

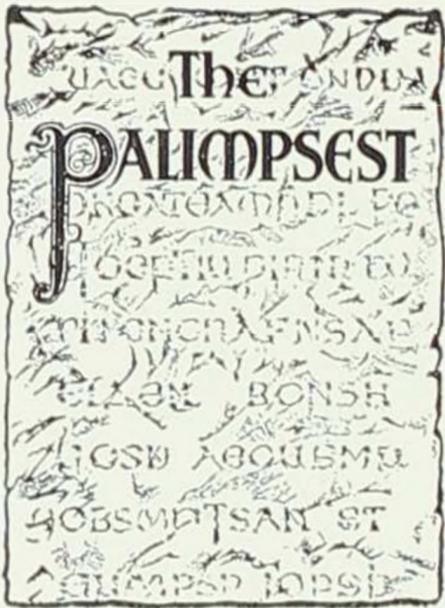
*The*  
**PALIMPSEST**



THE FAIRFIELD *DAILY LEDGER*, 1849-1957

Published Monthly by  
**The State Historical Society of Iowa**  
Iowa City, Iowa

JANUARY 1957



## The Meaning of Palimpsest

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

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

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WALLACE E. SHERLOCK

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## Cover

*Front:* Newsboys in front of the *Daily Ledger* building.

*Back:* Two views of Fairfield in early days.

## Author

Wallace E. Sherlock has been, for over half a century, actively identified with newspaper work in a number of different states. He served as contributing editor for the *Chicago Inter-Ocean*, editor-in-chief of the *St. Louis Journal of Agriculture*, circulation manager of the *Iowa Homestead* and of the *St. Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer Press and Dispatch*, and production manager of the *Kansas City Weekly Journal*. He is the author of several books and a former member of the advisory council of the National Constitution Association.

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

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PRICE — 25 cents per copy; \$2.50 per year; free to Members  
MEMBERSHIP — By application. Annual Dues \$3.00  
ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa

# THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. XXXVIII

ISSUED IN JANUARY 1957

No. 1

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## The Fairfield *Ledger*

On June 12, 1847, Fairfield's first newspaper, the *Sentinel*, was launched by Augustus R. Sparks, its owner and publisher. It was an exponent of Democratic principles at a time when the Democratic party was in the majority in Iowa, in Jefferson County, and in the nation.

The *Fairfield Ledger* did not appear until November, 1849. It was founded by Orlando McCraney, a Whig, who hoped to interest the youthful William Wallace Junkin, then only eighteen years of age, in becoming a partner in the venture and in assuming full charge of the mechanical department.

Junkin had entered the printers' trade at the age of twelve in his home town of Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia). His parents and family had come to Fairfield in 1847 where Junkin worked for more than a year in the mechanical department of the *Sentinel* till a short time before Sparks sold that paper to Ezra Brown and R. B. Pope. Junkin then helped Barlow Granger launch

the *Iowa Star*, the first Des Moines newspaper. During the winter of 1848-49 he assisted J. H. D. Street and Richard H. Warden in the publication of the [Ottumwa] *Des Moines Courier*, which was destined to become the *Ottumwa Courier* in 1857.

William Junkin then accepted McCraney's offer to work on the *Ledger*, remaining with that paper till May, 1851, when he took a position in the state printing office at Richmond, Virginia. After serving Virginia two years, Junkin returned to Fairfield, where he found A. R. Fulton sole owner of the *Ledger*. Three days later young Junkin, who was branded a "tramp printer" by the editor of the *Sentinel*, purchased a half interest in the *Ledger* for \$450. From that day in 1853, there has never been a moment when a Junkin, or an immediate relative, has not been the owner, or part owner, of the *Ledger*.

The following year (1854) the partners saw that there was not enough business in Fairfield and Jefferson County "to make it profitable" for both of them so Junkin offered Fulton \$450 for his half of the property which Fulton accepted without a moment's delay. The following week Fulton wrote a lengthy "Valedictory" in which he praised the youthful Junkin highly and predicted a glowing future for the *Ledger*. He concluded:

Let me express my confidence that this journal will continue to merit the patronage of the public. May it go on

doing great good in political reform, and may a generous public truly appreciate its efficacy.

William Junkin was a slave to brevity — never using two words in his conversation when one word would answer the purpose. This fact was proven by his salutatory in the following week's edition of the *Ledger*. It reads:

Ledger Office, Fairfield, Iowa  
August 24th, 1854.

Kind Patrons:

I have bought all *The Ledger* and it is under my control. If anything appears in it which you do not like, just lay the blame at my door.

Truly yours,  
W. W. Junkin.

William Junkin placed the imprint of his personality on his newspaper. In format it was much like any other Iowa four-page weekly newspaper of the period. It had seven columns to the page, and by using small type, it contained a good deal of news.

The price was \$1.50 per year paid in advance, or \$2 if payment was delayed over three months. In September, 1857, delinquent subscribers were advised: "The *Ledger* will not be sent to subscribers outside the county until paid for."

At the same time advertising prices were raised from \$50 to \$60 for one column for a year with the explanation that the new type just purchased would enhance the appearance of the paper, and,

since it was smaller than the old type, would actually print more words in the same amount of space. A new Wells Power Press also insured a better type of job-printing.

In April of 1860, with a presidential election in the offing and politics at fever heat, Junkin did his bit for the Republican party by offering his paper to clubs of five subscribers for six months at the low rate of 65 cents each. If the club had ten members, the price was 60 cents, if fifteen, 55 cents, and if twenty, 50 cents. Again, in May of 1867, Junkin made a similar offer saying:

We must meet them [the Democrats] and fight them on every corner, and to do this the newspapers are our most effective weapons . . . For the purpose of doing our share of the glorious work we must extend the circulation of the *Ledger*. For the good of the cause we will depart from our rule, and to every new subscriber . . . we will send the *Ledger* for six months for seventy-five cents.

The year 1865 found the *Ledger* reduced in size to six columns, probably as a result of the war. It was still printed on excellent rag paper but the price of single copies had risen to five cents. In 1866 the former seven columns were resumed, and the price raised to \$2 a year, or \$3 if payment was delayed three months.

It is interesting to note the changes in advertising practices through the years as illustrated in the *Ledger*. In W. W. Junkin's day the ads were small items relegated to pages three and four and

one column on page one. Some were set vertically on the page or patterns were made by spacing the words in pyramids, circles, or other geometric patterns. Doctors, dentists, and patent medicines "good for man and beast" promised to cure all ailments, and popular "oyster saloons" vied with the Georgia and Delaware state lotteries for space. Columns headed "Keokuk" and "Burlington Advertising" told of the wares of merchants in those neighboring towns.

After the Civil War ads became larger, some occupying three columns in width and at intervals the *Ledger* found it necessary to issue a special sheet filled with additional ads. Hoop skirts with "duplex elliptic pure refined steel springs" and patent medicines to "cure the decay of manhood" and all other ills held the center of attention.

By 1905 Lydia Pinkham's vegetable compound and Dr. Caldwell's Syrup of Pepsin were popular items. One advertisement would often fill a whole page of the eight to which the *Ledger* had expanded by that time, and instead of being segregated, advertisements were scattered throughout each issue on every page except the first.

Carriages were a feature of the 1910 *Ledger* advertisements, along with rocking chairs, couches, and hammocks. Sloan's Liniment and Old Dutch Cleanser also put in their appearance. By 1918 natty Fords, Oaklands and Studebakers were boasting of their speed, Bull Durham to-

bacco was the best ever, and phonographs, library tables, and sideboards were offered at "panic prices." Full page advertisements of "thrift" and "war savings" stamps were naturally prominent.

