

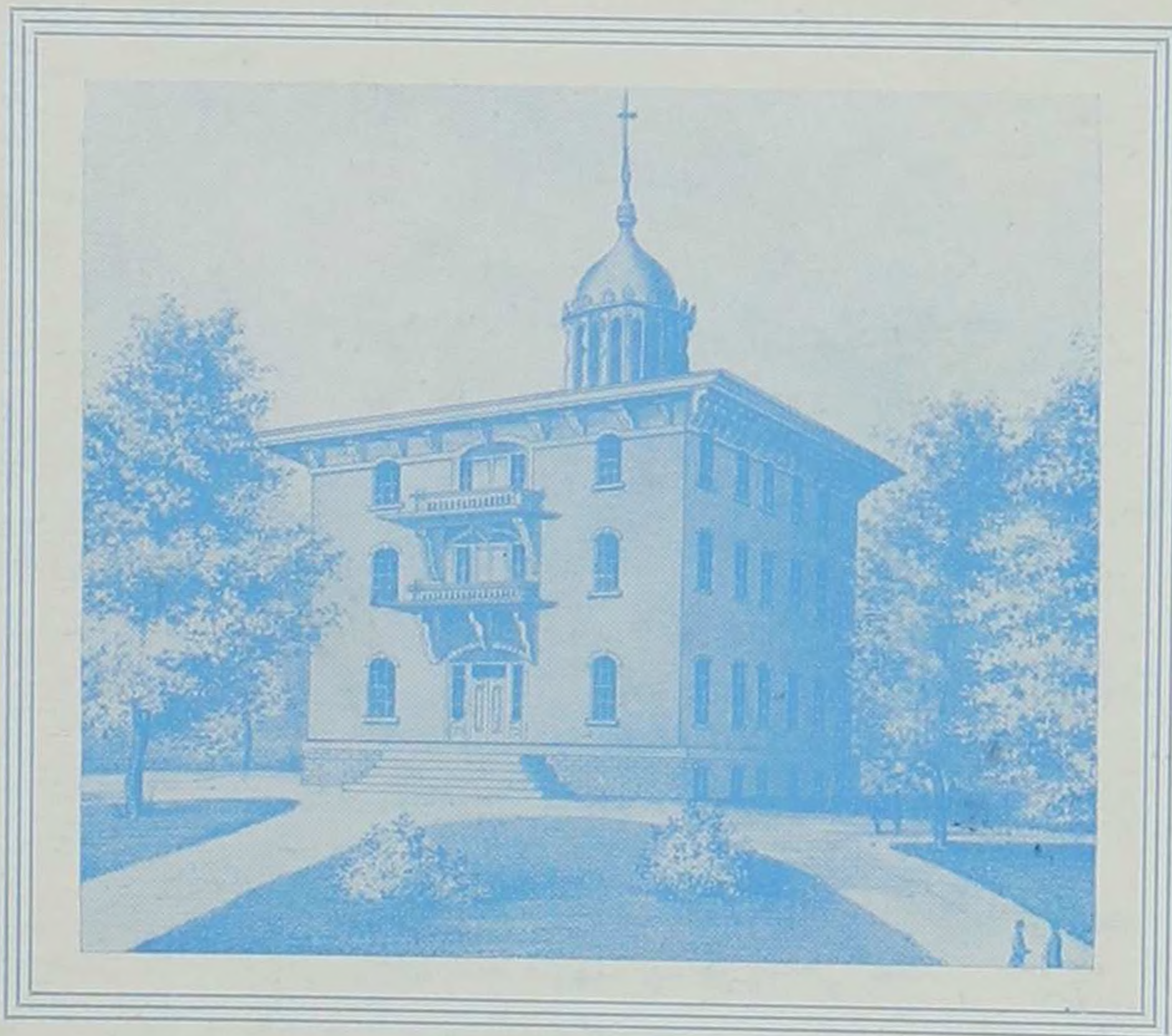
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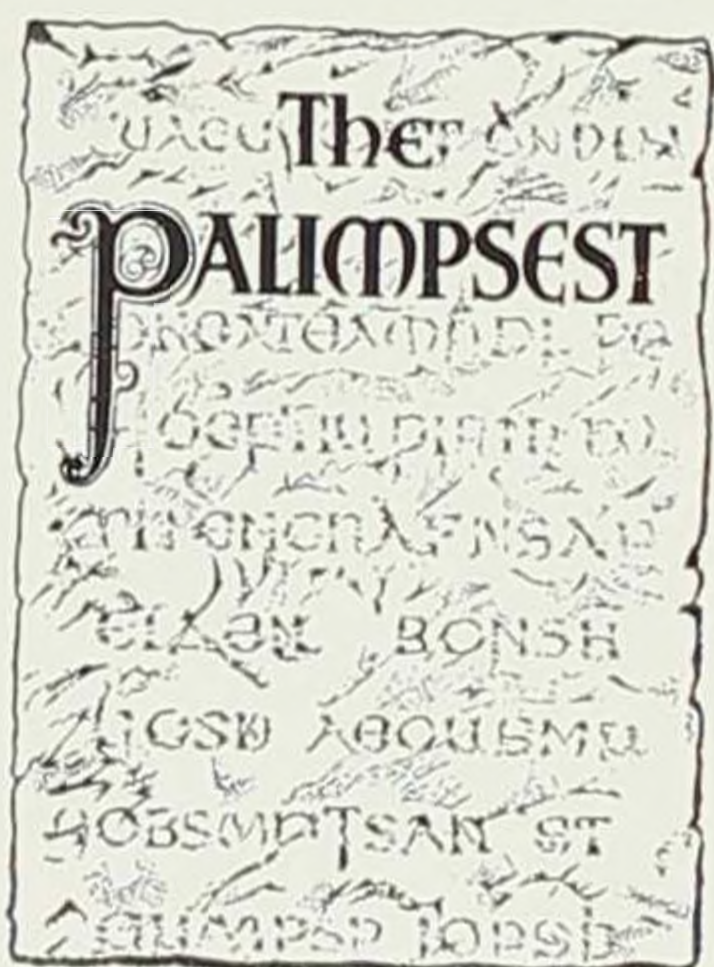
PALIMPSEST



IOWA COLLEGE

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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 records 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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WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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Cover

Front — Iowa College at Davenport — Founded by the Iowa Band in 1848 and combined with Grinnell College at Grinnell in 1859.

Back — *Outside*

View of the Dairy Cattle Congress at Waterloo. In 1876 John Stewart of Delaware County won the gold medal for the best butter exhibited at the Philadelphia International Centennial Exposition. In 1877 Stewart helped found the Northern Iowa Butter and Cheese Association out of which grew the Iowa State Dairy Association and from which sprang the Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress.

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THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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Conquerors of the Frontier

The story of Iowa is replete with romance. For 130 years, beginning with the discovery of the Upper Mississippi by Joliet and Marquette in 1673, Iowa was under the jurisdiction of either France or Spain. In 1803 Jefferson bought all Louisiana west of the Mississippi from Napoleon, and Iowa became a part of the United States. It is significant that there was no increase in land value throughout these 130 years of foreign jurisdiction ending in 1803, and no one charged Jefferson with robbing Napoleon when he paid a scant five cents an acre for the Louisiana Purchase. There were plenty of political foes, on the other hand, who angrily charged Jefferson with wasting money on a lot of worthless land.

During the next thirty years Iowa formed a part of various territories. The land itself remained in the possession of the Indians with no permanent white settlers occupying it. A few exceptions might be cited: Julien Dubuque continued mining at present-day Dubuque until his death in 1810;

and a handful of settlers squatted in the Half-breed Tract in what is now Lee County in the years immediately preceding 1833. Throughout this thirty-year period, however, there was no appreciation in land value, although the government did pay the Indians approximately two and one-half times as much as Jefferson had paid Napoleon. As late as 1845, when Asa Whitney offered to pay 25 cents an acre for a railroad right-of-way across northern Iowa, a Congressional Committee declared that the unsettled land was not worth more than ten cents an acre.

