

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

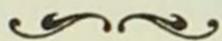
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Ripe for Statehood

As soon as the Territorial legislature decided to authorize a second convention "to form a Constitution for the future State of Iowa", politically minded citizens began to plan the campaign for the choice of delegates at the election of local officials on the first Monday in April, 1846. Party lines were sharply drawn in Territorial politics, though the Democrats usually succeeded in maintaining a safe margin of victory. For that reason Democratic candidates were more numerous in most counties than those of the Whig persuasion, the Democratic caucuses were well attended, and that party's attitude on the principal issues was vigorously expressed.

In Johnson County, seat of the Territorial government, fifty-six Democrats representing every precinct in the county gathered in the Capitol on Saturday, March 14th, to nominate their candidate for the Constitutional Convention. According to the local Democratic newspaper, it was a

very harmonious gathering. The party seemed to be united in purpose.

The preliminary business of organization was dispatched by calling Joseph Harrison of Pleasant Valley to the chair and seating the delegates. Then, upon the motion of J. P. DeForest, also of Pleasant Valley, the convention proceeded to nominate a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. The names of Robert Lucas, former Governor of the Territory, and Curtis Bates, pioneer lawyer and party leader in Iowa City, were promptly presented. Bates, having received the majority of votes on the first ballot, was unanimously approved as the Democratic candidate.

Meanwhile, a committee had been appointed to draft a platform expressing the attitude of the county convention on the character of the proposed State Constitution. While a preamble and fourteen carefully phrased resolutions were being prepared, the chairman and the candidate made some "brief and pertinent remarks".

Determined to resist the "encroachments of arbitrary power and of monied monopolies", the Johnson County Democrats declared their hostility toward "special and partial legislation" as being "at war with the genius of a free government". They believed that there was "gold and silver enough in the world to answer all the purposes

of a circulating medium", and they repudiated the doctrine "that banks are necessary institutions", describing them, instead, as the "most deadly enemies to the true interests of the laboring and producing classes, and as tending to sap the foundation of our liberties — as vipers warmed in the bosom of the body politic, to sting it to death — as splendid schools for bribery and corruption — and as stalking horses for vice and demoralization." They also recommended in Jacksonian phrases that the "credit of the state never be loaned to any man, or set of men", and asserted that the State debt should be limited to \$100,000.

These declarations were too extreme for J. P. DeForest. He could approve the general Democratic philosophy but he was not in favor of declaring war on all financial interests. His motion to consider the resolutions separately was defeated, in spite of his advocacy of it "at some length". But the "disguised federalist", as DeForest was called, was persistent. He proposed a substitute platform of his own and proceeded to address the convention "for an hour or two, to the great annoyance of the delegates who were anxious to get through with the business on hand and go home, as it was getting late in the afternoon."

With his opinions the assembled Democrats

were impatient. Several tried to interrupt the speaker. Some protested "against his thus monopolizing the time". Various parliamentary expedients were tried, but on every attempt to table the substitute resolutions "so much confusion was created" by DeForest's "vociferously claiming his right to the floor, that they were not put. Two or three different motions for adjournment were made and voted down." At last, about five o'clock, with DeForest still occupying the floor, the convention adjourned.

Some of the delegates went home, but the others, resenting the turn of events, stood around discussing their frustration. After about fifteen minutes, when DeForest apparently had disappeared, the convention reassembled and the original resolutions were unanimously adopted. The Democrats, of course, henceforth insisted that DeForest was no longer a member of their party and that the Whigs were welcome to his support.

Meanwhile, similar party conventions were being held in other counties. At Marion the Democrats selected Dr. S. H. Tryon as their candidate for delegate with a majority of only one vote over Joseph T. Fales. A platform was, however, adopted unanimously. It condemned banks as institutions "corrupting the moral tone of society,

by causing men to depend more upon loans and discounts than upon labor and industry". It expressed opposition to divorces by legislative action, imprisonment for debt, the sale of lottery tickets, and "the barbarous practice of dueling". The platform favored an explicit Constitution "leaving nothing for construction or implication", advocated "reasonable salaries for public officials", and insisted upon the St. Peter's River for the northern boundary.