The first page of the *Ledger* was invariably given over to long poems, continued stories, and world news, with occasionally the President's or Governor's messages, the speech of some noted Congressman, a copy of the city charter, state laws, or delinquent taxes. As local news began coming into its own in 1857, a section headed "Local Column" began usurping advertising space. During periods preceding an election, however, when Junkin seems to have felt that the subscribers needed to be informed on the issues of the day rather than neighborhood trivia, the local column would disappear almost completely.

Page two was the editor's own special domain and in it he gave vent to his feelings, prejudices, and politics with a joyous abandon that was ample proof both of his editorial ability and his love for a good fight. Before each election, Junkin worked up to a pitch on political issues — national, state, and local — giving the editor of the *Sentinel*, and later the *Jeffersonian* and the *Iowa Democrat*, sly digs, baiting them with questions, and refuting all of their allegations with a fervor that was the style of the day.

Junkin's editorials covered a wide range of subjects touching most of the problems troubling Io-

wans. In between elections he found time to boost the Female Seminary and the County Fair, advocate a county poor farm, urge the re-establishment of Fairfield University, defend abolition and, of course, support the railroads. The Burlington and Missouri Railroad was thirty-six miles west of Burlington and pushing rapidly west to Ottumwa in 1857, bringing with it the prospect of increased trade for Fairfield. Junkin was an enthusiastic advocate until it was discovered that the depot was to be changed to a location out of town when he rose in wrath to defend the citizens' interests, in a series of editorials. On November 23, 1857, he wrote:

We draw the deduction that after the agents of the B. and M. Railroad Company had given out that the Depot was located on the grounds north of the square, and our citizens had, for two years or more, acted with a view to such location, the company had no right to change that location, and place their depot entirely beyond the limits of our city, to the injury of the city and the citizens thereof. That the company had no right to perpetrate a fraud nor to aid others in the perpetration of a fraud. That by every moral obligation they were bound to act in good faith, notwithstanding they might act in bad faith without laying themselves liable to a direct remedy at law. A great many things may be done under color of law, which men would blush to do, and would only skulk behind the law to hide their shame . . . Cowards and rogues act in that manner.

After the war, in 1865, Junkin was a leader in advocating that Jefferson County citizens do their

utmost to secure the line of the St. Louis and Cedar Rapids Railroad. He urged:

Everyone who is in the least interested in the construction of a Railroad that will give us a Southern outlet for our products, is earnestly and seriously urged to be present at said meeting and hear the report which the members of the committee from this county has to make. Whatever we do must be done soon. Other points East and West of us are making strong efforts to secure this road, and we cannot expect to get it by lying supinely by and doing nothing. The initiatory step has been taken, and if we but follow it up with energy and perseverance we shall in all probability secure what we so much need and what our wants imperatively demand — a Southern and Northern outlet. The location of such a road would enhance the value of all kinds of property in an eminent degree.

On state issues Junkin hued strictly to the Republican line. In 1855 the *Fairfield Ledger* made the first recorded effort to summon an Iowa convention of those in the new Republican movement when it proposed a meeting in conjunction with the Jefferson County agricultural fair. While the proposal was not carried out, it did lead to other suggestions for a Republican convention. James Falconer Wilson, who was a guest editorial writer on the paper at that time, was probably behind this proposal as he had recently come from Ohio and was in touch with the movement there.

When the adoption of a new constitution was before the people in 1857, Junkin wrote a series of arguments defending the banking section, the

Bill of Rights, and the articles on education, three of the hotly debated issues. He had this to say on banking:

This presents a safe and reliable basis for banking to the people of Iowa . . . The anti-bank wing of the sham-Democracy will oppose the adoption of the amended Constitution for the very reason that it contains this article. Nearly all the private bankers and brokers of that party will oppose it for the same reason. They prefer making from 20 to 50 percent by loaning to the people the worthless rags issued by the irresponsible banking concerns which have sprung up as thick as Egyptian locusts in Nebraska, to furnishing the people of the State with a sound home currency at from 6 to 10 percent.

Junkin was against state aid to railroads. When a Railroad Convention met in Iowa City in 1858 and passed resolutions in favor of "a judicious system of such aid to Railroads as are of state importance by loaning the credit of the state to an amount not exceeding eight millions of dollars" Junkin expressed strong opposition.

Our State government is now one of the cheapest in the Union. We ought to keep it so, and if possible improve on it. We want our state taxes to keep on the downward scale and never rise again to what they have been formerly. Economy will insure this, but economy consists not in railroad aid and extra sessions.

On the importance of manufacturing in Iowa, Junkin republished a letter in 1865 which had appeared earlier in the *Iowa City Republican*:

Our future is wrapped up in the development of western

manufactures. We have all the materials for the production of articles for which we yet remain wastefully dependent on the industry of others. Wool and hides . . . furnish but two illustrations out of a great many.

On national issues the *Ledger* generally agreed with the accepted Republican platform of support for the homestead bill, a Pacific railroad, home markets, and the Fourteenth Amendment. Junkin wrote ringing editorials giving arguments in their favor and conversely, stinging editorials on anything and everything supported by the Democrats — President Buchanan, slavery in the territories, the Dred Scott decision, Stephen A. Douglas, and Jefferson Davis. President Andrew Johnson's reconstruction policy drew his special ire and was the subject of a number of scathing denunciations.

During these years W. W. Junkin continued to influence state and local Republican politics. At the same time he attended strictly to the business of getting out a profitable newspaper. In 1868, Ralph Robinson purchased one-half interest in the *Ledger*, paying \$2,500 for the same. Clearly, the paper had increased in value and popularity with the passing of the years. In 1875, when Robinson's health began to fail, he sold his interest back to Junkin for \$4,500. About the same time Charles M. Junkin, eldest son of W. W. Junkin, entered the business as co-manager. In 1878, he became partner with his father.

During the 1880's publishers began to realize

that little if any benefit could be derived by rebuking or criticising fellow editors and publishers. The newspaper men began to ignore their competitors and devote more time and effort to their own interests and that of their readers. Up to that time there was relatively little local news. Attention was paid to affairs in Des Moines, Washington, New York, London, Paris and distant lands. Local weddings were given three or four lines, the last line being "thank you" to the bride for a generous slice of the wedding cake. Occasional death notices were run in four or five type-lines. The minister who conducted the services, or some friend, was called on to add a few inches in body type, praising the departed before consigning his or her soul to eternity.

C. M. Junkin was a believer in local news. At first he carried nearly a column of such news, gradually expanding it to several columns. His local items ran something like the following: "Mrs. Hard Worker spent last week in Birmingham with her sister. The ladies will leave soon to visit friends in Illinois." "John Nevertires, near Lockridge, took three loads of hogs to Ottumwa Tuesday, and received the top market price." "John E. Lovermuch makes Sunday afternoon trips to Batavia. We will announce the lady's name early next June." Of course, the names are fictitious, but the statements were facts.

By 1880 Fairfield had four other newspapers

besides the *Ledger* — the *Republican*, the *Tribune*, the *Weekly Journal* and the *Daily Journal*. However, W. W. and Charles Junkin were not perturbed. They continued to attend strictly to business and to give their readers the very best weekly newspaper they knew how to produce.

Those were the years well-to-do farmers from other states east of the Mississippi and from parts of Iowa began to discover that many rich acres, known as "Grade A" land, were to be found in southeast Iowa. New land agencies were accordingly organized in Fairfield and other parts of Jefferson, Wapello, and Keokuk counties and the *Ledger* began to do a brisk business in job printing.