A new era opened following the acquisition of the Black Hawk Purchase in 1832. Permanent white settlement began on June 1, 1833. In the years that followed a steadily swelling tide of emigration flowed into the Black Hawk Purchase. In a single generation American frontiersmen conquered the wilderness that constitutes the eastern half of Iowa. They did this with the axe, the plow, and the flail — aided by their horses or slow-moving oxen. They hunted with their rifles and fished in the crystal clear streams that emptied into the Mississippi. Deer, elk, buffalo, and bear fell to their unerring aim and added to the family larder. Small game was readily trapped in the forests and on the prairies.

While they were breaking the tough prairie sod and wresting a living from the rich black soil that lay beneath, these pioneers did many other things

that helped to make Iowa the great state it is today. They established schools, academies, and even a great State University of Iowa. They brought religion to the frontier and founded fine Christian colleges. They transplanted the political and social customs of their native states to the Iowa frontier. By 1838 these sturdy frontiersmen had won for themselves a separate territorial existence; by 1846 they had achieved statehood; during the Civil War they contributed almost eighty thousand volunteers to the Union Army.

In the final analysis it was the plain and sturdy pioneers who were responsible for transforming a sprawling prairie wilderness into one of the richest commonwealths of the Union. In many respects these men must be considered the real builders of the Hawkeye State. But it also took leaders with visions, high ideals, boundless energy, and unflagging determination to encourage and direct the progress of these grass-roots Iowans through the four or five generations that constitute the first century of Iowa history. In politics and constitution making, in education and religion, in agriculture and industry, these leaders have played a decisive role. The story of a few of them is well worth recording.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Politicians and Statesmen

For more than a century Iowa has enjoyed able political leaders at both the state and national level. Many of these men were privileged to take part in events which were of fundamental importance in the building of our modern commonwealth. Although our territorial history was relatively brief (covering a period of only ten years from the establishment of the Territory of Wisconsin in 1836 to the admission of Iowa into the Union in 1846), our statesmen were outstanding.

One of these outstanding men was George Wallace Jones, who, during the winter of 1837-1838, was serving as Delegate to Congress from the Territory of Wisconsin. Born at Vincennes in the Territory of Indiana in 1804, Jones studied at Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky, before moving to Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, in 1825, to read law in his brother-in-law's office. Legal work seems to have undermined his health, however, and in 1827 Jones moved to Sinsinawa Mound in southwestern Wisconsin directly opposite present-day Dubuque. He fought in the Black Hawk War with Henry Dodge in 1832. Soon afterwards he was elected Delegate to Congress from the Territory of Wisconsin.

George Wallace Jones was a busy Delegate. "I drew my own bills and resolutions to secure the action of Congress," he wrote years later. "In those days, I was full of energy and tact, never tiring in my efforts to serve my constituents, and I did not ask for any of the eleven or twelve offices which were voluntarily conferred upon me." One of the most important measures confronting Jones was the division of the Territory of Wisconsin and the creation of a separate Territory of Iowa west of the Mississippi. His chief opponent in this measure was Senator John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, who was unalterably opposed to the creation of more free territory because of the anti-slavery crusade. The story of how Jones succeeded in this difficult assignment is a classic in Iowa history. Let him tell his own story:

That winter I escorted Miss Anna Calhoun home to her father's boarding house, at the corner of D and Eighth Streets, near Pennsylvania Ave., from a party which was given by Senator Linn and myself at the corner of B and Third Streets, Washington City. As we waited at the door for the porter at about 12 or 1 o'clock, Miss Calhoun said: "General, I do not know how I can ever return the compliments and favors you have shown me."

"You can, Miss Calhoun, do me a great service. To-morrow my bill to establish the Territory of Iowa is to be considered in the Senate, it having already passed the House. Your father, although my good friend, is opposed to my bill. To-morrow morning, when he comes down to breakfast, put your lovely arm around his neck and ask

him to vote for my bill." She was a very beautiful, accomplished, and talented young lady and the idol of her father.

"I'll do my best, General, and I know I shall succeed, as my father never refuses me anything."

"Well," I said, "Miss Calhoun, I'll come to see you tomorrow forenoon at about 11 o'clock to hear what your success may have been." I went as I had promised, when she told me that her father said that his constituents would never forgive him if he should consent to the passage of that bill, to lay the foundation of another abolition State, although he would be very glad to serve me as he had high regard for me. I thanked her and said: "I will now go and send your admirer, our mutual friend, Mr. C. G. Clemson, to escort you to the Senate; take your seat over Colonel Benton's on the Democratic side. When I send you my card, come down, send your card for your father, and take him into the library and keep him there until I call for you." She replied: "General, I'll do my utmost to serve you."

When the Senate proceeded to business I was called by Clayton of Delaware, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and Walker of Mississippi, Chairman of the Committee of Public Lands, and seated between them. After getting my bills through to establish two new land districts, one at Burlington and the other at Dubuque, and several other bills, I called a page and told him to take my card to Miss Calhoun, whom I pointed out to him, and to wait on her. He went up with my card, and I saw him deliver it. Soon she was escorted to the door of the Senate by Mr. C. G. Clemson, and sent her card to her father, and I saw him get up and walk out of the Senate. "Now," said I, "Senator Clayton, please call up my bill to establish the Territory of Iowa." In a few minutes my bill was passed, Iowa was a Territory, and the Senate adjourned.

I walked into the library, where Mr. Calhoun, his daughter and Mr. Clemson were. Mr. Calhoun asked me: "What was going on in the Senate?" I replied: "The Senate has adjourned and the bill to create Iowa has been passed." Then turning to his daughter he said: "Oh, Anna, you bad girl, you have prevented my making a speech to oppose that bill, as I would have done and done successfully, as the time for the consideration of Territorial bills has expired."

Mr. Clemson afterwards married Miss Calhoun and they raised a family of ten children.

On my return home my constituents gave me a fine dinner at the Waples House on the site now occupied by the new Julien House, and upon being toasted for having had Iowa created a separate Territory, I told of the circumstances of Miss Calhoun's aid, which caused great laughter and shouting.

His work in the creation of the Territory of Iowa makes George Wallace Jones one of the real builders of the Hawkeye State.

During the next eight years the people of the newly created Territory of Iowa spent much of their spare time debating whether or not Iowa should seek admission into the Union. Finally, in 1844, statehood was agreed upon and a constitutional convention called. Seventy-two men (51 Democrats and 21 Whigs) drew up the Constitution of 1844, which provided for the Lucas boundaries, including both the Mississippi and Missouri, but substituting southeastern Minnesota between the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers as far north as present-day Saint Paul for our modern

northwesternmost counties. This meant a state far larger than Iowa today. Congress accepted the Constitution of 1844 but violently opposed such a large state; the Nicollet boundaries accordingly were substituted for the Lucas boundaries, thereby depriving Iowa of the Missouri River and the Missouri slope and greatly reducing the area of Iowa as it is today. It now remained for the people to accept the Constitution of 1844 with the new boundaries, and statehood would be achieved. Our Delegate to Congress, Augustus C. Dodge of Burlington, had originally sponsored the Lucas boundaries, but when Congress substituted the Nicollet boundaries, Mr. Dodge reluctantly accepted the change and wrote his constituents that Iowa would never be able to obtain *one more square mile* of area.

Dodge's recommendation was not acceptable to many of his friends. These builders of our Hawkeye State were not the kind of men who placed party loyalty above the national welfare. They were men of high ideals, great personal courage, and strong leadership. They were men who would not cower when someone cracked the party whip.

Opposition to the Congressional boundaries soon sprang up in Iowa. Many of the leading Democrats (including Shepherd Leffler, who had served as president of the Constitutional Convention of 1844) were outspoken in their opposition. The ringleaders of this fight to retain the Missouri

River as the western boundary of Iowa were Shepherd Leffler, Edward Johnstone, James W. "Old Timber" Woods, Frederick D. Mills, Theodore S. Parvin, and Enoch W. Eastman. Mills, Parvin, and Eastman were especially active in their opposition, stumping the state at their own expense in order to defeat the Constitution of 1844 with its Nicollet boundaries.