The Whigs, too, were busy with politics. As a party they no longer opposed statehood, but they were more nationally minded than the Democrats, who often called them federalists. As a minority in Iowa, the Whigs pleaded for a "no party" Constitutional Convention. In Johnson County, the Whig candidate, Eastin Morris, who was editor of the *Iowa City Standard* and Supreme Court Reporter, sought election "wholly irrespective of partisan feeling, and in a spirit of concession and compromise".

J. Scott Richman, a man so small in stature that the Democrats were disposed to ignore him, made such an intelligent and energetic campaign in Muscatine County that he was elected by the surprising majority of twenty-seven votes. He promised to be guided by political experience rather than by popular innovations and preferred to

grant the legislature broad discretion instead of filling the Constitution with prohibitions.

In Des Moines County, the cunning Whigs persuaded many Democrats to vote for G. W. Bowie "in a game of swap", making a burlesque of electing him. It was feared that, having defeated J. D. Wright, he would have the temerity to claim his seat in the Convention. He did. With the possible exception of David Olmstead, he and Richman were the youngest delegates, each being twenty-six years of age, according to data collected by T. S. Parvin.

The issues of the campaign for delegates were sharply drawn. Boundaries and banks were the principal topics of debate, though candidates disagreed in degree over economy and democracy. Party affiliation was the decisive factor on election day. In spite of a pouring rain all day on April 6th the election was well attended. When the votes were all counted, the people of Iowa were not surprised to learn that twenty-two of the delegates were Democrats and only ten were Whigs.

The Convention which assembled in the Capitol in Iowa City on Monday morning, May 4, 1846, was in a mood to settle the questions that had delayed the admission of Iowa into the Union. The Democrats, with an effective majority, pro-

posed to draft a constitution expressing their political beliefs. Work was begun, in the opinion of the editor of the *Capital Reporter*, "with a degree of earnestness and despatch, perhaps unprecedented in the history of deliberative assemblies."

As soon as the delegates had presented their credentials and taken their seats, probably in the Hall of Representatives, the south chamber on the second floor, Dr. Enos Lowe of Burlington was promptly elected president, other officers were selected without opposition, the rules of procedure of the Convention of 1844 were adopted, the "Reverend Mr. Smith invoked a blessing from Deity", and the meeting took a recess for lunch. When the Convention reconvened at two o'clock, six standing committees of five members each were appointed.

The Committee on Bill of Rights wasted no time. Its report was ready the following morning at ten o'clock. None of the twenty-three sections stating the philosophy of democratic government and guaranteeing the customary civil liberties was controversial and all were adopted, with the addition of a section outlawing dueling.

The Committee on Boundaries also reported the following morning. Its report was apparently influenced by news from Congress. Early in April it was reported that Stephen A. Douglas

had presented to the House of Representatives a compromise worked out in the Committee on Territories. Under this agreement the parallel of 43° and 30' would constitute the northern line of Iowa and the State would extend west to the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers. Many Iowans were dissatisfied with this compromise but the committee, consisting of Delegates James Grant of Scott County, G. W. Bowie of Des Moines County, George Berry of Lee County, H. P. Haun of Clinton County, and Thomas Dibble of Van Buren County, were willing to accept the compromise. After brief consideration the Convention ordered the boundary article to its final reading the next day. But when the time came the decision was postponed.

Opposition to the proposed compromise seemed to center in the northern counties. Citizens of Dubuque petitioned Congress to fix the northern boundary at the forty-second parallel, which would have cut the proposed State approximately in half and left that city out. Apparently, as Douglas suggested in the House, they wanted "Dubuque to be the largest town in a little State", or "the central town of a large State." Delegate David Olmstead of Clayton County proposed the Lucas boundaries described in the Constitution of 1844, and on May 8th the Convention adopted

his amendment by a vote of twenty-two to eight.

