

since 1834, but most of them had been running less than a year. The steamboat *Rolla* brought a \$3500 steam sawmill to Dubuque from Pittsburgh in 1837. In Muscatine County alone Weare Long operated a sawmill on Sweetland Creek; Benjamin Nye had a grist mill at the mouth of Pine Creek; and Eli Reynolds and John Lawson ran a steam sawmill in Geneva at the mouth of Lime Creek. An important flouring mill in Des Moines County was owned by Levi Moffit at Augusta on the Skunk River. By 1840 there were six flouring mills, thirty-seven grist mills, and seventy-five sawmills operating in Iowa Territory. The capital invested in these mills was \$166,650, the number of men employed totalled 154, and the value of the manufacturers was set at \$95,425 yearly. In 1838 the figures were probably not less than half these totals.

Meat packing had not assumed the dignity of an industry in 1838, although a number of butchers plied their trade. At Dubuque their habit of throwing bones in the street caused the enactment of an ordinance to halt such practices. J. B. Lawson of Burlington agreed to call on farmers at their residences or meet them at the land sales with cash to buy their livestock and other produce. Patterson & Mitchell, butchers, offered to pay top prices for "all kinds of fatted stock — cattle, hogs,

sheep, and for hides". They promised to "steadily and extensively pursue" the business of butchering in a satisfactory manner. A Fort Madison butcher kept fresh beef on hand to supply steamboat larders.

Wood was the chief fuel on the frontier. Although most of the pioneers doubtless cut their own supply, many, particularly in the towns, were unable to do so. For this reason some of the pioneers found employment as professional woodchoppers. In addition to winter supplies, the steamboats consumed large quantities of fuel. H. H. Gear advertised all winter in the *Iowa News* for woodchoppers to cut four or five hundred cords of wood on the Mississippi near the Tetes des Morts River. Located half way between Dubuque and Bellevue, such an immense supply must have been intended for steamboats which either turned up the Fever River to Galena at this point or continued up the Mississippi to Dubuque. Some of the men at Bellevue who were associated with William Brown's gang of horse thieves and counterfeiters found profitable employment as woodchoppers for steamboats.

Although most of the Iowa pioneers lived in log cabins, frame, brick, and stone houses were being erected throughout the Territory. The larger towns already had well-stocked lumber yards. At

Burlington, for example, E. Evans advertised 150,000 feet of white pine lumber for sale at from twenty to forty dollars' per thousand feet at his Board Yard. J. Lamson had 30,000 feet of white pine lumber from New York State. J. Prime & Company had 3000 window sash for sale at his yard in Burlington. Some of this lumber was brought from distant Pittsburgh, but most of it was floated down the Mississippi from the Wisconsin pineries. "So soon as lumber can be brought down the river, building will commence," declared the *Iowa News* on March 31, 1838. By fall the editor expected lumber would be brought down the Wisconsin from mills built in the extensive pineries ceded by the Chippewas in 1837. The Fort Madison *Patriot* chided Dubuque for its lethargy, pointing out that steamboats had already arrived at that port from Pittsburgh and Saint Louis with lumber for building. Dubuque ignored this rivalry. She quickly demonstrated her interest in the huge rafts of lumber already coming downstream by allowing them free wharfage at the Dubuque dock whenever the raft was intended for the local sawmill.

Brick and stone were less commonly used for building, although Davenport could already boast of a brick-yard opened by Harvey Leonard. David Rorer occupied a brick house at Burlington,

said to be the first of its kind. James and Edward Langworthy added two brick houses to a number already constructed at Dubuque. J. N. Osborn informed citizens of Dubuque that he was prepared to execute promptly all orders as a stone cutter and mason. Stone masons were active in other parts of the Territory.

During the summer of 1838 three men set out across the Mississippi from Appanoose to Fort Madison in a flatboat loaded with stone and lime. Suddenly a squall struck them and the boat filled and sank. One of the men, Samuel Oliver, was drowned but the others managed to swim ashore.

Wages in the Territory of Iowa were high in 1838. Farm laborers received from twenty to twenty-five dollars a month, miners got anywhere from twenty to fifty dollars, depending upon their experience. Mechanics received from two to three dollars per day. A driver who furnished a yoke of oxen or a two-horse team could expect to be paid from four to five dollars a day. The *Iowa News* felt that such wages "must be to the advantage of the laboring and poor of the eastern States" who planned to migrate to the Iowa country.