Let us say a few words about Mills, Parvin, and Eastman, for they were the firebrands of this revolt. Frederick D. Mills concentrated his attacks on the Nicollet boundaries in southeastern Iowa — or the First District. He had been graduated from Yale in 1840 and settled in Iowa in 1841, becoming one of Burlington's ablest lawyers.

Soon after the outbreak of the Mexican War, Mills was commissioned a major in the United States Army and served with the Fifteenth United States Infantry. He fought under General Winfield Scott, and was slain while leading a detachment of troops in pursuit of Santa Anna at the battle of Churubusco. His name has been inscribed on a mural tablet in the chapel of the Military Academy at West Point as one of the heroes of Churubusco. The Third General Assembly of Iowa recognized his services by naming Mills County on the banks of the Missouri in his honor.

Theodore S. Parvin, who probably made more unusual and lasting contributions to Iowa history than any other man, agreed to oppose ratification

of the Constitution with the Nicollet boundaries in the Second District. Born in New Jersey in 1817, Parvin attended the public schools at Cincinnati, Ohio, and was graduated from Woodworth College in 1833, the same year permanent white settlement began in Iowa. Parvin then studied law and was graduated from the Cincinnati Law School in 1837. The following year he came to the Territory of Iowa as the private secretary of Governor Robert Lucas.

In the years that followed, Parvin served as territorial librarian, United States district attorney, secretary to the territorial council, clerk of the United States District Court, county judge, register of the Iowa land office, librarian and professor of natural science at the State University, curator and secretary of the State Historical Society of Iowa, one of the organizers of the Iowa State Teachers Association, and its president in 1867, one of the founders of the Masonic order in Iowa, grand master and grand secretary of the Masonic Lodge, and founder of the Masonic Library at Cedar Rapids. Between 1838 and 1873 Parvin kept a daily weather record that is the most important single document of this kind in Iowa history. A believer in good government, education, the recording of history, and moral virtues, Parvin still had time to battle for the preservation of the Missouri River as Iowa's western boundary.

But it is with Enoch W. Eastman that Iowans

should become especially familiar. Eastman was born in New Hampshire in 1810. He taught school, studied law, and was admitted to the New Hampshire bar in 1840. Four years later he crossed the Mississippi and began practicing law at Burlington. The Territory of Iowa quickly became his second home. Eastman watched with interest the work of the Constitutional Convention of 1844. He strongly endorsed the Lucas boundaries and violently opposed the efforts of Congress to rob Iowa of its natural western boundary. Eastman moved to Oskaloosa in 1847, and to Eldora in 1857, where he lived until his death in 1885. Throughout his professional career he built a high reputation as a lawyer and a man of courage and honor.

These six "No" men had several characteristics in common. They were all young men when they crossed the Mississippi, some actually arriving before the Territory of Iowa was created in 1838. They were men with legal training, most of them were practicing law, but all had many other interests. They were men of sound judgment, stark courage, and unswerving loyalty. They were men who put the welfare of the people of Iowa above their own personal advantage. Although others joined in this fight to retain the Missouri as our western border, these six "No" men have generally been accorded the lion's share of the credit for winning this fight. Even so, the Constitution of 1844 was defeated by only a scant majority.

In this eventful year 1952 (when politicians and statesmen are stalking the Hawkeye State, when international tensions run high and national and state issues once more confront the electorate, when the tawny Missouri and the mighty Mississippi flow at flood stage along our western and eastern borders, leaving uncounted destruction in their wake) Iowans should remember these six "No" men, more especially Enoch W. Eastman, who has left one of our most cherished mottoes. For, engraved on the Iowa stone of the Washington Monument in the Nation's capital are the words of the immortal Eastman — "Iowa. Her affections, like the rivers of her borders, flow to an inseparable Union."

The contributions of other mighty statesmen ought well to be recounted. Iowa has honored James Harlan and Samuel Jordan Kirkwood by placing their statues in the Hall of Fame in the National Capitol in Washington. The name of James W. Grimes stands close beside that of Harlan and Kirkwood — few men have contributed as much to the Iowa scene as this founder of the Republican party. As governor and Republican leader he may be considered as one of the architects of the Constitution of 1857. When Grimes, stricken with paralysis, was carried into the United States Senate in 1868 to cast the vote that saved President Andrew Johnson from conviction, he reached the apex of his career as a statesman. By this vote,

Grimes temporarily fell from favor among most Iowa Republicans. Before his death in 1872, the star of James W. Grimes was steadily rising; today he is ranked among the Iowa great of all times.

The names of such men as William Boyd Allison, Albert Baird Cummins, and Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver are writ large among these builders of the Hawkeye State. Allison served six terms as a United States Senator, a record that few have approached in that body. Cummins served three terms as Governor of Iowa before entering the United States Senate for three successive terms. Dolliver's fame as an orator was attested in 1909 when he was chosen, with William Jennings Bryan, to represent the United States as orators of the day at the impressive ceremonies surrounding the laying of the cornerstone of the Lincoln Monument at Springfield, Illinois.

Iowans have served with equal distinction in the House, and one man, David B. Henderson, actually became Speaker of that important legislative body. Iowa-born Herbert Hoover became President of the United States. Henry A. Wallace was named Vice President. Iowans have been selected for seven different cabinet posts: three different Iowans have served as Secretary of War, Secretary of the Interior, and Secretary of Commerce. Four Iowans have been appointed as Secretary of Agriculture. Two men — Samuel Freeman Miller and Wiley B. Rutledge — have served on the

United States Supreme Court with distinction. Most of these men built much of character and personality into the Hawkeye State before achieving such high offices.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Religion and Education

In the spring of 1843 a little group of students met at dusk in the chapel of the Andover Theological Seminary to pray for guidance. They had heard the command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel," but they knew not where to begin their ministry. Most of them were already thinking in terms of the West — states like Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois offering rare opportunities. They had even contemplated Missouri or the Territory of Iowa. Finally, after a day of fasting and praying, one of the group — Daniel Lane by name — declared: "Well, I am going to Iowa: whether anyone else goes or not, I am going." One by one the others came to the same decision. Thus was formed what is known as the "Iowa Band" of Congregational ministers.

Meeting as they did in a seminary library, it is not surprising that the Iowa Band should have a twofold objective. "If each one of us can only plant one good permanent church, and all together build a college, what a work that would be!" said one member of the Band as they planned their work in the West. They never faltered in the attainment of these objectives.

Early in November, 1843, most of the eleven

men who made up the Iowa Band assembled at Denmark in the Territory of Iowa. Two had already been ordained, but on November 5 seven more were ordained by the Denmark Congregational Association, which had been organized only two days earlier. Meanwhile, the men had chosen their preaching locations. Daniel Lane went to Keosauqua, and A. B. Robbins chose Bloomington — now Muscatine. Horace Hutchinson preferred Burlington, and Harvey Adams decided upon Farmington. William Salter located at Maquoketa, and Edwin B. Turner took Cascade. Ebenezer Alden was assigned to Solon and Ephraim Adams to Mount Pleasant. Benjamin A. Spaulding agreed to try his fortunes in the New Purchase on the fringe of settlement.

The following Monday, November 6, 1843, these nine young members of the Iowa Band scattered to their posts. Their work was so arduous that they never again met all together in one place.

The following spring, 1844, James J. Hill took up his work at Garnavillo in remote Clayton County and Erastus Ripley located at Bentonsport in Van Buren County.