The Convention, it seemed, intended to insist upon the boundaries of the Constitution of 1844 which Congress was unwilling to accept. On this issue the earlier Constitution had been twice defeated. Would statehood again be wrecked upon the rocks of geographical expediency? Even if the people of Iowa should sustain the Convention in the demand for the Lucas boundaries, they had no assurance that Congress would consent. Indeed, one Congressman declared that the people of a Territory had no right to decide the shape or size of a new State. At last, in the final draft of the Constitution, the Committee on Revision was instructed by a vote of eighteen to thirteen to restore the compromise boundaries. It was a fortunate decision, for Congress accepted these boundaries on August 4, 1846, the day after the people of Iowa had ratified the Constitution by the narrow majority of 456 votes.

The really hot potato in the Constitutional Convention kettle was the banking problem. Following the leadership of President Jackson, western Democrats were hostile to eastern financial interests. Sad experience had taught them that the manipulation of credit and currency did not operate to the advantage of farmers and merchants. And so, the Democrats in the Convention were

determined to prohibit banking. To this end, no Whigs were appointed on the Committee of Incorporations, of which Curtis Bates was chairman. By the third day of the Convention it was ready to report.

The State, declared the committee, should never create any banking corporation. Furthermore, the stockholders of all other corporations, except for educational, charitable, and religious purposes, were to be individually liable for the debts of the corporation. This, the Whigs could not accept. Richman proposed that "whereas, all sovereignty resides in the people, and the creation of a corporate body is one of the highest acts of sovereignty", the legislature be empowered "to grant such corporate privileges as may be deemed conducive to the public good." Though he spoke vigorously in support of legislative discretion, the majority of delegates were adamant in their opposition to any such doctrine.

Democratic newspapers impugned the motives of anyone who spoke against the prohibition of banking. Banks, it was claimed, were worse than lotteries, and men who engaged in such nefarious business were economic parasites. "Bankers, who are too lazy to work and too proud to beg", proclaimed the *Capital Reporter*, "will resort to any species of knavery for the purpose of acquiring

wealth at the expense of the honest and industrious portion of the community." Richman's remarks were particularly offensive to the anti-bank Democrats. The little man "who *mis*-represents Muscatine county", sarcastically commented an Iowa City editor, "claims the people have a right to grant away their rights"! But suicide "is a right which none but a fool or mad man would ever think of exercising."

In the course of debate, many amendments were made and rejected. Some, calculated to prevent any kind of financial monopoly, were adopted. As finally drafted, the article on corporations not only forbade the creation of any corporation with power to issue paper money, but ordered the legislature to prohibit any person or company from "exercising the privileges of banking". Other kinds of corporations, however, might be organized in accordance with general laws which would define the liabilities of the stockholders. But the State could never be a stockholder. The latter restriction, declared the Whigs, would prevent internal improvements.

Delegates differed fundamentally on the extent of legislative discretion. While the majority favored such democratic features as popular election of judges and almost extended suffrage to resident aliens (but were careful to exclude

women and Negroes), they filled the article on the powers of the legislature with prohibitions — no banking corporations, no legislative divorces, no authorization of lotteries, no statute embracing more than one subject, no debt above \$100,000. In the name of democracy they kept salaries low. The Whigs saw “no liberty in binding the Legislature” so that in emergency beneficial laws could not be passed, and deplored the economy which would exclude able but poor men from office, thereby creating “an aristocracy under the garb of economy.”

Though many of the provisions of the Constitution were formulated during debate in the Convention, the work progressed rapidly. Fully aware of the importance of drafting the organic law of the new State, the delegates wasted no time. A fourth of them had been members of the Convention of 1844 (eight of the previous seventy-two) and they contributed valuable experience.

The delegates did not like Iowa City. During the first week several members were sick — probably with colds contracted on their way to the capital. Finding the town “so unhealthy at this time by the confinement of several members of this body, by sickness, that it will be impossible to set here any longer to transact the business of

the people", Sulifand S. Ross proposed to move the Convention to Fairfield. Richman offered the hospitality of Bloomington, and Alvin Saunders advocated Mount Pleasant. Although these motions "gave rise to debate", no drastic action was taken. Probably the indisposed delegates had recovered by the time a vote was in order. Unfavorable living conditions may have stimulated agreement on constitutional provisions, however, for the Convention finished its work on May 19th, in just fourteen working days.

