The Palimpsest

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

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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THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY RUTH A. GALLAHER

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Prologue to Statehood

As the year 1844 drew to a close the editor of the Davenport *Gazette* appended the following afterthought to his otherwise crisp New Year's greeting:

> Oh! Forty-four, in thy small space
> What dire events have taken place!
> Of what bright prospects thou hast reft us!
> In what a pickle thou hast left us!

A large number of Iowans, particularly those with Whig leanings, also looked back with grave misgivings on the turbulent times which marked that fateful year of 1844. At home a constitutional convention, dominated by Democrats, had been held at Iowa City, and the youthful Territory, paired with Florida, was knocking loudly for admission into the Union.

On the national scene a Democrat, James K. Polk, brandishing such slogans as "Annexation of Texas" and "Fifty-four forty or fight", had won a spirited presidential campaign against his Whig

opponent, Henry Clay. That Polk's spirit of "Manifest Destiny" was pulsing through the veins of many Iowans in 1845 was manifested by the many newspaper articles devoted to the Texas question, the Oregon boundary dispute, and the revolution in California.

Although a giant in area, the Territory of Iowa was a mere stripling in population in 1845. Permanent white settlement had begun in 1833, but only 10,850 square miles out of its nearly 200,000 square miles had been opened for settlement when the Territory was created in 1838. Fully eighty per cent of what is now the State of Iowa still belonged to the red man. Between 1838 and 1845 the population rose from 22,859 to about 90,000, and the number of counties rose from twenty-one to thirty-two. Nine-tenths of the white population was concentrated in the twenty-one eastern counties, only a spray of pioneers having entered the eleven westernmost counties.

Meanwhile, George Wallace Jones advised the United States Land Office on October 18, 1845, that township lines had been run in all the land east of the temporary boundary line established by the cession of 1842 or contracts had been made for such surveys. With the departure of the Sauk and Fox from the land west of this line in 1845, only about twenty per cent of the future Hawkeye

State remained in the hands of the Indians. Jones urged an immediate survey of the newly acquired area because he believed the "superior quality of its soil, the great abundance of water, the more equal distribution of prairie and timber, and its proximity to the navigation of the Des Moines" were all "sure evidences of the unequalled rapidity with which it will settle." He also urged the speedy extinction of the remaining Indian titles in Iowa, especially those of the Winnebago in the Neutral Ground on the north.

The Mississippi River towns dominated the Iowa hinterland in 1845. Dubuque and Burlington were bitter rivals. Davenport, Bloomington (Muscatine), Fort Madison, and Keokuk were also moving steadily upward in population. Dubuque had the advantage of her rich lead mines, but was handicapped by the cloud which hung over her land titles and by the rivalry of nearby Galena. Having failed in her attempt to become the capital of Iowa, Dubuque aspired to become the capital of a new State which would be created north of a line drawn westward from the Mississippi between Clinton and Jackson counties.

Iowa City, the capital of the Territory of Iowa, was the most important inland town. Mount Pleasant was the only town with a college that is still flourishing a century later. Keosauqua, at

the Big Bend of the Des Moines, dominated the trade of that thriving river valley, while Fairfield could point with pride to the federal land office which had been established there in 1842. Marion, the county seat of Linn County, was a "beautiful and flourishing town" of about three hundred inhabitants in 1845. An item quoted in a January issue of a Davenport newspaper expressed "one thousand thanks" to the German Emigrant Association for changing the name of Prairie La Porte in Clayton County to Guttenberg, in honor of the inventor of printing. In August the county commissioners gave the name "Marengo" to the prospective seat of justice of Iowa County.

A resident of "Ouscaloosa" asserted that his town had grown beyond all reasonable expectation. "We have already fifty houses erected — eight or ten of which are of a neat and substantial character. We have also *four* full stores, *two* groceries, *four* Blacksmith shops, four House Carpenters, three Cabinet makers, one Painter, one Plasterer, two Hotels, six Lawyers, three Physicians, one cooper, two Ministers of the Gospel. One hundred and fifty town lots have already been sold — principally to actual settlers who have already commenced or intend shortly to improve them. Our country also continues to im-

prove with unparallelled rapidity." There were other towns, many plotted, highly advertised, and with post offices, that were destined to wither and fall by the wayside.