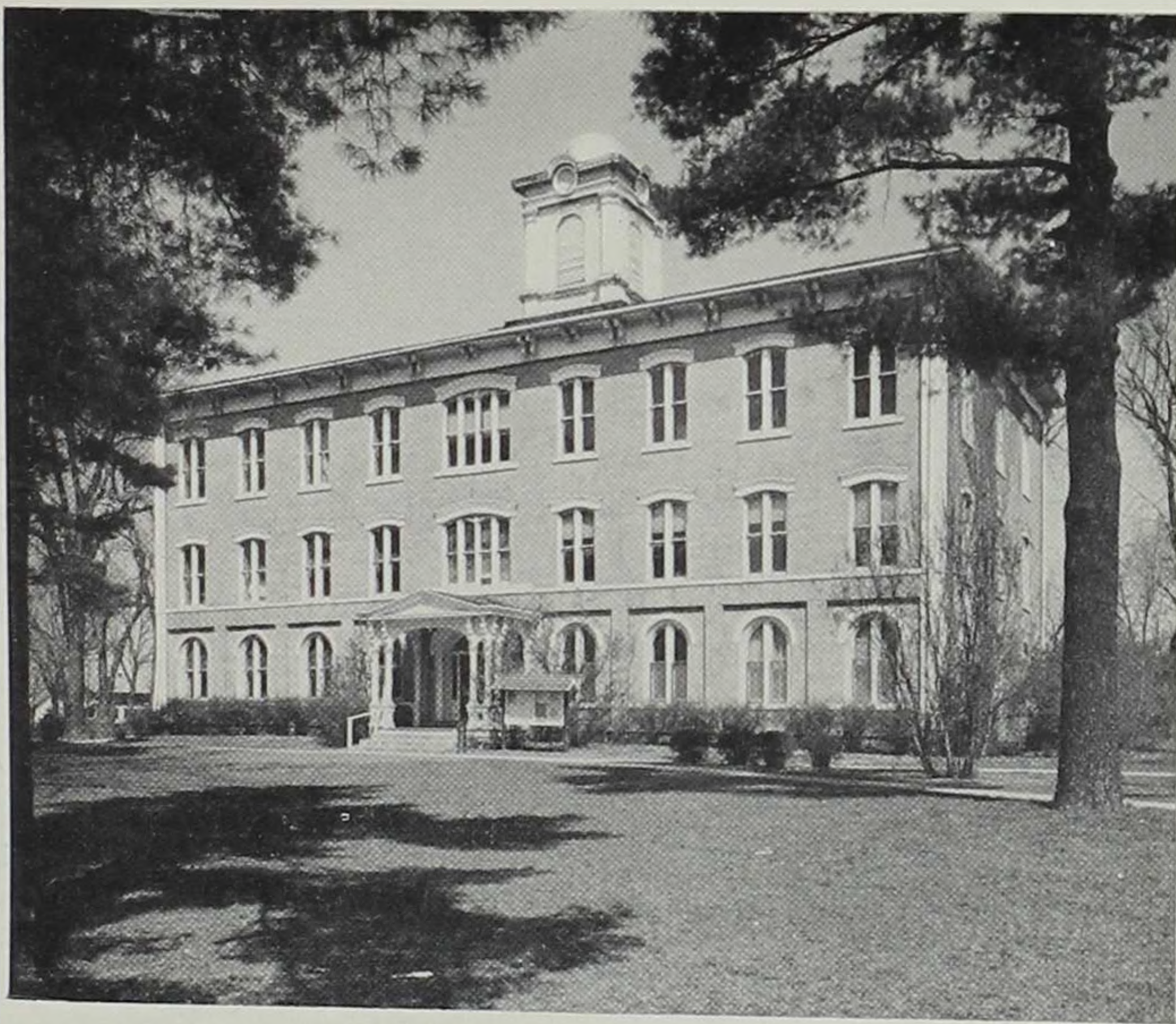
The contributions of the Iowa Band to the spiritual, cultural, and educational development of Iowa were tremendous. They succeeded in establishing many churches — James J. Hill alone is said to have founded seven churches before he died at Fayette in 1870. Alden B. Robbins remained at



GEORGE WALLACE JONES
Delegate from Territory of Wisconsin
U. S. Senator from Iowa — 1848-1859



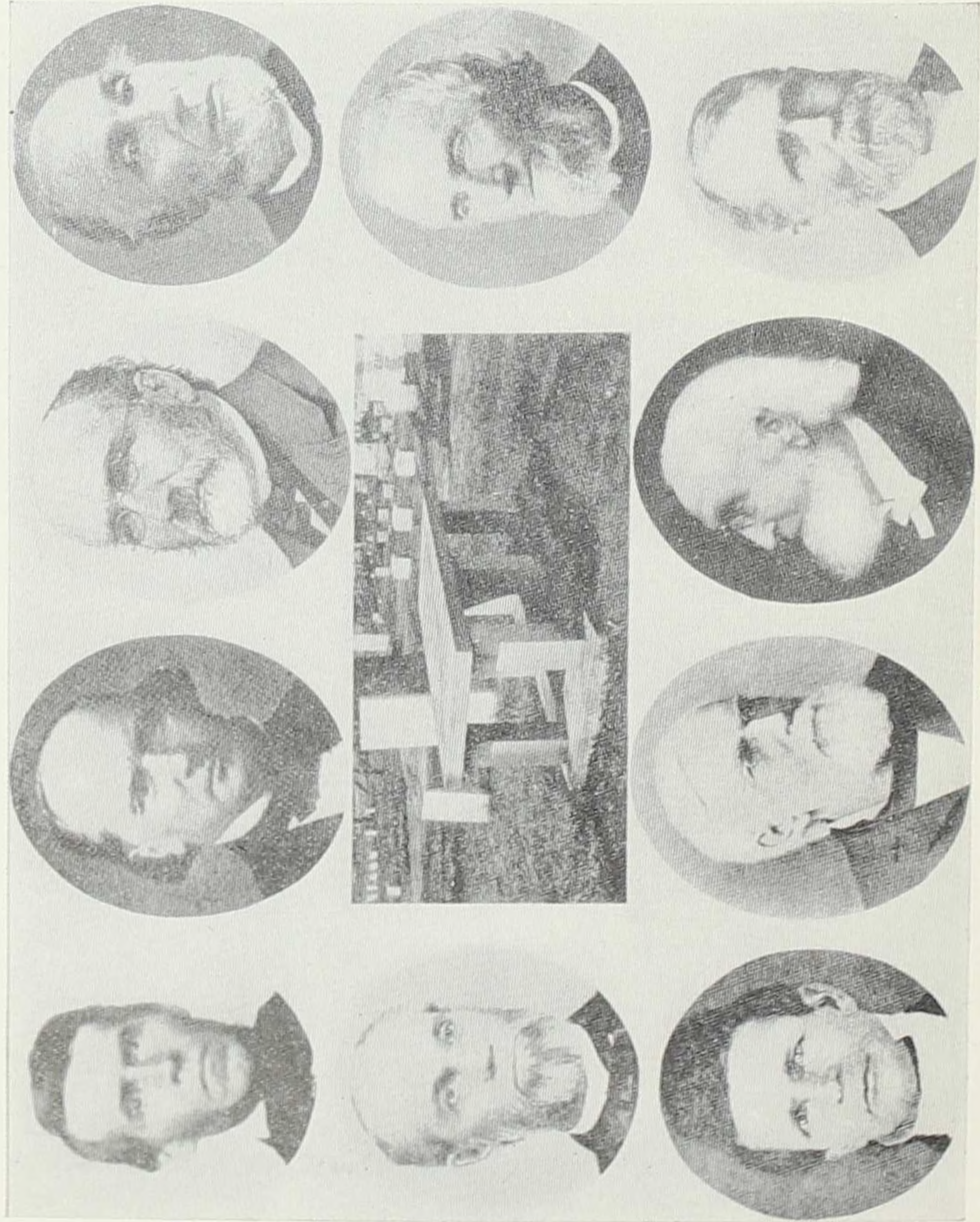
THEODORE SUTTON PARVIN
He Helped Save the Missouri as Western Boundary



Old Main at Iowa Wesleyan
Where the P.E.O. Was Founded



Memorial Library
Gift of P.E.O. to Iowa Wesleyan



Top, left to right:

Benjamin A. Spaulding
Erastus Ripley
James J. Hill
Ebenezer Alden

Center:

Edwin B. Turner
Grave of Horace Hutchinson
Daniel Lane

Bottom:

Harvey Adams
Alden B. Robbins
Ephraim Adams
William Salter

From Douglass, The Pilgrims of Iowa, courtesy of Pilgrim Press

The Iowa Band — Founders of Grinnell College

Muscatine from 1843 until his death in 1896, resigning his pastorate in 1891. His compensation from the Muscatine church varied from \$150 a year in 1845 to \$1,800 in 1868, the highest salary he received. Robbins, like other members of the Iowa Band, was a staunch temperance worker and an ardent antislavery leader. Indeed, his church was known as the "Uncle Tom's Cabin Church." It was because of men like Robbins that Senator John C. Calhoun had violently opposed the establishment of the Territory of Iowa in 1838.