In closing the Convention, President Enos Lowe expressed confidence that the Constitution would "receive the sanction" of all who favored statehood and who believed as he did in the wisdom of its republican principles. "With a territory of matchless beauty, rich in her resources — her woodlands and prairies — her valleys and uplands — her rivers and brooks — her minerals and agricultural products — and the large patrimony which she will receive in grants of the public domain and its proceeds — and a population of not less than a hundred and twenty thousand souls, Iowa appears to be ripe for entering into the Union."

JOHN ELY BRIGGS

Mormons on the March

The trek of the Mormons from Nauvoo on the Mississippi to the valley of the Great Salt Lake, at that time a part of Mexico, is one of the most colorful episodes in the history of the American frontier. Measured in terms of distance traveled and the number of individuals involved, it eclipses the heyday of mule-skinning on the fabulous Santa Fé Trail. For sheer drama it rivals the steady flow of empire-builders plodding westward along the Oregon Trail to the Pacific Northwest. Only the trail of the indomitable Forty-niners can be said to surpass it in point of daring, hardships suffered, and mass movement of pioneers.

Since the first leg of the journey ran across southern Iowa, and since the Mormons established their winter quarters on the west bank of the Big Muddy in the fall of 1846, the highlights of the exodus of these "Children of God" forms an important chapter in that "Year of Decision" which saw Iowa admitted as a State on December 28th.

Although Joseph Smith is said to have seen his first vision as early as 1820, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (commonly called

Mormons), was not organized until April 6, 1830, at Fayette, New York. The Mormons, from their very inception, met with rebuff and persecution wherever they formed a settlement, partly because of their claim that they alone were the chosen people. In 1831 they transferred their headquarters to Kirtland, Ohio, where they reared a temple to their God. In 1833 (at the very time Iowa pioneers were staking out their first claims in the Black Hawk Purchase) the Mormons were attempting to settle at Independence, Missouri, where, according to their church teaching, the New Jerusalem was eventually to be built. Unfortunately, the Missourians became so bitter against these "Saints" who opposed slavery and were unusually effective proselyters, that the Mormons withdrew to Hancock County, Illinois. There, on May 9, 1839, Dr. Isaac Galland, a convert to the new faith, had sold to Joseph Smith a large tract of land which included the straggling village of Commerce with some twenty houses.

When the Mormons arrived at Commerce in 1839 they found themselves in possession of a townsite and a good Mississippi steamboat landing located at the head of the Des Moines Rapids opposite Montrose, Iowa. The following year they renamed the town Nauvoo, an Hebraic word signifying fair, or very beautiful. By 1844 Nau-

voo contained at least 12,000 inhabitants and was the "most flourishing city" in Illinois, surpassing Chicago in population. In 1841 the Latter-Day Saints had begun construction of a beautiful temple which cost a million dollars when completed in 1846.

Meanwhile the Gentiles of the surrounding country looked with envy and suspicion on the growing wealth and power of the Mormons. They were disturbed by the persistent rumors concerning the practice of polygamy and they resented the assumption of the Mormon hierarchy that their faith was to become supreme. The non-Mormon population also resented and feared the growing political strength of the Mormons which was emphasized by Joseph Smith's announcement of his intention to become a candidate for the presidency. Moreover the legislature of Illinois had authorized the enlistment of a "Mormon Legion", a military unit entirely under the control of the Mormon Church.

Armed forces stalked the countryside and acts of violence soon became commonplace. The tense situation finally culminated in the murder of Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum by an angry mob on June 27, 1844, while they were awaiting trial in a Carthage jail.

Brigham Young, a dynamic leader and brilliant

organizer, succeeded Joseph Smith as head of the church, and managed to restore order for a time. But hostilities soon broke out again and in the fall of 1845 Brigham Young appealed to the Governor of Illinois for protection, promising that the Saints would leave Nauvoo "so soon as grass would grow and water run" the following spring.