Two men served as Governor of the Territory of Iowa in 1845. An amiable Kentucky Whig, John Chambers, served as chief executive until November, when James Clarke of Burlington was appointed Governor by President Polk. A Democrat, and founder of the *Wisconsin Territorial Gazette and Burlington Advertiser* in 1836, Clarke had served as Secretary of the Territory, mayor of Burlington, and a delegate to the constitutional convention of 1844. Although born in Pennsylvania, he had been a resident of Iowaland for nine years and was, therefore, the first "Iowan" to be appointed Governor of the Territory. Samuel J. Burr was Secretary of the Territory of Iowa.

Two sessions of the Legislative Assembly were held in Iowa City in 1845. The Seventh Legislative Assembly convened on May 5th. S. C. Hastings was named President of the Council while J. M. Morgan served as Speaker of the House. Sixty-nine special acts and eighteen joint resolutions were passed before adjournment on June 11th.

The main problem confronting this Assembly

arose out of the rejection of statehood by the people in the April election, largely because Congress had substituted the Nicollet boundaries for the Lucas boundaries. Governor Chambers recommended that a new constitutional convention be called but the Democratic legislature chose to resubmit the constitution of 1844 to the people, passing the bill over the veto of the Governor. This bill called for a *viva voce* vote at the general election in August, 1845, and, after bitter debate in the press and on the stump, statehood was rejected a second time.

The Seventh Legislative Assembly passed the usual amount of legislation on roads and ferries, legal procedure, and the reimbursement of citizens. Many special acts were also passed. The City of Burlington was granted a new charter and Iowa City University was incorporated. The counties of Iowa, Kishkekosh, and Marion were organized and the seat of justice of Lee County was re-located. After bitter partisan debate the charter of the Miners' Bank of Dubuque was repealed. An act to "organize and discipline" the militia was approved, special steamboat legislation was adopted, and an act was also passed to encourage the destruction of wolves.

When the Eighth Legislative Assembly met the following December, the Council chose Ste-

phen Hempstead as its presiding officer while George W. McCleary was named Speaker of the House. Jesse Williams held the position of Secretary of the Territory. In his first annual message on December 3rd, Governor Clarke deplored the rejection of the constitution at the August election but left it with the legislators to determine what course to pursue. Acting upon this advice the Assembly passed a measure calling for the election of thirty-two delegates to a constitutional convention which was to meet in the Stone Capitol at Iowa City on the first Monday in May, 1846. A single measure provided for the establishment and definition of twelve new counties — Boone, Clarke, Dallas, Decatur, Jasper, Lucas, Madison, Marshall, Polk, Story, Warren, and Wayne.

While these two sessions of the Legislative Assembly were busy in Iowa City, the Territory of Iowa was represented in Washington by Augustus Caesar Dodge — the efficient, hard-working Delegate to Congress. Some idea of the needs of the Territory of Iowa a century ago may be gleaned from a 4½ column letter addressed by Dodge to the "People of Iowa" and published in the *Iowa Capital Reporter* of July 9, 1845. This letter was precipitated by the fact that Dodge's name had been posted for reëlection by the Demo-

crats and he wished to offset his earlier blunder in urging his constituents to accept the smaller Nicollet boundaries. Dodge now threw his whole-hearted support behind the larger boundaries which would include the Missouri River on the west.

Delegate Dodge presented a strong case for his reëlection. He had secured $18,000 for the Military Road running from Dubuque, through Iowa City, to the Missouri boundary. He had secured $10,000 for a similar road between Burlington and the Sauk and Fox Agency in Wapello County. Another $5000 had been appropriated by Congress for the road from Bloomington (Muscatine) to Iowa City. Because steamboats needed easy access to Iowa's bustling lead entrêpot, an appropriation of $14,500 had been secured for the Dubuque harbor. He had $5000 set aside for the purpose of making an Indian treaty whereby the Winnebago could be removed from the Neutral Ground to a new home in Minnesota. Under Dodge's guidance new post offices and post roads had been established. Finally, he had secured $4000 for the final and peaceable settlement of the Missouri boundary question, which was causing bitter comment in Iowa and Missouri.