W. W. Junkin passed away in 1903 after fifty years of continuous service as owner, or part owner, but at all times the guiding heart and hand of the *Ledger*. The name "Junkin" always was, and still is, a strong asset.

After the death of his father, Charles M. Junkin continued to carry out his father's policies as sole publisher. Despite the fact that five newspapers divided the field (and one of them a daily) the *Ledger* continued to prosper. Although many of the *Ledger's* readers subscribed for one or more of the other papers, they still felt the need of the *Ledger*.

During the three years prior to the death of W. W. Junkin, three of the five Fairfield papers

changed hands. The *Daily* and *Weekly Journal* were sold to B. J. Taylor and his two sons, Dean and Alfred, who shortly thereafter discontinued the weekly paper. The *Tribune*, which had both a weekly and a daily edition, was sold to Ross Walker, who discontinued the daily.

When C. M. Junkin died in 1915, his nephews, William J. McGiffin and E. D. Hinkhouse, published the *Ledger* for a year until Hinkhouse purchased a paper in western Iowa. The late Don McGiffin, then Congressman C. W. Ramseyer's secretary, resigned at that time and returned to Fairfield to assist his brother William in the management of the *Ledger*. In 1917 they secured the *Ledger* from the Junkin estate.

In 1920 the *Ledger* and the *Journal* merged with W. J. and Don McGiffin and Dean Taylor as the owners. This merger left Fairfield with only one daily paper. For a year or more the daily and weekly publications retained their former names after which the title became the *Ledger-Journal*. On April 9, 1923, the *Tribune* was consolidated with these publications and the principal title became the *Fairfield Daily Ledger*.

After Dean Taylor was appointed postmaster of Fairfield by President Harding, P. S. Junkin purchased Taylor's interest in the *Ledger* and shortly thereafter he formed a corporation, with Col. W. G. Heaton and C. J. Fulton, which purchased the interests held by W. J. and Don Mc-

Giffin. This realignment gave P. S. Junkin the majority of the stock. He served as publisher with Herbert McDougal as editor until June 1, 1930, when he was appointed postmaster of Fairfield.

At that time the stock in the company was purchased by Don McGiffin, Dean Taylor, and Walter Williams, who took possession on July 1, 1930. McGiffin became publisher, Williams business manager, and Taylor editor. The *Ledger* continued to make a steady growth.

When Don McGiffin died in 1939, W. J. McGiffin became trustee of his brother's estate and Walter Williams became publisher and general manager. Dean Taylor died in 1943 and the McGiffin estate and Williams bought the Taylor shares from his heirs. Later James McGiffin, son of Don McGiffin, became trustee of his father's estate and advertising director of the *Ledger*.

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On December 8, 1943, I came to the *Ledger* as editor of the editorial page. Shortly thereafter Uncle Sam decided he needed eight key men out of the *Ledger* personnel: James McGiffin, Frank Simmons, Dale Simmons, George Hollis, Glen Spray, Dean Gabbert, William Baker, and Ben Taylor.

Walter Williams and W. E. McWilliams did a master job in keeping up the advertising lineage. Taking Baker and Gabbert out of the news room and putting me in their place, was like replacing

an Elgin mainspring in an Elgin watch with a mainspring from a Swiss watch. It had been more than twenty years since I had sat at a telegraph desk. Those were the days when the Morse system was the only system used in transmitting "flash" stories. I made many mistakes by misplacing the dots, spaces, and dashes.

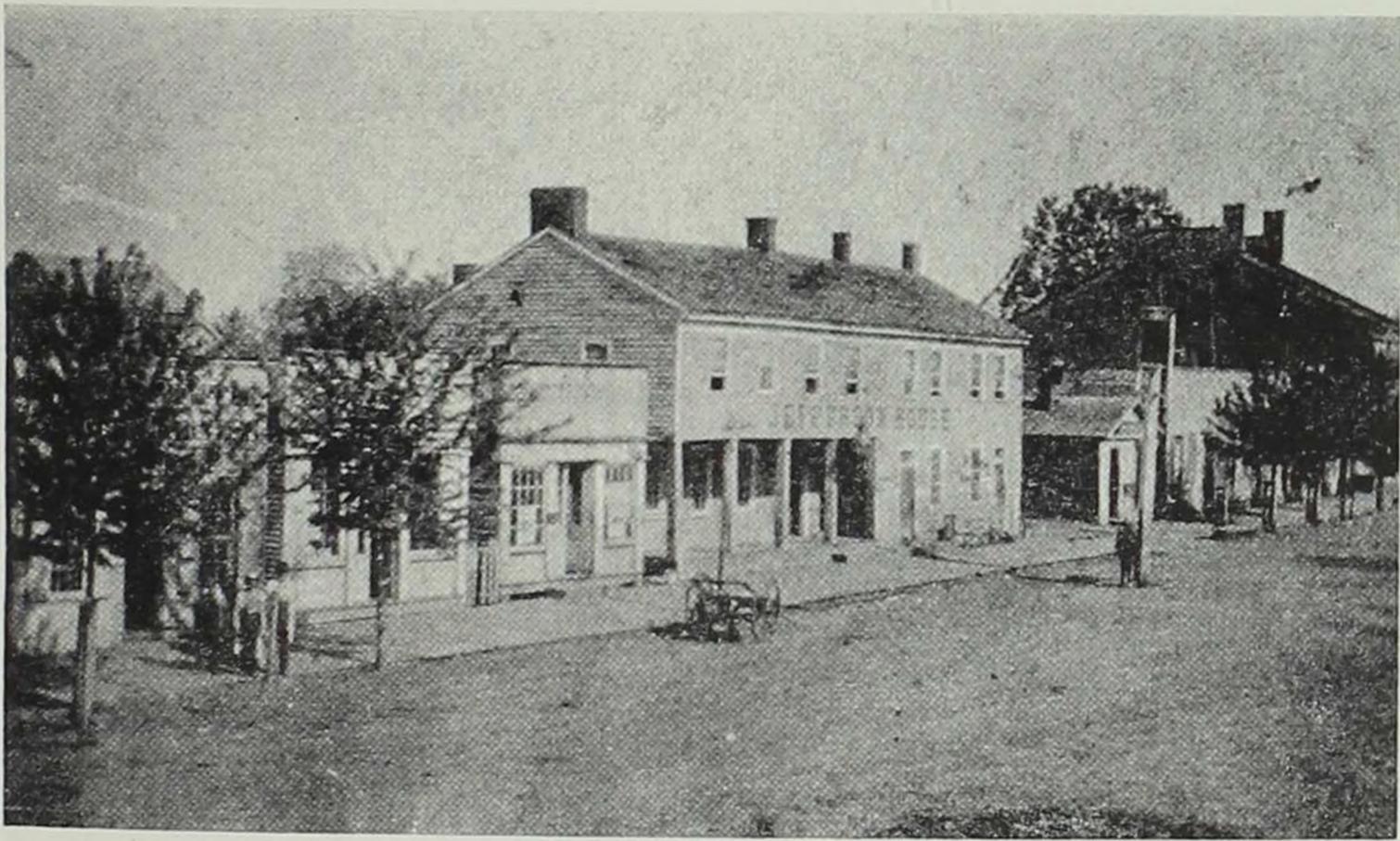
The day I arrived, or a few days previous, the new teletype arrived. It was the first one I had ever seen at work. As I watched the paper unroll to receive the copy the fears I had brooded over for days vanished. The only "gnat in the ointment" was the fact that INS could not supply us with an automatic switch that would turn on the teletype at 3 o'clock in the morning.