The magnitude of Brigham Young's proposed exodus can be readily demonstrated. Parley P. Pratt estimated that the average outfit for a family of five should include one good wagon, three yoke of oxen, two cows, two beef cattle, three sheep, one thousand pounds of flour, twenty pounds of sugar, one rifle and ammunition, a tent and tent-poles, from ten to twenty pounds of seed to a family, from twenty-five to one hundred pounds of tools for farming, bedding, cooking utensils, and a few other items. The cost was estimated at about \$250.

An unusually mild winter led to great optimism, and the first family of Mormons crossed the Mississippi on February 4, 1846. Two days later the George Miller family was ferried across with six wagons. In a few days the work of transporting the Saints across the Mississippi was going on day and night. A few accidents occurred, such as the sinking of one ferryboat, but in general the Mormons were fortunate in getting over

safely. A camp was formed on the west bank of the river opposite Nauvoo and when Brigham Young and the twelve apostles crossed on February 15th the entire contingent traveled inland nine miles and established their first "Camp of Israel" on Sugar Creek in Lee County. Every halting place of the president and his twelve apostles was called a "Camp of Israel" and fifteen of these were established across southern Iowa.

The Mormons were no strangers to the Iowa pioneers. In 1839 they had bought for their church a part of the town of Keokuk and the whole of the townsite known as Nashville. Mormons had also acquired a part of the town of Montrose, together with some thirty thousand acres of land in the Half-breed Tract. In a letter dated January 4, 1840, Governor Robert Lucas had described the one hundred Mormon refugees who had fled to Iowa to escape the wrath of the Missourians as "industrious, inoffensive, and worthy citizens."

Unfortunately this high opinion was destined to change in Lee County, for long before the Mormon exodus began in 1846 the Danite Band had become *persona non grata* to most of the pioneers in southeastern Iowa. Larceny, horsestealing, counterfeiting, assault, and several murders, including that of Colonel George Davenport, were

attributed to Mormons or to persons harbored by the Mormons. It is not surprising, therefore, that Brigham Young should feel it necessary to petition Governor James Clarke on February 28th, imploring protection for the Saints while journeying through the Territory of Iowa to a land of exile, or while remaining in Iowa "working for an outfit, or raising a crop on rented or unclaimed land, in case necessity should force any of them to do so."

No sooner had Brigham Young and his twelve apostles arrived on the west bank of the Mississippi on February 15th than a drastic change occurred in the weather. Snow began to fall, the thermometer plummeted to 20° below zero, and the Mormons suffered intensely because of improper clothing and shelter. Although they had been warned to provide themselves with sufficient food for themselves and their stock, many of those encamped on Sugar Creek had failed to do so. Fortunately some were able to buy the surplus food and fodder of Lee County settlers; others obtained funds with which to replenish their store by cutting timber and husking corn for the Iowa pioneers.

It was not until Sunday, March 1st, that the Mormons were able to break their camp on Sugar Creek and continue their journey. After traveling

five miles in a northwesterly direction, they halted, scraped away the snow, and pitched their tents upon the frozen ground. Large fires were built and before the Mormons retired to their beds on the frozen earth prayers were offered to their Creator.

The following day Apostle Orson Pratt recorded that the detachment moved on over ground so rough and bad that some of the wagons were broken. In the evening the travelers encamped on the east bank of the Des Moines River, four miles below the little village of Farmington, and probably about midway between Croton and the northern boundary of the Half-breed Tract. On March 3rd the Mormons followed the general course of the Des Moines River for eight miles and pitched their camp on a muddy site in the vicinity of present-day Bonaparte. The following day they remained in camp because of the mud, spending their time mending broken harnesses and repairing their wagons. At the "earnest solicitations" of the citizens of Farmington, the band of music from the Mormon camp returned to that community and gave a concert.