Industry, however, was still in an embryonic stage a century ago. Most of the pioneers erected their own homes, made their own candles and

soap, raised much of their own food, and made most of their own clothes. The simplicity of industrial development is attested by the minute directions for the preparation of shoe blacking which found their way into the pages of the *Iowa Sun*. "Perhaps the best in the world is made from elder berries. Mash the berries in your hand in a large kettle of water, set them in the shade a few days, filling it with water. After it is cool, strain and wring them through a coarse cloth, and then boil it down to the thickness of molasses. Put a small quantity with a feather on the brush, rub the shoe until there is a fine gloss. The same will make good writing ink."

But if industry was undeveloped it was nevertheless important. Population was growing steadily each year. Skilled artisans were making their way slowly westward, attracted by the high wages and the opportunity for a better life on the frontier. Lack of regular transportation and communication doubtless delayed the establishment of trade and industry during the long winter months. A century later the returns from industry in Iowa were destined to rival those derived from agriculture. A number of the giant industries of the twentieth century trace their beginnings to the year when the Territory of Iowa was created.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

In the Fields

In 1838 the United States was still a nation of farmers. The North and South were divided on the slavery issue. Internal improvements, and the disposition of the public domain were burning sectional issues over which the East and West haggled bitterly. Lured across the Alleghenies by rich, cheap, abundant land, the pioneer agriculturists carved out seven new Western States — Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana — during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, sapping the original thirteen States of much of their man power. The admission of Arkansas (1836) and Michigan (1837), followed by the clamor for the division of the Territory of Wisconsin in 1838, only served to heighten the jealousy between the East and the West and accentuate Southern apprehension.

Every effort was made in the East to induce disgruntled farmers to remain at home. In the spring of 1838 the *Yankee Farmer* told of a man in Maine who had raised his wheat at a cost of not more than thirty-five cents a bushel. "Can Farmers raise grain at less expense on the Western Prairies, where it sells at half the price it brings in

Maine?" queried the eastern editor triumphantly. The question was promptly answered. "To be sure we can", replied the *Milwaukee Sentinel*. The western editor believed the "rich and productive" prairies between Michigan and the Missouri River could produce more wheat on a single acre than Maine could on three acres. "Why, we should say it would take more time, hard work and money, to clear off the timber and underbrush from ten of your wild acres in Maine, than to *acquire* a large Farm in Wisconsin, and put a crop in to boot. Humph! we should as soon think of comparing the jungles of Siam with the delta of the Nile as to place the woods of Maine in competition with the prolific Prairies" of Wisconsin and Iowa.

When the new Territory of Iowa was created the press and the people were almost unanimous in their praise of its soil and climate. "Iowa is a great Territory", declared the *Davenport Iowa Sun*. "The agricultural advantages of this country are immense; and lying as it does, for hundreds of miles along the western margin of the majestic Mississippi, its commercial conveniences are certainly surpassed by no interior state in the union. No country is capable of supporting a larger amount of population."

After pointing out that the Territory already had a surprisingly large population, the editor

concluded: "Let our friends in the east, not attempt to dream, that we are here in a wilderness." The Black Hawk Purchase "has much the appearance of an old country. The same amount of *capital* and *labor* that would make a handsome farm in Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland, Virginia, or in any of the old thirteen states, in twenty-five years, would make a better and handsomer farm in Iowa in *one-fifth* of that time. This may surprise many farmers who have not seen this country; but it is nevertheless true. Industrious persons who select Iowa as a home, may safely promise themselves the richest, the most abundant rewards for their labor. The *idle* had better keep away."

Cutting Marsh, a missionary among the Stockbridge Indians of Wisconsin, considered the Black Hawk Purchase "most valuable" for "agricultural purposes" and thought much of its fertile soil was "unsurpassed" by any land he had seen east of the Mississippi. Marsh believed the rolling prairies of southern Iowa would "abundantly reward the labors of the husbandman". The soil on the Red Cedar could raise "corn and vegetables in great abundance" with "comparatively little labor". The lower Des Moines Valley seemed to be "formed by nature for agriculture" and would soon "be covered with flocks and herds".

Although Father Mazzuchelli was schooled in the ways of a clergyman, his analysis of the future productivity of the country was not unworthy of an agronomist. "The land of this Territory is very fertile, especially towards the south;" he observed. All kinds of "grain can be cultivated there, domestic animals find rich pasturage for seven months of the year in the vast prairie lands." As a horticulturist, however, he was scarcely entitled to the rôle of a prophet. "But no fruit bearing trees are native there, and those transplanted from other countries rarely come to maturity; the apple is the only fruit that seems to suit the soil and climate of Iowa, especially in the upper part".