Ephraim Adams preached a year at Mount Pleasant, twelve at Davenport, fifteen at Decorah, and six more at Eldora, before retiring. He died at Waterloo in 1907 at the age of eighty-nine. The career of William Salter was equally impressive. After three years in Jackson County, Salter went to Burlington where he became one of the best loved and most influential members of the Iowa Band. Despite his busy pastoral life, Salter found time to write articles and books. Many of his sermons were printed. Among the best known of his more than forty publications are his *Life of James W. Grimes*; *Sixty Years and Other Discourses*; and *Iowa: the First Free State in the Louisiana Purchase*. Salter died at Burlington in 1910 — the last surviving member of the Iowa Band.

But what of the Christian college which these young men had pledged to establish in Iowa? The Iowa band had discussed this matter earnestly at

their first meeting and had appointed a committee to select a suitable site. At their second meeting they formed the Iowa College Association and sent Reverend Asa Turner east to secure funds. Unhappily, eastern philanthropists were unwilling to put their money into a "paper college," and Reverend Turner returned empty-handed.

By 1846 the Iowa Band agreed that the college should be located in Davenport. At one of the meetings of the Association James J. Hill laid a silver dollar on the table and said, "I give one dollar for the founding of a Christian College in Iowa. Appoint your trustees to care for that dollar." Other members of the Association added their contributions. Soon Iowa College was incorporated with a board of fifteen trustees — five of whom were from the Iowa Band. The doors of the college at Davenport were opened in November, 1848.

Like so many institutions of this kind, the early years were lean and full of tribulations. In 1859 the trustees of Iowa College agreed to move their school to Grinnell and combine it with a struggling institution there. Grinnell College — the fruit of this union — is one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the Middle West. Its list of distinguished alumni reads like a veritable "Who's Who in Iowa." Grinnell stands as a monument to the vision, sacrifice, and courage of those eleven inspired members of the Iowa Band.

Similar stories could be told of almost every institution of higher learning in Iowa. Iowa Wesleyan, Cornell, Dubuque, Coe, Loras, Luther, Drake, Morningside — these are but a few of the many schools that have helped mold Iowa youth since pioneer days. Moreover, many fine by-products have accrued from these institutions, varying from the Drake Relays to the Cornell Music Festival. The story of one of these by-products is especially interesting.

On January 21, 1869, two college girls were sitting on a stile in the fence at Iowa Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant earnestly discussing in hushed tones some means of establishing a society which would band them and their friends together, both at college and in the years ahead. "Let's have a secret society of our own," said Hattie Briggs to her companion Franc Roads. Franc readily assented, and they hurried off at once to tell a few special friends.

The two girls confided their plan to five other girls. Alice Coffin suggested a meeting for that very afternoon. Alice Bird was directed to draft a constitution at once. Suela Pearson, Mary Allen, and Ella Stewart enthusiastically joined the group. That afternoon, behind carefully locked doors in Old Main, the seven girls met in secrecy and established a society known thereafter as the P. E. O.

The founding of the P. E. O. on Iowa Wesleyan campus is a noteworthy event in Iowa history. It

is noteworthy because of the speed with which the organization was established after the idea first struck Hattie Briggs. It is noteworthy because in 1869 there were very few women's organizations in the United States. It is noteworthy because the P. E. O. has grown into one of the largest and most influential women's organizations in the United States today.

The P. E. O. of 1869 has grown into a sisterhood of 3,015 chapters with 108,000 active members in almost every state, in Canada, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia. The P. E. O. operates Cottey College in Missouri. It has an Educational Fund of \$872,000 in 1952 and it has loaned \$3,-977,501.20 to 9,743 girls since the fund was created in 1907. It has a home for aged members, and its Memorial Library at Iowa Wesleyan is the most beautiful building on the campus.

The seven founders of the P. E. O. must be recognized as true builders of the Hawkeye State. They, together with the members of the Iowa Band, are but examples of the many individuals and groups who brought religion, education, and culture to the Iowa frontier.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Agriculture and Industry

Iowa's rich black soil, invigorating climate, and abundant rainfall combine to make the Hawkeye State a veritable Garden of Eden. Frequently referred to as the "Breadbasket of the Nation," Iowa ranks first in the production of corn, oats, hay, and popcorn — its grain constituting 13 per cent of the total produced in the United States. Iowa also ranks first in hogs, finished cattle for market, and poultry. In dairying the state has long vied with Minnesota and Wisconsin for leadership. Iowa's high rank in the Nation's agriculture is revealed graphically by 1940 census figures showing the state scored 24 firsts, 10 seconds, and 6 thirds among the states in those important phases of agriculture characteristic of the great grain and meat producing areas of the United States.

This fabulous productivity is all the more amazing when one remembers that Iowa embraces only 2 per cent of the Nation's area. Fortunately, 25 per cent of the Grade A land in the United States is contained within her borders. It has taken more than soil, climate, and rainfall, however, to give Iowa her dominant position in agriculture. It has taken industrious, self-reliant, and resourceful farmers, encouraged by inspired and intelligent

leaders, to maintain this supremacy for half a century. Little wonder that Sidney Foster should declare: "In all that is good, Iowa affords the best."

Since agriculture is the hub of Iowa's economic life it is important to note a few of the men in this field who have helped build the Hawkeye State. For many of the great institutions and inventions which we enjoy today spring from the dreams of a single man, or at least a small group of men, who have banded together to achieve their objective. And, although individualism has formed a dominant thread in the story, the desire to share and improve the lot of their neighbors and friends is equally noteworthy.

Iowans are justly proud of their famous Waterloo Dairy Cattle Congress. Thousands attend this colorful event each year: only the Iowa State Fair eclipses it in total paid attendance. And yet, very few Iowans can recall the man who, at one bold stroke, brought fame to himself and fortune to his fellow dairymen. I refer to John Stewart — a name that should be known to all Iowans.

John Stewart was born in Ohio in 1836. He served in the Union Army throughout the Civil War, moving to St. Louis in 1866 to become a jobber in butter, cheese, and farm produce. The work must have appealed to him, for in 1867 he engaged in the same business at Galena. Moving to Manchester in 1870, Stewart started a creamery a few miles east of that thriving little community in 1872.

His Spring Branch Creamery is said to have been the first butter creamery in Iowa.

At that time eastern dairymen held western dairy products in low repute; they not only scoffed at the poor breeding of Iowa cattle but they questioned the ability and honesty of all western dairymen. Such a situation must have seemed intolerable to a man of John Stewart's character. Having won prizes on his butter at St. Louis, he determined to compete at the International Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876. The chances of this obscure Iowan against the finest buttermakers of Europe and America must have seemed exceedingly slim, but when the judges awarded the gold medal for the "best package of Butter exhibited" it went to John Stewart. This honor is said to have removed much of the prejudice against Iowa butter and was calculated to have added from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 annually to the income of her dairymen.

Encouraged by this phenomenal success, sixty-six dairymen convened at Manchester on February 2, 1877, and organized the "Northern Iowa Butter and Cheese Association." John Stewart was naturally elected president. In 1882 the name of the association was changed to "The Iowa Butter and Cheese Association." At the fifteenth annual meeting held at Waverly in 1891, the dairymen reorganized and adopted the name "Iowa State Dairy Association."

Between 1892 and 1909 the Iowa State Dairy Association held meetings in ten different towns — Cedar Rapids and Waterloo each acting four times as host during this period. In 1908 E. R. Shoemaker of Waterloo, discouraged at the small number of dairymen present to hear the highly professional papers, suggested the advantage of an exhibit of the best dairy cattle to revive interest and help Iowa keep pace with the leading dairy states. President W. B. Barney proposed holding a dairy cow exhibition in conjunction with their regular meeting at Cedar Rapids in 1909. Professor Hugh G. Van Pelt of Iowa State College was selected as the general manager of the convention's first cattle show. Waterloo became the site of the 1910 meeting and has entertained it ever since, building the show in typical Waterloo fashion into an exhibition of national and international importance. Thus, the personal triumph of John Stewart at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876 is a landmark in Iowa dairying and a steppingstone to the Nation's greatest dairy show.