On March 5th most of the people in the camp forded the river at Bonaparte's Mills. The roads in many places were almost impassable on account of the mud. According to Orson Pratt some teams

were unable to draw their loads in bad places without help and many wagons were broken. A portion of the group was forced to stop on account of the roads while the others proceeded on about twelve miles to Indian Creek, encamping a few miles south of the site of present-day Keosauqua.

Two days later a detachment, including Orson Pratt, moved about twelve miles westward and encamped on the Fox River, probably just west of where it crosses the Davis County line. The main body of Mormons encamped about three miles to the east. Here the Mormons halted two or three days, at a place called Richardson's Point, and here they established a permanent Camp of Israel.

On March 10th they were once more on the move, toiling ten miles over "exceedingly bad" roads to the center of Davis County near Bloomfield. "We are very much scattered at the present. Many are engaging work in the thinly scattered settlements, to obtain food both for themselves and their animals. It was found necessary to exchange our horses for oxen, as the latter would endure the journey much better than horses. Many have already exchanged."

An incident which is recorded as having occurred near Richardson's Point reveals the simple faith of the Saints and the sorry condition of their

draft animals. A horse was "violently" attacked by some disease and lay as if dead. The Saints believed in healing by the "laying on of hands", but they questioned the propriety of using this method in the case of an animal. However, some one quoted the Prophet Joel as having said that "in the last days the Lord would pour out His spirit on all flesh." This quieted their scruples and six men accordingly placed their hands on the horse, "prayed for his recovery", and commanded the evil spirit to depart. The horse immediately "rolled over twice, sprang to his feet, and was soon well."

On Friday, March 20th, the Mormons were once more on their way, starting out with the temperature ten degrees below freezing, and making ten miles before pitching their tents in western Davis County. The next day they traveled about twenty miles and encamped on the west bank of the Chariton River, pitching their second permanent camp in a large body of timber not far from Centerville. Thus far they had traveled approximately ninety-four miles, averaging a little over three miles per day after leaving Sugar Creek.

Nor were their troubles over! On Sunday and Monday, March 22nd and 23rd, Orson Pratt recorded in his journal the movement of the pioneer

units to the banks of Shoal or Locust Creek in southeastern Wayne County, where another permanent camp was located.

"The day is rainy and unpleasant. Moved only seven miles. The next day went through the rain and deep mud, about six miles, and encamped upon the west branch of Shoal Creek. The heavy rains had rendered the prairies impassable; and our several camps were very much separated from each other. We were compelled to remain as we were for some two or three weeks, during which time our animals were fed upon the limbs and bark of trees, for the grass had not yet started, and we were a number of miles from any inhabited country, and therefore, it was very inconvenient to send for grain. The heavy rains and snows, together with frosty nights, rendered our situation very uncomfortable. Our camps were now more perfectly organized, and captains were appointed over hundreds, over fifties, and over tens, and over all these, a President and Counsellors, together with other necessary officers. Game is now quite plentiful. Our hunters bring into camp more or less deer, wild turkies, and prairie hens every day." Nine days later, on March 31st, clear weather enabled Elder Pratt to record the position of their camp on Shoal Creek — 40° 40' 7" north latitude and 92° 59' 50" west longitude.

During such scenes of adversity the Mormons did not lose faith in their God. On Sunday, April 5th, Orson Pratt observed that a portion of the camp met together to offer a sacrament to the Most High. The next morning was April 6th, a significant day in the Mormon church calendar, and the Saints did not fail to observe it. According to Orson Pratt: "This morning, at the usual hour of prayer, we bowed before the Lord with thankful hearts, it being just 16 years since the organization of the Church, and we were truly grateful for the many manifestations of the goodness of God towards us as a people. The weather is still wet and rainy. Nine or ten wagons, with four yoke of oxen each, have started this morning for the settlements to obtain corn. In the evening we were visited by a heavy thunderstorm, accompanied by a high wind and hail. Most of the tents which were pitched upon high ground were blown down, and the inmates exposed to the fury of the storm. The water in Shoal Creek arose in a very few minutes several feet in height, and threatened to overflow its banks, and disturb our tents." To add to their misery, most of the wagons that had been sent to the settlements returned empty, and the Mormons found it difficult to sustain their teams, even though the oxen were not working.