Although Iowans were intensely interested in local, Territorial, and national politics, their main

efforts were expended in making a living. The newspapers afford the best source of information as to the fortunes and misfortunes of the pioneers a century ago. Eleven newspapers were published in eight different towns during the course of the year 1845. The *Miners' Express* and the *Iowa Transcript* were published at Dubuque, the *Iowa Territorial Gazette and Burlington Advertiser* and the Burlington *Hawk-Eye* were printed at Burlington, and the *Iowa Standard* and the *Iowa Capital Reporter* were issued weekly at Iowa City. The Davenport *Gazette,* the Bloomington *Herald,* the *Lee County Democrat* of Fort Madison, and the *Iowa Morning Star and Keokuk Commercial Advertiser* at Keokuk attest the supremacy of Mississippi River towns in Iowa journalism at that time.

Aside from the capital of the Territory, Keosauqua was the only inland town to support a paper — the *Iowa Democrat and Des Moines River Intelligencer* being printed there. Keokuk's lone newspaper, the *Iowa Morning Star,* was established on April 24, 1845, but unfortunately it was forced to discontinue within a few weeks. One of the Dubuque papers, the *Iowa Transcript,* suspended publication in September of 1845. Only nine newspapers were being published at the close of 1845.

The weather elicited considerable comment in newspaper and in private journals. Theodore S. Parvin recorded a light winter, the Mississippi closing on December 27th, 1844, and opening February 18th, 1845. According to Parvin: "The spring of 1845 was early. The summer long, with July hot. September and October warm. Frost the 12th of October. Winter set in November 23. December cold. Down to zero ten days."

Although delighted with the "beautiful and pleasant" spring, an Iowa City editor complained on April 12th that the wheat crop had suffered from dry weather and that grasses and vegetables had also been retarded. On July 9th, however, after reading of adverse crop conditions in Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, this same editor declared: "It must be truly cheering to the people of Iowa, that while there is such a failure of the crops elsewhere, their own have not only survived the frosts and droughts in the early part of the season, but yield most abundantly. . . . Harvesting has already been progressing some time. We were in Burlington two weeks ago today, where we saw a lot of new wheat brought in by a sturdy Hawkeye farmer. The berry of this lot was extremely large, and we think it about as fine a specimen as we ever saw. In every portion of

Iowa, nature is scattering her gifts from her well filled cornucopia, with a liberal and profuse hand; and the husbandman has promise of a rich return for his labor. Grass, corn, oats, also, look extremely well, so that both man and beast may rejoice in the prospect that the ingathering summer and autumn will result in bountiful supplies for the ensuing winter."

It was not merely the smaller grains that flourished. On September 10, 1845, the *Iowa Capital Reporter* declared that the Hawkeye State was destined to become one of the "finest fruit countries in the world." Fruits of a "superior" quality were already appearing on Iowa City markets, the peaches being the finest flavored the editor had ever tasted. A week later this same editor declared the Iowa City market was so "glutted" with peaches that one farmer "talked seriously" of continuing on to Marion. "This fact", the editor concluded, "will be apt to try the credulity of many good people in the old states, who have been in the habit of regarding Iowa as a hundred miles or so west of sundown, and almost beyond the bounds of civilization. And considering that the settlement of the territory, especially in this central portion, has nearly all been made within five or six years, it is, indeed, a fact worth recording."

Editors were quick to urge their readers to go

in for every thing that would enhance their land. When the editor of the Davenport *Gazette* learned that a Maine farmer had raised cranberries in a bog he suggested that Iowa farmers try the same experiment in a piece of wet, marshy land. The editor of the *Iowa Capital Reporter,* noticing the lack of orchards in Linn County, urged prompt action to remedy the situation.

Although the agriculturist predominated in Iowa thinking, the professional man, the tradesman, and the shopkeeper were present in numbers. The previous year nine lawyers, five physicians, three merchants, two mechanics, two miners, two millwrights, a miller, a printer, and an engineer had been delegates to the constitutional convention. Lawyers were probably too numerous, at least the Dubuque *Transcript* was happy to chronicle an exodus of lawyers in 1845. According to the *Transcript:* "This change is indicated by the fact that while some of our lawyers are leaving the city, others are mining, and some more (it is said) must soon do one or the other, or starve." Some of the greatest legal men in Iowa history were practicing in 1845. Charles Mason, Joseph Williams, and Thomas S. Wilson were serving on the Supreme Court of the Territory of Iowa. Three men who were destined to become Governors of Iowa were practicing law in 1845:

R. P. Lowe of Muscatine, J. W. Grimes of Burlington, and Stephen Hempstead of Dubuque.

Physicians, prepared to practice "medicine and surgery" and well-stocked with fresh supplies of medicine, offered their professional services through the columns of the press. Apparently there was a real need for them, since Governor Clarke expressed genuine concern over the general health situation in his first annual message. "The people of Iowa have suffered severely from sickness the past season; nor is it any consolation to them to know that their fellow citizens in all the western States have been similarly visited, except so far as it establishes the fact that there is nothing in our soil or climate *peculiarly* favorable to disease." Five years later the Governor himself was to follow his wife and a son to the grave — all victims of the cholera scourge.