Albert M. Lea was particularly interested in the agricultural prospects of the country and made many observations and inquiries concerning it. "The agricultural productions", he recorded, "consist chiefly of maize, wheat, rye, oats, and potatoes. The large white corn of the south may be produced as far north as Rock Island, and yields from fifty to one hundred bushels per acre; but the yellow flint-corn grows well anywhere, and yields from forty to seventy-five bushels per acre; the latter is the more certain crop. Wheat is produced with a facility unknown except in the west. I have known the sod of the prairie to be simply turned over, the seed harrowed in, and thirty bushels per

acre to be harvested. But the usual crop, after the first, is from twenty-five to forty bushels per acre with negligent farming. Oats yield usually from sixty to seventy bushels per acre, and seventy-five bushels have been cut at Du Buque. Potatoes grow abundantly, and are famous throughout the west for their fine quality."

Unfavorable weather, always a hazard for farmers, seriously threatened Iowa crops in 1838. The year began so mildly that one Dubuque farmer was found "prairie breaking" on New Year's Day. Mid-January was likened to "Indian summer", with the Mississippi free of ice. Winter struck like a rapier in February: the wind whistled "rudely and loudly" through the log cabins at Burlington, the Mississippi was soon frozen as "tight as a drumhead", and the weather turned so cold that Burlington thermometers were "all too short". March came in like a lion but went out like the proverbial lamb, steamboat arrivals being recorded at Dubuque before the month closed. The weather was so "mild and balmy" that many planted vegetables, only to have them "nipt" by the chilling April frosts. May was cold and rainy. Bottom lands were flooded. As if in perverse response to the Burlington editor's complaint that there had been no more than a day or so of "warm weather", the month ended with a killing frost.

Farmers gloomily predicted a poor harvest unless June brought warm weather. By mid-June the rains had come in answer to the "prayers of the righteous" and herbage could be seen almost "hopping from the earth."

Extremely warm weather in July proved "favorable for harvesting" around Burlington, and the *Iowa Territorial Gazette* expressed delight with the flattering accounts of crops. In no case were they "less characterized for their excellent quality than for quantity." There would be "enough and to spare" to meet the "vast influx of population" and still allow something for exportation. Wheat was only fair but a large yield of corn and oats was expected and it was generally felt that these would "rarely ever fail" in Iowa. "For potatoes and turnips", the *Gazette* declared, "we will yield to no country on earth. Every species of garden vegetables, suitable to the climate, can, too, be produced of a size and quality and in an abundance, unsurpassed."

A month later, on August 18th, the *Iowa News* reported "very unfavorable" weather for farming. "We understand that considerable quantities of wheat have spoiled in the shock, in consequence of the frequent rains which have taken place since the time of cutting. Corn, which has now come to perfection, cannot ripen fast during damp and

chilly weather, yet should the fall prove dry and warm, the crop will prove very good. Rains, such as we have lately had, are unfrequent in this country. The quantity of hay usually put up will fall short of previous seasons, unless we soon have a change of weather." August showers were followed by a long season of drought.

Despite adverse weather conditions, there were ample evidences of the natural productivity of the Iowa soil. In October the Burlington editor was shown a small quantity of Baden corn which grew ten to fourteen feet high and promised to yield well when properly cultivated. In December a twelve-foot stalk of Baden corn with "eleven tolerably sized ears" was brought to the office of the *Iowa Territorial Gazette*. It was taken from a Van Buren County field and the editor was assured that the yield would amount to 150 bushels an acre.

Several remarkable vegetables were exhibited by Iowa farmers. "Beat This!" exclaimed the *Iowa News* on November 17th when a Jackson County farmer produced a cucumber weighing five pounds and three ounces and measuring eighteen inches in length and sixteen inches in circumference. A melon was raised by N. J. Lymon eight miles from Davenport that was two feet long, three and one-third feet in circumference, and weighed twenty-three pounds. "Here is another specimen

of the productiveness of the soil of Iowa", boasted the *Iowa Sun*. "These elegant lands will soon be all occupied by industrious and enterprising settlers" who would have to "undergo many privations" for a short time but would ultimately surmount all obstacles and be abundantly rewarded.