It was not until Thursday, April 9th, after spending sixteen days encamped in the mud and cold of Shoal Creek, that the Mormons determined to move on slowly. After a tortuous day's journey Orson Pratt ruefully recorded:

"With great exertion a part of the camp were enabled to get about six miles, while others were stuck fast in the deep mud. We encamped at a point of timber about sunset, after being drenched several hours in rain. The mud and water in and around our tents were ankle deep, and the rain still continued to pour down without any cessation. We were obliged to cut brush and limbs of trees, and throw them upon the ground in our tents, to keep our beds from sinking in the mire. Those who were unable to reach the timber, suffered much, on account of cold, having no fuel for fires. Our animals were turned loose to look out for themselves; the bark and limbs of trees were their principal food."

From their camp on Shoal Creek the route of the Mormons veered in a northwesterly direction. On April 14th some scanty feed began to make its appearance on the wettest portions of the prairie but it was still too cold for the grass to grow well. On April 19th they were able to hold their first outdoor meeting since they left Nauvoo. On April 24th Elder Orson Pratt recorded:

"Yesterday we traveled about eight miles, today, six miles. We came to a place which we named Garden Grove. At this point we determined to form a small settlement and open farms for the benefit of the poor, and such as were unable at present to pursue their journey further, and also for the benefit of the poor who were yet behind."

Garden Grove was one of the most important Camps of Israel established by the Mormons in Iowa. Here, on the banks of the Grand River, Brigham Young proposed to fence in a large field, build a number of log cabins, plow some land, and put in a spring crop. He also proposed to select certain men and families to take care of the improvements while the rest of the camp proceeded westward.

On April 27th, at the "sound of the horn", the emigrants gathered to organize for labor. The council had found 359 laboring men in camp, besides trading commissaries and herdsmen. From these, 100 were chosen to fell trees, split them into rails, and make zig-zag fences. Ten were appointed to build fences, forty-eight to build houses, twelve to dig wells, ten to build bridges, and the remainder to clear and plow the land, and plant crops. "There was no room for idlers there", one authority declared. "The camp was

like a hive of bees, every one was busy. And withal the people felt well and were happy."

At one of the outdoor meetings Brigham Young said: "We have set out to find a land and a resting place, where we can serve the Lord in peace. We will leave some here, because they cannot go further at present. They can stay here and recruit, and by and by pack up and come on, while we go a little further and lengthen out the cords and build a few more Stakes". By the month of May, hunger and personal responsibility had reduced President Young so greatly in flesh that a tight fitting coat in which he started from Nauvoo "lapped over twelve inches!"

On May 11th Brigham Young and many of the Mormons left Garden Grove and continued their northwesterly trek with their long wagon trains. They reached the middle fork of the Grand River on May 18th and found Parley P. Pratt encamped there. On a hill nearby Pratt had found "a mass of grey granite, which had the appearance of an ancient altar, the parts of which had fallen apart in various directions as though separated by fire." This was considered the "more remarkable" since there was no rock in that area and Pratt accordingly had called the place Mount Pisgah. One of the leading Camps of Israel in Iowa was located near Mount Pisgah in what is

now Union County. Some eight hundred burials at this camp stand as a mute reminder of the sojourn and suffering of the Mormons. A camp was maintained here until 1852.

Towards the end of May "most of the Twelve, with large companies, proceeded in a westerly direction" into present-day Adair County whence they journeyed westward along a route approximately that of State Highway 92 between Greenfield and Council Bluffs. In this area the Potawatomi Indians still lingered, but they were friendly and helpful.

Brigham Young left Mount Pisgah on June 2nd, reaching the Missouri River within the present limits of Council Bluffs twelve days later. It had taken five long months to make the 300-mile journey (according to modern highway measurements), an easy eight-hour drive on the paved roads of 1946. To the Mormons encamped on the banks of the Missouri River came news of the dedication of the Temple at Nauvoo overlooking the Mississippi.