The Good Samaritan Drug Store at Burlington had on sale Peters' Pills, Gauby's Compound Lotion for Tetter, Ringworm, and Itch, Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills, and Dr. Osgood's Indian Chologogue for the cure of "Fever and Ague, Dumb Ague, Liver complaint, Ague Cake, and all the various forms of bilious diseases." B. Sanford, "Druggist and Grocer", offered Davenport physicians and families favorable to the "Botanic System of Medicine" almost every article used in

their practice. Bartholomew's Pink Expectorant Syrup was offered as a sure cure for "Consumption" and all other pulmonary diseases. Iowans too "stubborn" to believe that the Indian Vegetable Elixir and Liniment was a certain cure for rheumatism were assured by Mr. Sanford that they, and not he, would be the sufferers. With such aids the future health of Iowans must have seemed secure.

The specialized tradesman was present in Iowa a century ago. S. Schoolfield manufactured such things as cabinets, chairs, bedsteads, bureaus, dining tables, and workstands at Davenport. David Miller made boots and shoes in the "best manner and latest style" in the same town. At Burlington, Lantz & Ray made French Burr Millstones to order. Iowa City took genuine pride in D. Cox, tin and sheet iron manufacturer. Bakeries and confectioners were also flourishing. Cook and Walter were traveling through the Territory of Iowa late in 1845 taking "Daguerreotype Likenesses" of Iowans.

The pioneers of 1845 were especially alert to improved forms of transportation and communication. Within the Territory itself they urged better roads and faster and more certain mail communications. They rejoiced at the prospects of steamboats navigating the Cedar, the Iowa, and

the Des Moines rivers. Iowa Citians swelled with pride when a steamboat built to run on the Iowa River was launched by Messrs. Robbins & Hubbell at their boatyard in the infant capital. The engine was a new invention by Mr. Robbins and it was believed that it would supersede all others then in use on western waters.

Traffic on the Upper Mississippi was steadily increasing: in 1844 there had been 610 steamboat arrivals by 34 different boats at Bloomington compared with 339 arrivals by 35 boats five years previously. Inland towns took as much interest in the opening and closing of navigation as did port cities. The spread of the telegraph was chronicled and hope expressed that it would soon reach Iowa. The westward trend of railroad construction was watched with optimism. And why not? Did not Asa Whitney, famed father of the Trans-Continental Railroad, make a survey for such a venture through northern Iowa in 1845?

Even the speed with which steamships such as the *Cambria,* the *Great Western,* the *Hibernia,* the *Acadia,* and the *Great Britain* crossed the Atlantic was spotlight news in an era when people hungered for information from the outside world. The steamship, the steamboat, the telegraph, and the railroad, promised Iowa editors the best facilities for giving their readers the latest news. The

first two were in common use in 1845, the telegraph was destined to reach Iowa in 1848, and the railroad was to tap the Mississippi opposite Iowa at four points in 1855.

The cultural and spiritual needs of the people were also taking form a century ago. Many private schools were in operation in the larger towns. W. K. Talbott offered courses in reading, algebra, arithmetic, geography, and surveying at the Iowa City Institute. James MacIntosh was chairman of the Mechanics' Academy at Iowa City. The Methodists were sponsoring Iowa City College. An entirely different institution, Iowa City University, was incorporated by the Legislative Assembly on June 2, 1845. St. Mary's Female Academy was under the patronage of Bishop Loras at Dubuque. Davenport contained several excellent schools although the *Gazette* yielded the palm to Iowa City in matters of education. The following December the Eighth Legislative Assembly went to work on bills to establish academies at Danville and Maquoketa.

The circuit rider and the revival were common. On June 25, 1845, the *Iowa Capital Reporter* announced a "Camp Meeting" at the "old camp ground in the vicinity of Iowa City, and near the residence of the Rev. Jas. L. Thompson". The larger towns supported many congregations. The

Iowa Transcript at Dubuque chronicled the accession of a large number of ministers of the Gospel, there being six Protestant clergymen in that community early in 1845. Iowa City counted six "beautiful" church edifices — five of brick and one of stone.