The solution of that problem was not difficult. During the ten years that I had been working exclusively on weeklies, many times I had to work thirty-six hours without a wink of sleep. But that never happened after coming to Fairfield. I retired at 7 P.M. and arose the following morning at 2:30. I thrived on it. My weight increased nine pounds during that period. I could see that something was bothering Mr. Williams. One day, after we had "put the paper to bed," he came into my office and wanted to know if I thought I could keep up the "pace" I had set. I nearly laughed in his face as I told him about the nine pounds of fat I had gained since I had come to Fairfield. He grinned and left my office.

The next pay day, I found several extra dollar bills in my pay envelope. I thanked him a bit profusely. "Don't mention it," he replied. The same number of extra bills were in my next envelope. Again I thanked him, but told him not to overlook the help in the news room and in the back shop — they were all doing marvelously good work. Then I got the surprise of my life. He wanted to act a bit peeved that I would think he would overlook anyone. But he had, and still has, an expression of gratitude that he cannot erase, when he is convinced that one of his staff members thinks of his fellow workers as well as himself.

A few months later the war ended and our eight boys returned to their old Fairfield jobs. I got the impression the *Ledger* would be over-manned, at least I reasoned it would be sufficiently manned without me. I laid the matter before Williams who appeared really surprised. Finally, his face a bit flushed, he said: "Did you think when you came here that you were to serve us only for the duration of the war?" I replied that as I remembered it nothing was said about how long I should serve. Then Mr. Williams came back at me, that I was not hired for the duration of the war, but to fill the late Mr. Taylor's editorial shoes.

About eight years later — the latter part of January, 1953 — I told Mr. Williams I wanted to quit September 24 — my eightieth birthday. He replied: "Ah, that's a long time yet, see me later."

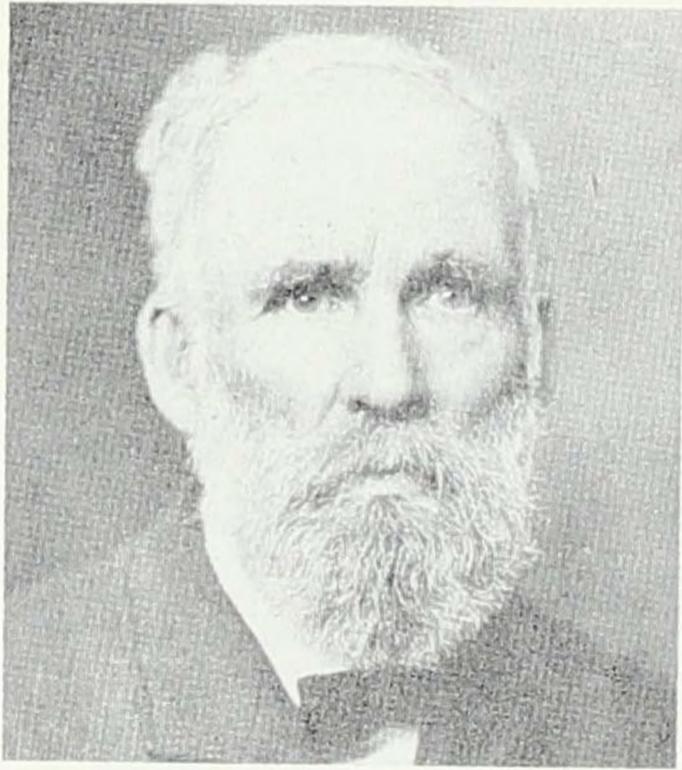


The home of the *Fairfield Ledger* in the 1850's was the small building to the left of the Jefferson House.

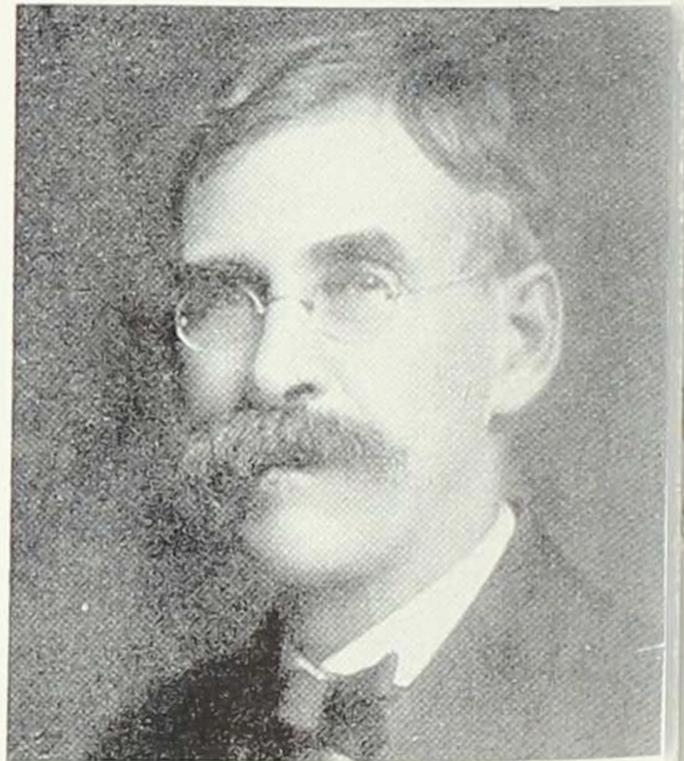


The home of the *Fairfield Ledger* in 1876 was the second floor of the building on the northeast corner of the square.