One might multiply the exploits of such men as John Stewart a hundredfold in the story of Iowa agriculture. The founders of the Iowa State Fair at Fairfield in 1854 would be amazed at the magnitude of their dream child a century later. The Clay County Fair stands as a monument to the vision, courage, industry, and resourcefulness of

the citizens of Spencer, who would settle for nothing less than the "World's Greatest County Fair." The names of James M. and Dante M. Pierce, Edwin T. Meredith, and the three Henry Wallaces are linked with such outstanding agricultural journals as *The Iowa Homestead*, *Successful Farming*, and *Wallaces' Farmer*. These men were giants in American as well as in Iowa agricultural journalism.

A few more illustrations will suffice. In 1852 Timothy Day, a Van Buren County farmer, imported the first three blooded cattle into Iowa. Day appalled his neighbors when he paid \$100 for a Shorthorn bull and \$125 for two heifers. The Singmasters of Keota and the Holbrooks of Greeley have recorded their names imperishably in the breeding of powerful draft farm horses. Through his two great trotters — Axtell and Allerton — Charles W. Williams made Independence the "Lexington of the North," holding half the world's trotting and pacing records on his famous kite track in 1891.

A. J. Goddard of Fort Atkinson was the most important corn breeder between 1870 and 1900. Such men as P. G. Holden and Henry A. Wallace did outstanding work with hybrid corn in the twentieth century. The work of J. L. Budd in developing hardy fruits is typical of the numerous contributions made by the faculty of Iowa State College for the advancement of agriculture. The

phenomenal growth of the turkey industry during the past quarter century can be associated with the name of A. C. Gingerich, whose Maplecrest Turkeys — a delicious Iowa product — can be found on the menus of the *Queen Mary* and the Waldorf-Astoria. Little wonder that presidents of the United States should inevitably look to Iowa for their Secretaries of Agriculture. "Tama Jim" Wilson held this important post for sixteen years under three presidents, the longest period a cabinet post has ever been held by one man.

Agriculture in Iowa is more than an occupation; it is a mode of life. Agriculture is more than a dull job to be carried on by some country hayseed; it is a profession, a highly skilled one, requiring a good business head and plenty of capital. In this day of scientific farming it takes more than black soil and a favorable climate to achieve success as a farmer. It takes intelligence, broad knowledge, and sound judgment. It definitely is no place for the amateur — as highly trained professional men in other fields have found to their sorrow. The men who operate the 212,000 farms in Iowa that produce fully two billion dollars in wealth annually have brought a good living to themselves and the satisfaction that comes with seeing a job well done.

The production of \$2,000,000,000 annually in agricultural income stands in sharp contrast to the \$15,000,000 paid by Thomas Jefferson when he

consummated the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Even before inflation struck the Nation, the value of farm lands and buildings in the smallest county in Iowa exceeded the total cost of the Louisiana Purchase. Since Iowa and the Nation will be observing the 150th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase in 1953, a similar comparison can be made with the industrial output of the Hawkeye State. In making this comparison one need not choose such large industrial centers as Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, or Waterloo. The little town of Newton in Jasper County affords an excellent example.

In 1947 Newton ranked eighth among the cities of Iowa in the value added by manufacturing — \$18,788,000. A half century before, in 1893, Newton was a sleepy little county seat town of about 2,500 souls. It might have remained so to this day, much as Marengo or Montezuma have done, had not Fred Louis Maytag decreed otherwise.

Born in Elgin, Illinois, in 1857, Frederick L. Maytag came to Iowa as a lad. He worked on his father's farm and attended country school at intervals. In 1880 he became a clerk in a Newton implement store. The following year he purchased a part interest in the store; the firm operated under the name of Maytag and Bergman until 1890, when Maytag sold his interest and bought a lumber yard. The stage was now set for an enterprise

which was later organized as The Maytag Company. When it was originally set up in 1893, however, it bore the name of Parsons Band Cutter and Self-Feeder Company.

The growth of the Maytag Company is one of the most phenomenal stories in Iowa history. During the Panic of 1893 the assets of the future Maytag Company were: "Four ambitious men; a workable idea; \$2,400 in capital; an abundant fund of confidence in the future of America." At that time Fred L. Maytag served as the secretary. For a time the company manufactured machinery for the farmer; in 1907 it started to help the farmer's wife by bringing out the first Maytag washer. Forty years later the Maytag Company was recognized as the largest manufacturer of domestic laundry equipment in the world.

There are many landmarks in this fabulous story, both in the invention and production of washing machines between 1907 and 1947. In 1922 the "Gyrafoam" principle was invented, and production stepped up almost miraculously; in less than two years the Maytag Company spurted to a position of world leadership in washer production. Soon a solid trainload of Maytag washers was being shipped to a single eastern city; by 1926 a similar trainload was being sent to a western city. According to the company records: "In May, 1927, the factory dispatched the largest single shipment of merchandise (to that time) ever made

of any kind — eight solid trainloads of Gyrafoam washers, valued at two and three-quarter million dollars."

In the years that followed, the popularity of the Maytag washer was attested by the continued public demand for it. The four millionth washer was completed in 1941. At that time the company geared itself for World War II. In 1944 the three thousand Maytag employees produced \$13,000,000 in war materials. After 1945 the company returned to normalcy, producing its five millionth washer during 1947. Two years later, in 1949, the six millionth Maytag washer rolled from the assembly line. Frederick Louis Maytag, the driving genius of this outstanding Iowa industry and the man who gave his name to it, was the first to recognize the loyalty, skill, and wholehearted cooperation of the men who surrounded him in this fabulous enterprise. Happily, he was able to pass the management on to his son, Elmer Henry Maytag, who in turn transmitted it to his son, Frederick Maytag II, who has held the office of president since 1940. It is not often that an industry or institution can point to three generations of eminent leadership.

The Maytag Company is but a single example of many outstanding Iowa industries that have attained national prominence through the organizing genius and energy of their founders and builders. The mere mention of such items as pearl

buttons, fountain pens, rolled oats, shampoo, sash, doors, and blinds should readily bring to the loyal Iowan's mind the builders of these great enterprises.

It should be obvious that the industrial history of Iowa is just as colorful and significant as the state's agricultural story. Furthermore, the type of Iowa industry has been largely determined by our agricultural economy. Thus, if livestock forms the hub of Iowa agriculture, meat packing has stood for years at the forefront of the state's industries. Between 1914 and 1929 Iowa jumped from tenth to fourth as a meat-packing state, and it has held this position ever since. Such names as Morrell and Rath are illustrative of the stellar role the home-owned companies have played in this phenomenal story of meat packing.

Butter and cheese production stand second in importance to meat packing in Iowa manufacturing. The name of John Stewart has already been discussed in this story. A few years ago the writer saw a huge truck from Monroe, Wisconsin, roll up to the Swiss cheese factory at Kalona and pick up huge 200-pound wheels of Swiss cheese. Iowa, apparently, was making a substantial contribution to the pre-eminence of her sister dairy state across the Mississippi. The story of the Twin-County Cooperative Dairies in Kalona is but one of scores of ventures that have done much to make butter and cheese making outstanding in Iowa today.

Woodworking is still one of the great Iowa industries in our Mississippi towns. Most of these giant enterprises were established before 1900, when millions of feet of logs and lumber were being floated down the Mississippi from Wisconsin and Minnesota. The numerous sawmills that sprang up along the Mississippi were responsible for transforming the log cabins and sod houses of Iowa's frontier into the comfortable frame homes of a later generation. This lumber was also a prime factor in helping keep Iowa railroads solvent in pioneer days. Today such firms as Carr, Adams, & Collier and Farley & Loetscher of Dubuque, the Curtis Company of Clinton, the Huttig and the Musser companies at Muscatine, and the Leopold Desk Company at Burlington still manufacture wood products that are shipped to the four corners of the Nation.