Although laboring hard and long in their fields, their offices, or at their workbenches, the Iowa pioneers still found time for schools and churches, as well as local, township, county, and Territorial affairs. Some identified themselves with the temperance movement; others gave their support to the abolitionist crusade. At their lyceums they heard these burning issues debated by their leaders and were not adverse to joining in the discussion. The difficulties encountered in building roads and bridges were offset in part by the pleasure of hunting and fishing. Wild game could often be shot from the cabin doors. Fortunately, the pioneers of 1845 were endowed with courage, perseverance, and Yankee ingenuity, qualities which could not brook defeat. They were destined to prove their capacity, for statehood loomed large in the "Year of Decision" just ahead.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

The Washington Chautauqua

An advertisement in a Washington newspaper of June 24, 1903, announced in large type: "Grand Opening of Washington Chautauqua, Tuesday, June 30. Opening Exercises at 9 a.m. At 2 p.m. Hear the Matchless Orator, W. J. Bryan." Season tickets for the "Ten Days' Feast" were $1.50 and $2.00. Thus was heralded the opening of the first Chautauqua held at Washington, Iowa.

There were seventy-two tents in beautiful Townsley Park, including the assembly tents and the family tents. Ten organizations, including several churches, the Reading Circle, the Cooking Club, and Parsons College, had tents on the grounds. The camping sites were laid out in streets, with tennis and croquet courts and ample playgrounds for the children. A central telephone system, a 200-foot well that furnished cool water which the physicians declared "absolutely pure", rest rooms, a sanitation system, a dining tent where meals could be purchased for 25 cents, and hitching grounds were conveniences which were enjoyed the first season or added during the early years. Amphitheatre seats in the auditorium, ac-

cording to a newspaper comment, "were made of *hard* pine. They should be soft pine." After one or two experiences those attending the meetings brought cushions, which "saved on arnica".

For those who wished to camp on the grounds, a 14 x 16 foot wall tent could be rented at the price of $5.00 for the season. Single cots were 50 cents each, pillows 25 cents, and double blankets 50 cents per pair for the season. It was estimated that the entire cost for a party of six who wished to stay on the grounds during the entire Chautauqua season would be $43.30. This included meals and the season tickets. The park was patrolled day and night and the authorities promised "nothing but the best of order and conduct on the grounds."

Both the Rock Island and the Burlington railways attached extra coaches to accommodate the crowds, and a special rate for the round trip was granted throughout the season. A hack line starting at the Eichelberger Grocery carried patrons to the grounds for five cents each.

The opening day of this first Chautauqua, June 30, 1903, was "Bryan Day". In addition to the season tickets, 1783 single admissions were sold. At 2:00 P.M., every seat in the tent was occupied, the aisles were filled, and standing room at the entrances and about the speaker's platform

was at a premium. William Jennings Bryan spoke for seventy-five minutes on "Ideals", stressing the need of ideals in individual, domestic, business, and professional life. According to the comment of a Republican editor, "Bryan told how much money a man shouldn't have, but was somewhat surprised that his share of the gate money usufruct was under $250. Still an average of $200 a day tends to draw, one by one, the teeth from the jaw of the wolf that howls at the door."

The "big" day, however, was July 4th when 3702 single admissions were sold. The orator of the day was General John C. Black, who spoke on "American Imperialism". Not even one-third of the people on the grounds could get into the tent to hear General Black. The speakers for this initial Chautauqua included two other famous lecturers — Richard P. Hobson who drew 1965 single ticket purchasers but failed to kiss any of the ladies, and "Sam" Jones who was criticized for vulgarity. All the "Big Four" were Democrats.

The program included sermons, lectures, music, Bible lessons, and a cooking school. It was, as one newspaper reported it, "a blending of camp meeting, camping, instruction, entertainment, amusement". S. D. Gordon who gave the Bible lessons was described in one newspaper as "the

best talent on the ground. . . . Cut out, next year, whom you please, but bring Gordon back, and give him a better hour." Mothers could not always attend the nine o'clock Bible study meetings. Reverend Dr. J. M. Buckley, editor of the *Christian Advocate,* was characterized as the "Teddy Roosevelt of Methodism".