LEDGER PERSONNEL OF YESTERYEARS

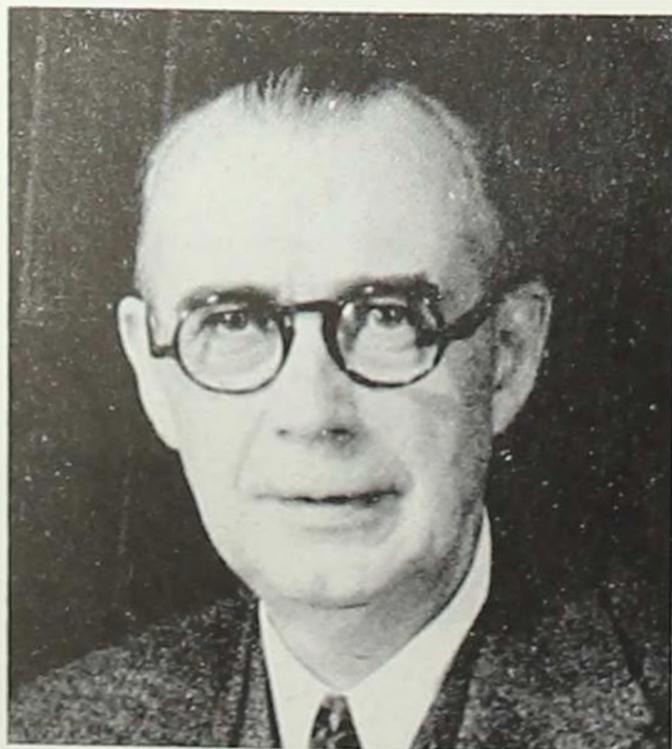


WILLIAM WALLACE JUNKIN  
Owner-Editor, 1853-1903



CHARLES M. JUNKIN  
Co-owner-Editor, 1878-1915

JENNIE PRINCE  
Correspondent, 1891-



DEAN TAYLOR  
Part Owner-Editor, 1920-1943

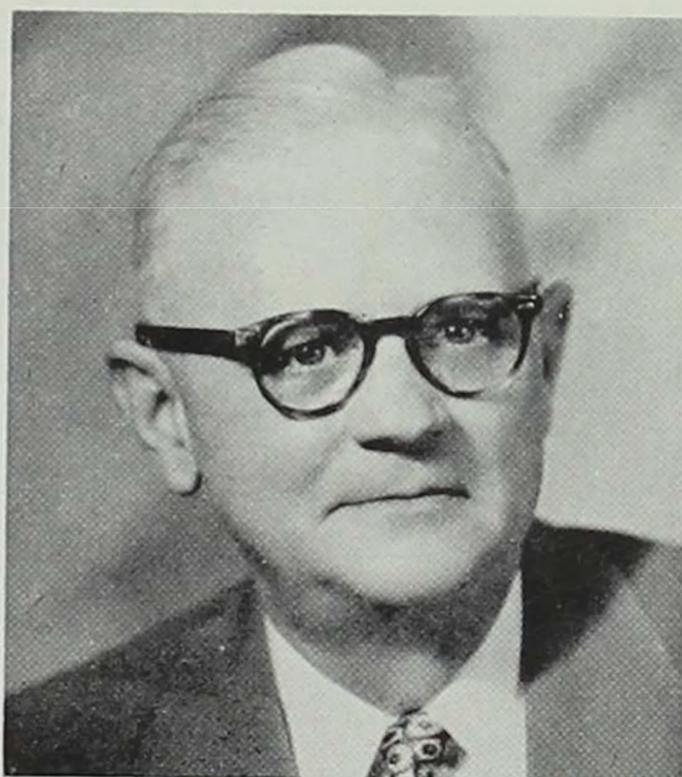


DON MCGIFFIN  
Part Owner-Publisher, 1916-1939

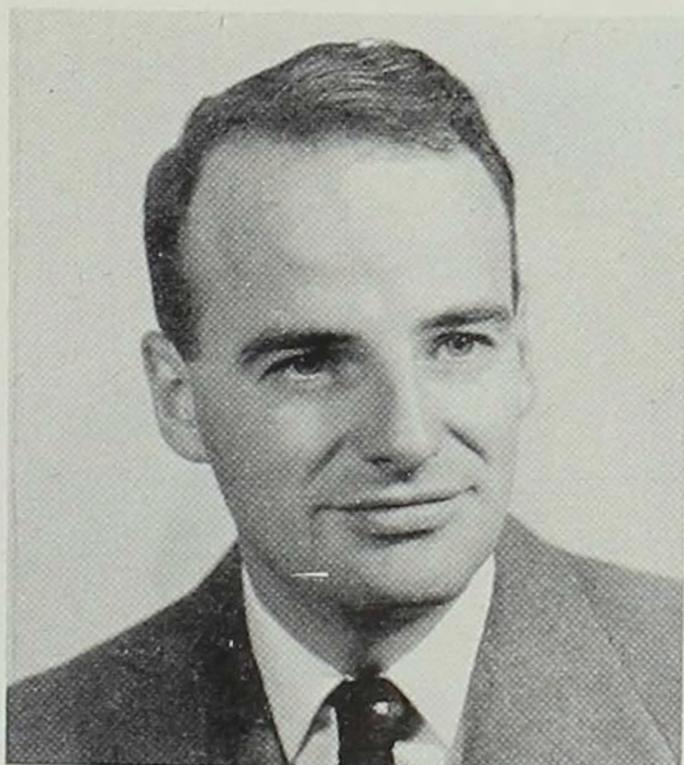
AUTHOR AND PRESENT PERSONNEL



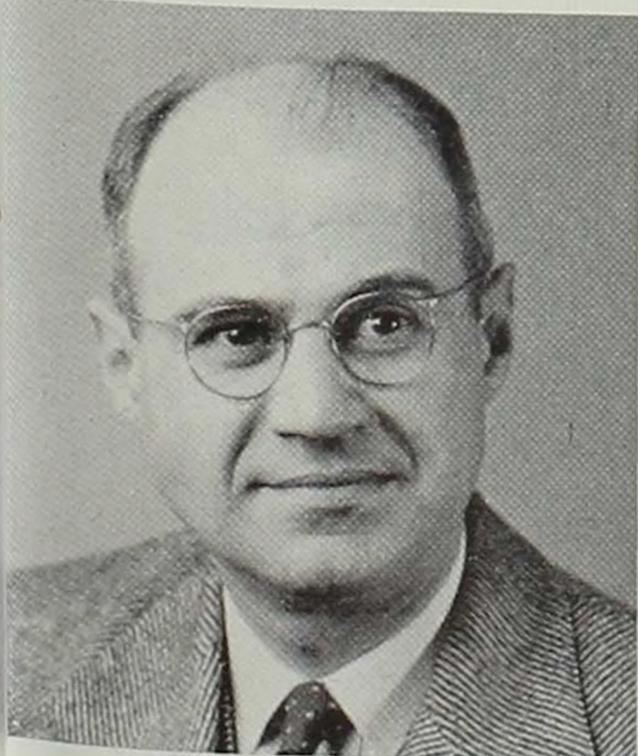
WALLACE E. SHERLOCK  
Editor, 1943-1953



WALTER E. WILLIAMS  
Publisher-Editor



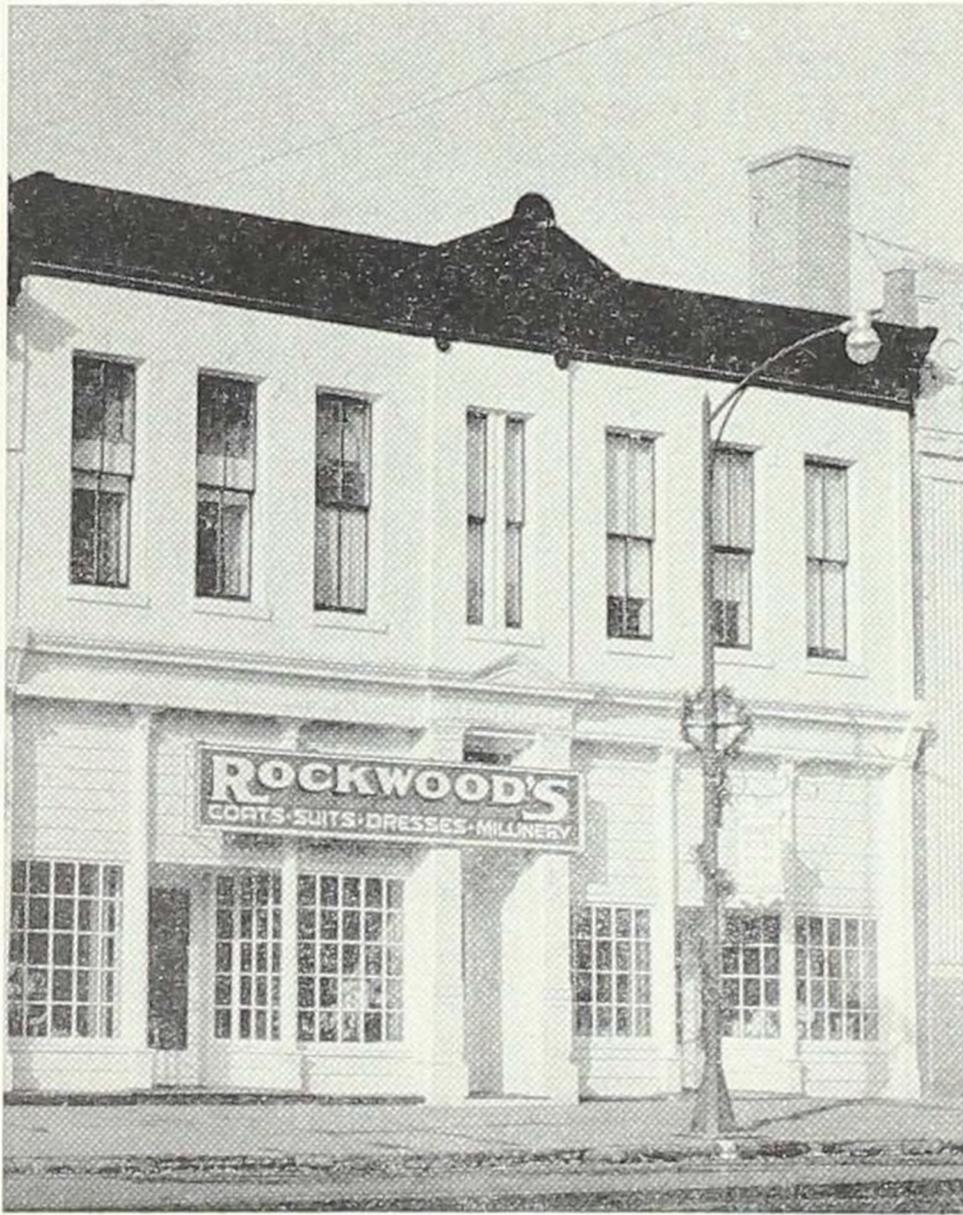
JAMES J. MCGIFFIN  
Advertising Manager



BEN J. TAYLOR  
Retail Advertising Manager

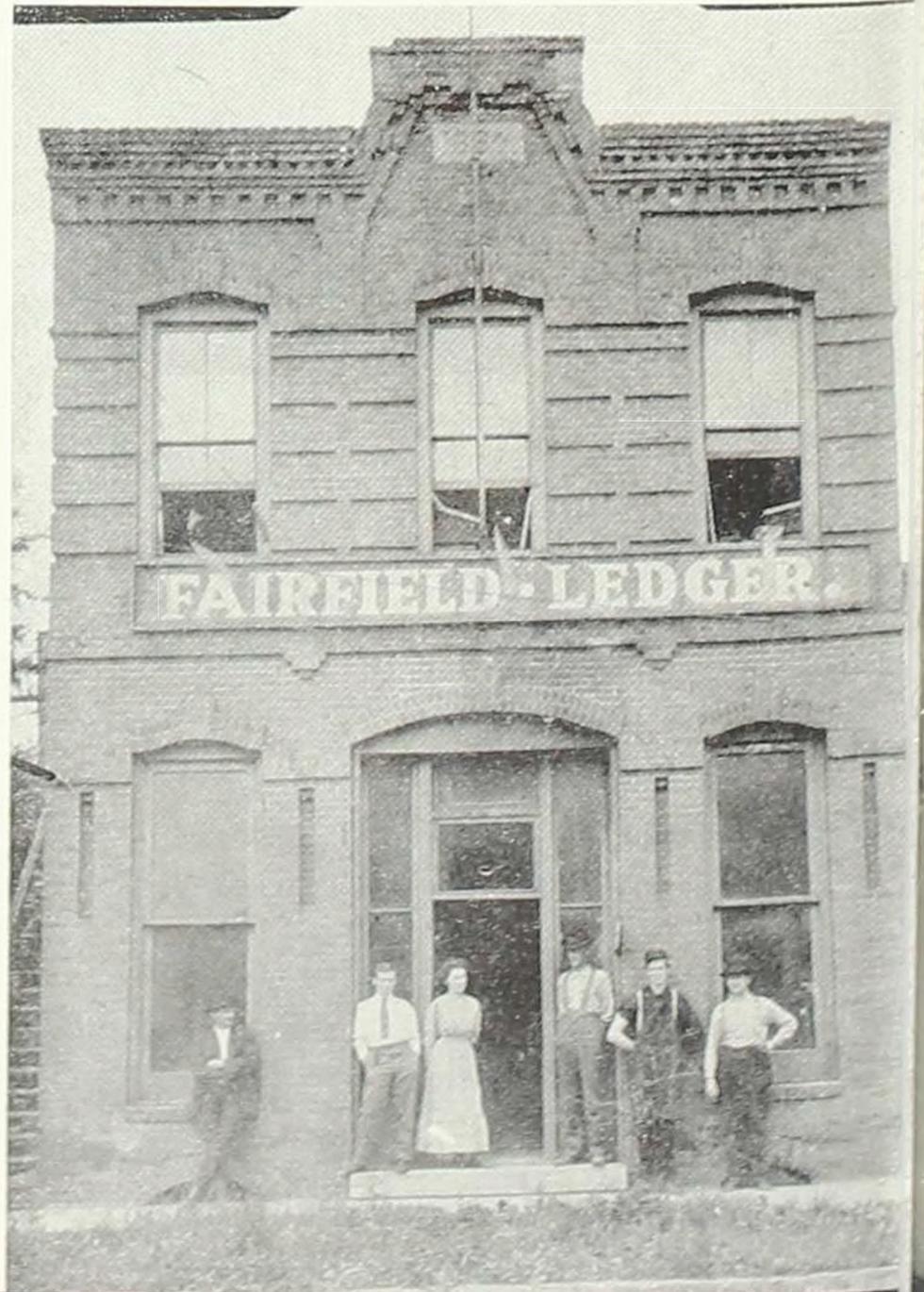


DEAN GABBERT  
Managing Editor



A recent picture of the building occupied, both upstairs and down, by the *Fairfield Ledger* during the late 1870's and probably all of the 1880's.

The *Fairfield Ledger* building of 1906.



Early in September, 1953, I again reminded him that I had advised him I wanted to quit on September 24, my eightieth birthday — that would be the end of my fifty-sixth year in the newspaper business. I was getting a bit tired!

I shall never forget the expression that took possession of his face. It was not only paternal to a superlative degree, but there was a slight elevation of his eyebrows that plainly indicated that he was not provoked at my comment. After a few seconds silence, he said: "You do not look a bit tired, can't you stay with us a few weeks after you become an octogenarian?" I told him I would be glad to do that. My records show that my last pay check was dated October 10, 1953. A nice bonus was added to the check.