In the past, some of these builders of Iowa's agricultural and industrial economy have received considerable recognition; others have been almost completely neglected. In a few instances, company histories have been produced, Maytag and Morrell being excellent examples. During the past three decades the State Historical Society has tilled the ground whenever possible, but up to the present only the surface has been scratched. Fuller recognition must ultimately come to these "Builders of the Hawkeye State" who have affected the lives of thousands of Iowans.

It is heartening to note that others are recognizing the contributions of our notable Iowans. On January 5, 1952, Lane K. Newberry, a native Iowan who is now a Chicago advertising executive, presented his series of historical paintings on "One Moment in History" that started three famous Iowans on different careers. Unveiled before a large audience in the Fort Madison Public Library, the series portrayed life in Davis, Cedar, and Black Hawk counties in the 1880's when Walter A. Sheaffer, Herbert C. Hoover, and Ralph Budd were young. Included in the series were scenes of West Branch, where Herbert Hoover was born, and the Waterloo area, birthplace of Ralph Budd, former president of the Burlington Railroad. Most of the paintings depicted scenes from Bloomfield where Walter A. Sheaffer, the founder of the Sheaffer Pen Company, was born and began his unique merchandising career.

Truly, agriculture and industry, as well as education and religion, have played a vital role in the story of Iowa. And it was these pioneers of yesteryear who helped build the Hawkeye State into the mighty commonwealth it is today.

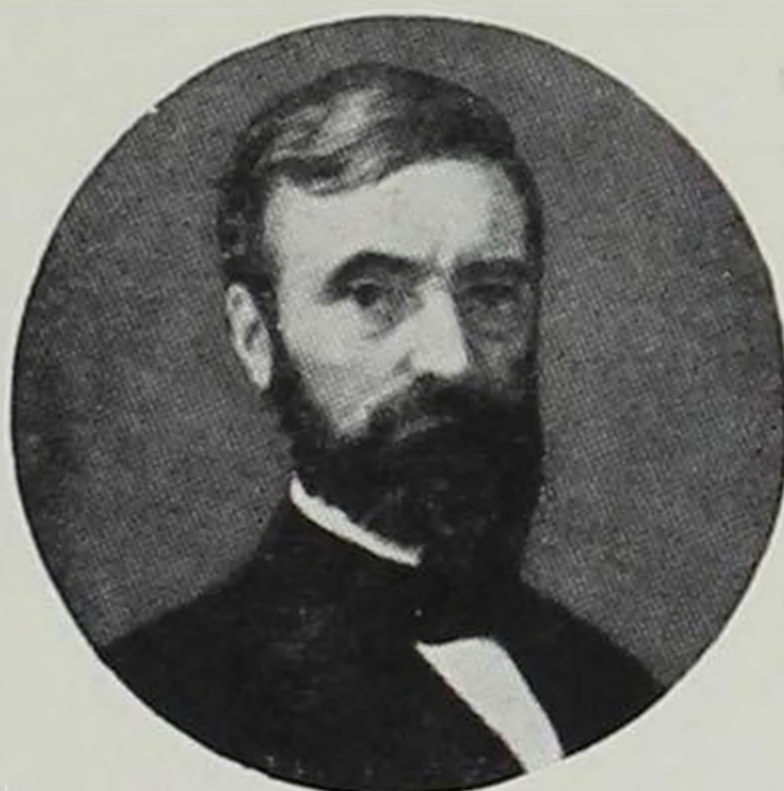
WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