Six women were on the program. Among them was Jane Addams who had "a sad, interesting face, sort o' Madonna-ish, as if saddened by the woe she seeks to relieve." Miss S. W. Landes ran the cooking school and "captured the house wives, all eager to learn how to cook for the beast at home". Eva Shontz, a temperance advocate, was too critical. According to one editor, she "did all the scolding. Cut her out next time."

The first Washington Chautauqua closed on July 10th. The finance committee reported that although the receipts did not cover the expenses, the shortage was not much over a dollar a share on 300 shares. Lack of profits the first year did not discourage the board, and the Washington Chautauqua continued season after season for more than a quarter of a century, bringing to the citizens of the county high class entertainment and enjoyable vacations.

Their Chautauqua, the citizens of Washington and Washington County insisted, was not just

another Chautauqua. Katherine Buxbaum, writing in *The Prairie Schooner Magazine* some years ago, declared: "It was different. For one thing, it was what was known as an Independent. The talent was mostly hand-picked, and the picking was good in those days."

This statement appears conservative as one examines the list of outstanding speakers and entertainers brought in by the directors of the local Chautauqua. The second year, Chautauqua ticket holders heard a debate between Champ Clark and C. H. Grosvenor. Other political leaders followed in later years, among whom were Robert LaFollette, Benj. R. ("Pitchfork") Tillman, James E. Watson, and blind Senator Thomas P. Gore of Oklahoma.

Preachers, reformers, and professors were not overlooked. Samuel P. Jones, Billy Sunday, and Gypsy Smith, as well as Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes, Charles R. Brown, S. Parkes Cadman, and Newell D. Hillis, edified and inspired their audiences. Professor W. C. Wilcox from the History Department of the State University of Iowa appeared annually for ten years to present his popular history lectures. He was described as "clear, candid, eloquent." Carrie Nation, Judge Marcus Kavanagh, Edward A. Steiner, Ruth Bryan Owen, and Lorado Taft gave variety to

the programs. To balance the heavy intellectual diet offered by these famous speakers, Strickland W. Gillilan, "a real-for-sure humorist", appeared on the program four seasons. Musical organizations such as the Columbus Junction Band, the Tyroleans, and the Dixie Jubilee Singers entertained from year to year.

There were several reasons for the success of the Washington Chautauqua. Howard A. Burrell, in his *History of Washington County, Iowa,* wrote of it in these words: "And for this source of profitable pleasure, Washington is most largely indebted to the good offices of Alex R. Miller, editor of the Democrat." Mr. Miller served as the secretary of the Chautauqua from the time of its organization on October 7, 1902, through 1926. He was familiar with Chautauqua work from the inside; for several years he lectured under the Redpath-Vawter management.

Another reason for the success of the enterprise can be found in the nature of the Chautauqua site. Townsley Park, a tract of several acres of timber land along the Sigourney Road, just outside the corporation limits of Washington, was a beautiful, restful place where all could get "the benefits of camp life with scarcely any of the trouble which is generally necessary to go camping."

Best of all, the annual Chautauqua satisfied a

real need in the social life of the community. It furnished the "annual outing festivals" which the county fair earlier had provided. Now, said one writer, "instead of looking at the crazy bed-quilt of 1976 pieces, as it was annually produced for inspection, we look at Sam Jones, who is much more picturesque. In lieu of the mastodon pumpkin, we hear Hobson. . . . Lectures on art, and the Bible lessons are pleasing substitutes for the agricultural hoss trot. There is now more variety. People tired of the fair. It was so tame it went extinct, and just in the nick of time the Chautauqua came to fill the gap."

Judging from the record attendances at the early Washington Chautauquas, the public must have agreed with Howard A. Burrell, who said: "This is one of the jolliest things yet invented. For ten days each year in August, we hark back to nature, and tent in a grove, do house work at an amusing disadvantage, learn the virtue of a garbage barrel, dispense with private bath, grab a cushion or two and a rocking chair and rush to a big tent and start a fan in a crush of sweating humanity, and listen to things grave or gay, to music, to jokes with chin whiskers more or less gray."

MELVIN GINGERICH

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[Persons, places, and subjects, as well as specific items pertaining to each, are listed alphabetically. The names of contributors of articles to THE PALIMPSEST are printed in SMALL CAPITALS; the titles of articles, books, and plays and the names of boats are printed in *italics*; the titles of songs and poems are inclosed in quotation marks. Places not otherwise identified are in Iowa.]

THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY

JOHN ELY BRIGGS

AND

RUTH A. GALLAHER

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THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

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