I have gone to some length to define the kind of a boss Walter Williams is to his employees. Probably the *Ledger* leaders before him were just as good, but I know they could have been no better. I had served twelve different publishers before coming to the *Ledger*. The majority of my experience had been in the circulation departments, the most difficult to promote of the four all-important departments — circulation, advertising, editorial and news copy, and mechanical. Many were the times I opposed both the general manager and the advertising director in outlining circulation campaigns, but we always remained good friends. Williams was an altogether differ-

ent general manager. He occasionally commented favorably on an editorial I had the previous day, but never did he object.

I cannot close this bit of newspaper history without paying tribute to Mrs. Jennie Prince, who has served the Beckwith neighborhood as correspondent to the *Fairfield Ledger* for over sixty years, beginning her services early in September, 1891. Living on a farm a few miles east of Fairfield, she has probably furnished more news items for the *Ledger* than any town or small city correspondent in the state. She was one of the first country correspondents on Iowa weekly newspapers and she served for probably the longest period of time.

Those were the days when country newspapers did not want their township correspondents' names known to their readers. Jennie selected a whole flock of pseudonyms that kept the folks guessing down around Beckwith. First it was "XYZ," followed by "Simple Simon," "4 Get Me Not," "Young Democrat," "Cro. K," "Eyes and Ears," "Nixty," "Ino and U. Dontno," and many others. In time, however, the folks in and near Beckwith "got next" to the lady and she had to admit the guilt.