BUILDERS OF THE HAWKEYE STATE

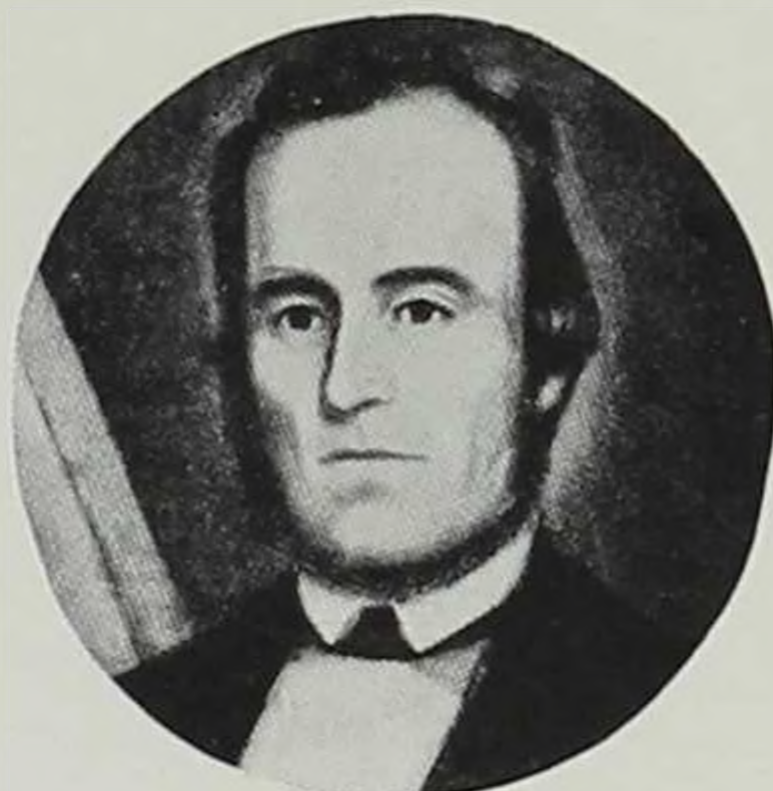
TERRITORIAL OFFICIALS



Robert Lucas (1781-1853)
First Governor — 1838-41

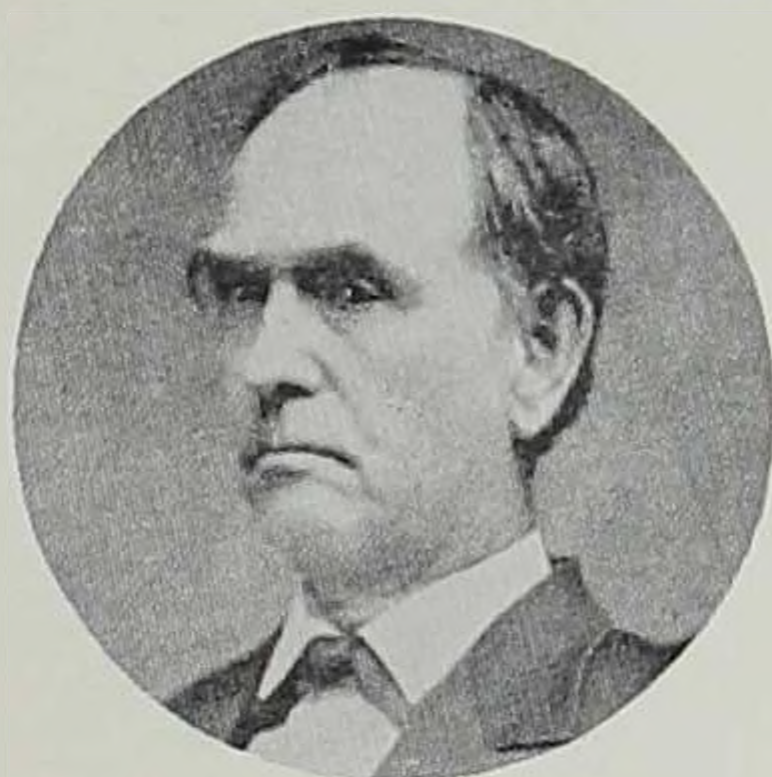


Charles Mason (1804-1882)
Chief Justice — 1838-46

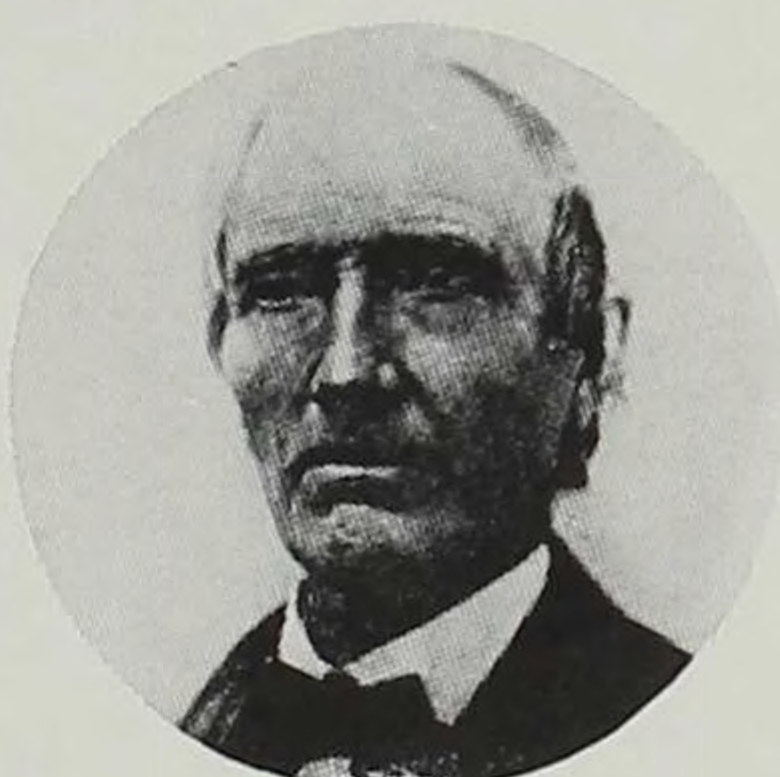


James Clarke (1812-1850)
Third Governor — 1845-46

EARLY STATE OFFICIALS



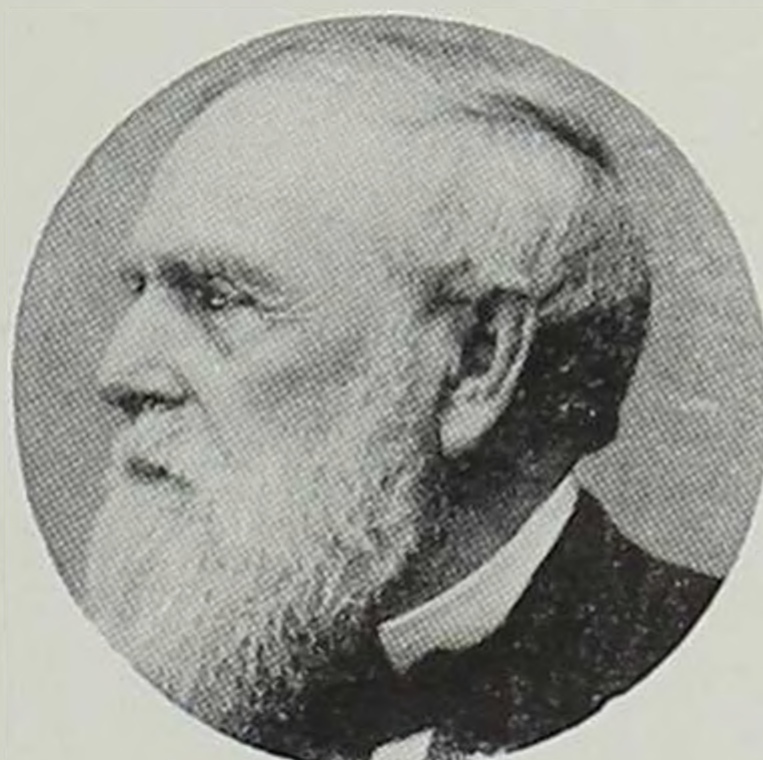
A. C. Dodge (1812-1883)
Territorial Delegate — 1841-46



Ansel Briggs (1806-1881)
First Governor — 1846-50



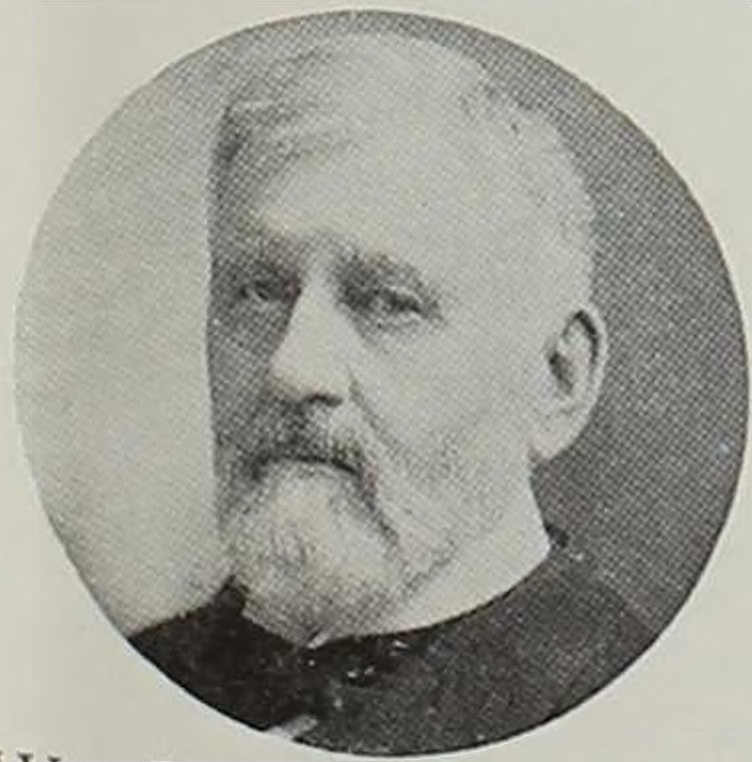
James W. Grimes (1816-1872)
Governor — 1854-58



James Harlan (1820-1899)
U. S. Senator — 1855-73



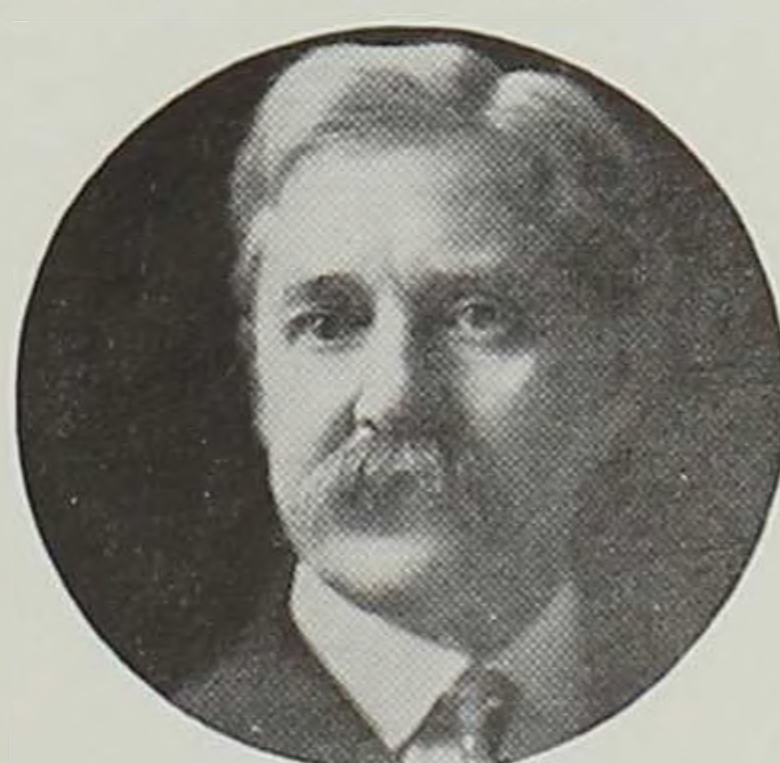
S. J. Kirkwood (1813-1894)
Civil War Governor



Wm. B. Allison (1829-1908)
U. S. Senator — 1873-08



Wm. Larrabee (1832-1912)
Governor — 1886-90



A. B. Cummins (1850-1926)
Governor — 1902-08

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