At Miller's Hollow, later Kaneshville, and now Council Bluffs, the Mormons built a ferry boat which was launched on June 29th. Before the last Mormons evacuated Nauvoo on September 17th, the pioneer groups were being ferried across to their main encampment, which became known

as Winter Quarters, a point located on the northern outskirts of modern Omaha. In April of 1847, the first company of 143 men, 3 women, and 2 children, started west from Winter Quarters under the leadership of Brigham Young. After traveling a thousand miles over the trackless Nebraska plain and rugged Wyoming mountains they entered the valley of the Great Salt Lake through Emigration Canyon on July 24, 1847, a day that has ever since been observed as Pioneer Day in Utah. A year later this valley became part of the territory of the United States.

The exodus of the Mormons across southern Iowa was of lasting significance to the Hawkeye State. In July of 1846 fifteen thousand Mormons were said to be encamped or toiling westward along the Iowa trails, with 3,000 wagons, 30,000 head of cattle, horses, and mules, and a vast number of sheep. The trails they left were noted by surveyors later on, just as were the streams, creeks, woods, and other physical landmarks. Garden Grove, Mount Pisgah, and Lamoni are but a few of the modern reminders of this great trek. The Mormon trailblazers of 1846 hold the honor of marking the first great route across Iowa from the Mississippi to the Missouri.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

To Pay or Not to Pay

There are always two schools of thought concerning official salaries. One school urges the payment of adequate salaries as a means of securing competent officials; the other argues that high salaries will attract mercenary candidates more interested in salaries than in services. This is not a new subject of debate. In 1846, when Iowans were preparing their Constitution, editors and delegates argued long and bitterly over how much the Governor, the Supreme Court Justices, and other officials should be paid. An editorial, probably by M. T. Emerson, in the *Bloomington Herald* of May 1, 1846, presented one side of the argument under the heading "Economy in State Government".

"This is a subject which will come before the Convention in regulating the salaries of the members of the Legislature and all the officers of State. We conceive it to be one of deep interest to the citizens of Iowa. While we will go as far as any in our opposition to an extravagant expenditure of the public money, we think there is great danger in our zeal after economy of falling upon the opposite extreme, and illustrating in the case of a

State government, the old adage of 'penny wise and pound foolish.' The object of this people is, or should be, to secure a good government well administered. . . .

"Talent is in the market to be paid for, and if private enterprise will yield a better recompense than the public service, the State government must have her affairs directed, her laws administered, by second rate men. We have among us no class who can be expected to hold office for the honor such office confers. . . . Better for the interests of the State and citizen is it, that ample salaries should be given to men competent to 'render the state some service,' than a cheap government administered by any others.— We speak now more particularly of the Executive and Judiciary. The first is not only an office of honor, but also of great responsibility. . . .

"The case of Governor Wright of New York illustrates our meaning; were the Governor's salary in that State what it is proposed to make it in Iowa, a man of the station and in the circumstances of Silas Wright would be excluded from the office. No matter how much he might regard the honor of the position, no matter how well fitted to fill it, his poverty would forever prevent his accepting it. This false economy is contrary to the whole spirit of our institutions; it denies the poor

man any participation in the administration of the government, and in effect creates an aristocracy under the garb of economy.

“In the case of the Judiciary, we think the evils resulting from such miscalled economy still more dangerous than in the case of the Executive — in the latter mischief *may* arise from want of qualification for office — in the former it *must*. Insecurity of private property, and enormous expense to the State and citizen must arise from incapacity in those who hold the offices of Judges. A large part of this expense grows directly out of a want of confidence in the Judge — hence the number of cases carried up by appeal and otherwise to the highest tribunal in the State. We must look for the reason of this in the character of the Judges and the respect had for their decisions. In this country they are not always the best men or the most learned lawyers the bar can produce. The salary is too small, the tenure too limited, to warrant such in leaving the bar for the bench. Less, we conceive, should be heard in Convention of the price to be paid the servants of the State, and more regard be had to the qualifications of those who hold office.”

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