Since that period of her life, the *Ledger* has reminded its readers about every ten years that Jennie is still on the job and going strong. In the *Ledger* of September 3, 1943, she called the atten-

tion of readers to the fact that that day marked her "fifty-third year as a *Ledger* correspondent." It also called the readers' attention to the fact that Mrs. Prince had a very interesting news item in that edition of the *Ledger*. The story read as follows:

A new club, known as the Laf-a-lot group has been organized in the Fairfield Central Park with Mrs. Bert Couser as president.

City and rural ladies in good standing are eligible to join this social group who have taken the quotation: "Laugh and the world laughs with you" as their motto. There are no dues or refreshments; the purpose of the club is to hold jolly, get-acquainted sessions.

Thirty-five ladies attended the meeting last Saturday, between 2:00 and 4:00 o'clock.

The same organization may still be in existence. A few days ago I called the *Ledger* to ask if Mrs. Prince was in town. I was informed that she was, and that I would find her in Central Park. That delightful gathering place, the finest in Iowa, is only a block from my apartment. I found Mrs. Prince and, possibly, a dozen ladies, seated on park benches, holding some kind of a community meeting. And was it a jolly gathering? I'll say it was.

WALLACE E. SHERLOCK

## Editorials through the Years

William Wallace Junkin

The following are excerpts from a series of seven editorials by William Wallace Junkin which appeared in the *Fairfield Ledger* between November 15 and December 27, 1855. They typify the strong sentiment that prevailed in the North in the decade preceding the Civil War.

### Why We Are Opposed to the Extension of Slavery

. . . With all the wrongs upon it, we seek not to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists, for we have no right to do so. We simply propose to struggle against the extension over territories now free. We ask nothing more.

. . . Thus we see that the two principles — despotism and republicanism — can never harmonize. If brought in contact, being at enmity, each will struggle for the mastery — slavery struggling to extend its borders and accumulate power, while republicanism is exerting its power to control the ambitious designs of its enemy and secure the blessings of free institutions to all states which may hereafter be added to the Union of the states.

. . . Washington expressed himself as disposed to give the general government power to abolish slavery. Jefferson forever prevented slavery from existing in the Northwest Territory. Madison prevented the word "slave" being used in the Constitution.

. . . The creators of our form of government hated slavery and were determined to control it and keep it out of the territories. We believe that policy was right — in strict accordance with the true spirit of our institutions. The slavery extensionists of the present day have attempted to overturn this policy of the fathers.

. . . So far as the representation now in Congress is concerned, we have no remedy and do not ask any. We simply ask that the evil shall not be augmented by the addition of more slave states to the Union. We are willing to bear the injustice which has already occurred to the free states contrary to the expectation of the framers of the Constitution, but we want no more of it. The United States must bring all our territories into the Union as free states with representation based upon the actual number of free people contained in them.

. . . Freedom of speech and of the press are two of the greatest defenders of American liberty. A man can not be free if he is deprived of the right to utter the thoughts of a free man. A people can not remain free if the press, the great conductor of public sentiment is gagged and muzzled and forced to do the bidding of the few who may chance to hold a controlling influence in the affairs of state.

The first amendment of the Constitution of the United States provided for the unabridged exercise of those two great rights, by declaring the "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press." This provision of the Constitution conferred no new right, but merely provided a protection for the natural rights of every man. God gave the rights, man simply declared that the strong should not deprive the weak of the right to express them.

In sixteen states of the Union, men may speak or publish their sentiments on any subject. In fifteen states this right may not be exercised. The people of the former

invite the slaveholders to come amongst them and defend the institution of slavery. The people of the latter threaten anti-slavery men with death if they dare open their mouths upon this subject. Even the mails are ransacked to prevent the introduction of anti-slavery documents from the free states.

To this wanton aggression of the slave power upon the rights of free men, we object. While we are now compelled to submit to it in fifteen states of the Union, we think that number quite large enough. Therefore we are opposed to the further extension of slavery.

Charles M. Junkin

By 1903, with the Civil War and Reconstruction behind, the nation was concerned with different kinds of problems. The rise of the big city, the age of invention, the mechanization of industry, agricultural unrest, the disappearance of the American frontier, and the advent of the telephone, the electric light, and the automobile ushered in a new era for Americans. The news that a Packard automobile had crossed the continent in fifty-two days under its own power made this editorial of timely interest to readers of the *Fairfield Ledger*.

### The American Automobile

It is estimated that 28,000 automobiles were manufactured in the United States last year. The American output of motor vehicles had a value of \$25,000,000. In the same year Great Britain exported motors and parts of motors to the value of \$5,512,310 and France exported

motor cars to the value of \$5,310,200. Seventy French manufacturers of automobiles turned out last year 12,000 motor cars, or less than half the number turned out by American manufacturers.

Commenting on these figures, Henry Norman in *World's Work* for April, expressed the opinion that "business automobiles will soon be universal, commercial travelers will take their samples through the country in suitable motor cars, and the farmers will send their products to market by the co-operative use of automobiles." Mr. Norman believes also that the motor will kill the railway and repeats the threadbare prophecy that it will banish horses from the country as well as from the city.

Putting aside this question of prophecy, because to abolish the horse, Mr. Norman must abolish the love for the horse, it may be admitted that the automobile, with its wider radius of activity, will come into very general use. A horse and carriage, it is estimated, can move over an area of 425 square miles, while the ordinary automobile has a sphere of activity of 2,827 square miles. Or, to put it in the language of Mr. Norman:

"Every friend in 3,000 square miles can be visited, any place of worship or lecture or concert attended, business appointments kept, the trains met at any railway station, every post, telephone and telegraph office within reach, every preacher and physician accessible, any place reached for golf or tennis or fishing or shooting and, with it all, fresh air inhaled under exhilarating conditions."

This picture of what the coming automobile may do for mankind may be exulted over by the enthusiastic automobilist without greatly intruding upon the field that will always be occupied by the horse. The railroad, instead of abolishing the horse, will call for more horses. The bicycle, that was to run the horse away from the highways and byways, has been almost banished from the highways,

while the horse in greater numbers is on the highways, in the fields and on the streets. The horse will always be with us, but the coming automobile may accomplish wonders for the convenience of men.

### Herbert F. McDougal

By 1920 the world had been "made safe for democracy" and people's minds were turning to humanitarian themes. The League of Nations and "universal brotherhood" were on everyone's tongues and pensions had been granted by the national government for Civil Service employees. Prohibition had been legally adopted but "speakeasies" were flourishing.

The 1920's were also years of disillusionment, revolt against Babbitry — the "ballyhoo years," as Frederick Allen described them in his *Only Yesterday*. McDougal, in his editorial, couldn't resist poking fun at the prevailing mode of mass hysteria. City folks were buying stock, farmers were increasing the size of their farms, prosperity lay just around the corner and everyone was passing resolutions.

### Passing Resolutions

One of the vicious habits of the American people is that of getting together on the least provocation and passing ringing resolutions on whatever happens to occur to them at the moment or is suggested by somebody in a speech that happens to catch the fancy of the meeting.

A stranger can walk into any session of almost any organization that does not maintain an outer guard, rise

in the back of the room, gain the attention of the chair, and in a few minutes' talk, work the congregation up to a pitch where it will vote with a shout of favor on whatever he may chance to read off a paper which he draws from his pocket at the psychological moment.

If these resolutions could be softly dropped into a waste basket, it would not be so bad and the exercise would be a harmless one but the trouble lies in the fact that someone is always making use of the resolutions as a basis for actions or claims and they do untold damages.

All the heedless voters for the resolutions, of course, are responsible for the results, but there is no way of getting satisfaction from them as by that time they have adjourned and gone home, ready to heed the call for another meeting and pass more resolutions.