It was not merely the hope of attracting more immigrants to the Territory of Iowa that caused optimistic crop reports. The pioneers were also doing some wishful thinking. They needed surplus grain to sell for cash with which to pay for their claims. Some of these sturdy farmers had come to the Black Hawk Purchase with the first influx of settlers in 1833; over half had arrived after 1836. They had toiled hard — staking out their claims, clearing the forests, breaking the tough prairie sod, sowing and harvesting their crops, raising their cabins, building sheds, and constructing fences. They had done all this with little cost except their labor. Iowa land was first offered for sale by the government in October, 1838, before some of the settlers had time to accumulate the necessary funds. Small wonder, then, that the farmers were concerned about the crops in 1838. One Burlington merchant offered to pay the highest price for corn and cattle, meeting the farmer at his home before October 19th, or paying him spot cash at the land sales.

Probably the census figures provided the most reliable evidence of the fertility of Iowa's soil, as well as an index of the crops being cultivated. According to the United States census of 1840, the total yield of cereals in Iowa that year was 1,788,051 bushels, divided as follows: 1,406,241 bushels of Indian corn, 154,693 bushels of wheat, 216,385 bushels of oats, 3,792 bushels of rye, 728 bushels of barley, and 6,212 bushels of buckwheat. The potato crop totalled 234,063 bushels. Although the amount of wheat raised was not sufficient to feed the 43,112 inhabitants in 1840, it was estimated that the total cereal production was more than five times as much as was needed. In 1838, with half the population and probably less than half as much land under cultivation, production must have been fifty per cent less than the total two years later. This is all the more likely because of the late spring and wet August in 1838.

The Territory of Iowa had also forged ahead in livestock. The census of 1840 enumerated 10,794 horses and mules, 38,049 cattle, 15,354 sheep, and 104,899 swine. This was probably a little more than twice as many as in 1838. It is interesting to note that the total number of livestock was practically double the census figures for the Territory of Wisconsin.

Newspaper editors filled their columns with ad-

vice for improving the methods of agriculture. Thus, farmers were advised to boil potatoes before feeding them to stock. This was alleged to increase the nutrition so that only half the quantity would be needed. An excerpt from the *Yankee Farmer* printed in February at Burlington maintained that timber cut during the winter would last longer. When a farmer near Dubuque caught and raised a young elk the local editor suggested that persons might make it a "profitable business" to catch elk calves in the spring and train them to maturity, when "a swifter sleigh ride could not be had in Lapland" than with an elk-drawn sled on the Mississippi.

The methods of agriculture in 1838 were not much improved over those practiced by the American colonists on the Atlantic seaboard two centuries before the Territory of Iowa was created. The reaper had been invented but was not yet being manufactured. A 160-acre farm could be staked out and purchased for \$1.25 an acre: a century later the average value of land was around \$88 an acre. In 1838 the log cabin was raised in the Black Hawk Purchase at virtually no cost save the labor of the pioneer and his neighbors. In 1930 the average farm dwelling in Davis County cost \$1676 while that in Scott County cost \$3266. Comparison of the price of farm implements then

and now is indicated by the disparity in cost of a breaking plow and a tractor. Although the prices farmers received for their products during the 1830's were almost the same as those received a century later, the difference in the total value of production was tremendous. In 1840 the value of poultry of all kinds was \$16,529. In 1936 Iowa poultry was worth \$26,841,552, while eggs added \$40,205,502 more to the total value of farm products which amounted to \$537,105,540. The most optimistic editor or farmer of 1838 could scarcely have conceived the changes which a century was to bring in agriculture.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Robert Lucas,

GOVERNOR OF THE TERRITORY OF IOWA.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME—GREETING:

Know Ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the integrity and ability of *T. S. Parvin,*

I have nominated, and ~~by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council~~ appointed him

Librarian, of the Territory aforesaid—

And I do hereby authorize and empower him to execute and fulfill the duties of that office according to law: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the said office, with all the rights, privileges, and emoluments thereunto belonging, *until the end of the next session of the Legislature aforesaid;*

unless the Governor of the said Territory, for the time being, should think proper sooner to revoke and determine this Commission.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the

Great Seal of the Territory to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND, at Burlington, *Tenth* day of

April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine,

and of the Independence of the United States of America, the 63d.

BY THE GOVERNOR.

Robert Lucas

Robert Lucas was a firm believer in libraries and education. His private secretary, Theodore Sutton Parvin, founder of the Masonic Library in Cedar Rapids, was an admirable choice for Librarian for the Territory of Iowa.



Front View of Plum Grove — Home of Governor Lucas



Rear View of Robert Lucas Home