What men do who vote for more resolutions is to give personal approval of the sentiment expressed therein as well as to put the full authority of their organization behind the project, whatever it may be. It is an action that ought to be taken upon full authority and should be the result of serious thought and firm judgment. But half of the people who vote for a resolution couldn't tell five minutes afterwards the substance and perhaps half of those who could, would take you around the corner and tell you that they really disapproved of the matter but didn't want to appear contrary or to make hard feelings.

Organizations the country over are voting on the League of Nations, the St. Lawrence waterways project and the ship subsidy and a lot of other questions whose members could not make a beginning of a logical explanation of the basic meaning of any of the propositions.

### Dean Taylor

The beginning of the era when Taylor was editor, 1930-1943, was largely colored by the de-

pression and its attendant hardships. Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Gandhi were names that signified unrest on the international front that culminated finally in the outbreak of World War II. Declining farm prices, mortgage foreclosures, unemployment, and bank failures illustrate the same unrest on the home front. The AAA, the CCC, the WPA, and the NRA were alphabeticals familiar to all Iowans. Humanitarianism rose to new peaks as individuals as well as the government did their part to relieve distress.

### Whatsoever Ye Would

In this sordid age, selfishness seems to rule nearly all the activities of mankind, but one aged Fairfield widow sees it differently today. It is often said that every man can be reached if only you find "which side his bread is buttered on." A great church recently made this pronouncement.

"The present industrial order is unchristian; unethical and anti-social because it is based largely on the profit motive, which is a direct appeal to selfishness. A satisfactory social organism can not grow out of an unsocial seed."

However that may be, there is still to be found a few seeds of unselfishness as a few citizens of Fairfield have discovered within the past day or two. A news article in today's *Ledger* recounts the fact that an old lady, about 70 years of age, an invalid suffering from a stroke, could not pay the mortgage on her property. It was held by a corporation which was compelled to foreclose. When notified to vacate the property she did not do so, hoping against hope for some unseen help. Finally, last week, it

came. Now she is to end her days in the old family home.

Fairfield has a lot of praiseworthy things but the praise, in this case unfortunately, has to be shipped out of the state. A cousin of the widow, is mayor of Morristown, N. J., and in a roundabout way he learned of his relative and her plight. Literally, he flew to her relief, for while he was in Cleveland he chartered a plane, flew to Des Moines, met another relative and came to Fairfield. "His Honor" spent just one hour in Fairfield, but it was a good day's work, since he satisfied the mortgage and assured the widow that she would be secure in her home for the remainder of her days.

The Scriptures record that such deeds have been greeted with these words: "Come ye blessed of my Father." Morristown's mayor went a long way off of his course to do an unostentatious act of kindness, and one that cost him something. Perhaps — nay, certainly there is yet balm in Gilead.

### W. E. Sherlock

The big depression of the 1930's caused economists and even the ordinary man to inquire into the causes and panaceas for such occurrences. This editorial gives a down-to-earth illustration of the advantages of the profit system as practised in the United States.

### Why the Profit System Is Absolutely Essential

A great deal is said by several kinds of leftists about abolishing the profit system. It is claimed by many of those schools of thought that one person or institution can not make a profit without some other person or institution suffers a loss in the amount of profit gained by the first named person or institution.

It can be easily proven that this contention is a fallacy of the rankest kind. I can illustrate its fallaciousness by an event that is transpiring in Fairfield at this moment.

Beyond a doubt, Charles Gage is one of the nation's most artistic and accurate map makers. His maps are all made "by hand" — nothing but hand labor goes into each of his maps. In his case it can be said that labor receives all of the income, no profit goes to capital.

To produce a map of Fairfield that measures up to Charles' high standards, it takes probably three weeks of 48 hours — 144 hours in all — probably longer. When he has completed one of his masterpieces, he can not sell it for more than \$50, if that much. That would mean barely 34 cents an hour for the labor necessary to create the map. He could not afford to continue making maps for that wage.

However, we have another outstanding man in Fairfield. His name is LaVerne Flambo, a promoter. He is what the leftists may call a person who makes his living by not soiling his hands — who really lives off the labors of the working man. The more sensible folks call him a master salesman, an organizer. The reader may call him a promoter, but that is no disgrace.

There is still another man in the city who believes in the profit motive. He can not draw an attractive map. He does, however, know how to print them. He knows where he can have plates made from Charley's map. He has the presses upon which he can put those plates and print several hundred an hour.

His name is Ross Walker. He owns one of the most up-to-date printing plants west of Chicago. He may be called a grafter for living off the labors of his printers and pressmen. But if he did not have the equipment to reproduce such articles as Charley's map he would not need the printers and pressmen.

LaVerne calls on Ross. They estimate what it will cost to have the color-plates made, what the map stock will cost, how many press-runs will have to be made—in short, what the cost of production will be to enable Ross to pay his pressmen good wages and have a fair profit left for his time and the use of his equipment which is his capital investment.

Then they must take into account LaVerne's commission for selling and delivering the product. He should have a good profit because selling a product is probably the most important part in the manufacture and distribution of any article of merchandise.

LaVerne and Ross decide they can sell the map for \$5.00 if they can find an outlet for 200 maps. They estimate they can pay Charley \$200 for making the master map.

But Ross is the capitalist in this triumvirate. He is the man who has to take the chances. If the product sells, he makes a profit. If it does not, he suffers a loss. The laborers in Ross' shop take no chances. They get their wages every Saturday night whether Ross makes or loses.

The profit incentive did not rob labor in Ross' shop, and it most certainly did not rob the purchasers of the product. The purchaser who induced Charley to draw the first map had to pay \$50 for the map. Because of that something we call mass production, he got his map for \$5.

Because of the fact that Charley, Ross and LaVerne all made a satisfactory profit and labor was given satisfactory wages, the triumvirate decide to produce a map of Jefferson county. They are positive they can sell 1,000 maps.

Charley can be paid \$500 for drawing and coloring the master map. LaVerne will have to organize and direct a sales force. He, probably, can not make any cut in the commission he received in selling the map of Fairfield. Ross may be able to make a small reduction in the cost of

producing the finished map. They may probably find they can sell the maps for \$4.25 to \$4.50 each to the purchasers.

The theory of abolishing profits is so silly that we are forced to wonder why apparently mentally balanced people will be led astray by such a fallacy.

Walter Williams

These editorials are typical of the fine work that is appearing in Iowa newspapers at the present time. Every *Ledger* subscriber is only as far from a good discussion of current issues as he is from his editorial page. If what Will Rogers said is true — "All I know is what I see in the newspapers" — every subscriber should be well informed.

#### Mrs. Morrow's Definition of Good Deeds

Recently Mrs. Dwight Morrow, widow of the former United States Senator and Ambassador to Mexico, put into a single sentence at the dedication of a community hospital a thought which might well be inscribed on the corner stones of many institutions. The sentence was:

"Never take your hospital for granted because people you never knew have broken their hearts to get it for you."

There need not be a too great departure from that sentence in setting down a truth about every college building, every church, every Y. M. C. A., every building which is erected through the generosity of a few or many individuals. We in Fairfield have seen a magnificent example of it in the case of Parsons college where the many have not been content to leave the job to a few. Within their capacity to do so hundreds of persons have helped to build such a monument to the good in men in the new dormitory which will soon be dedicated.

Possibly the students do not fully understand that others are helping them to get an education by such generous acts. But some day they will understand and they, too, will do as their benefactors are now doing and thereby pass on to others some of their own life.

For no good reason the thought occurs to us right now that there are some strange beliefs about what constitutes doing good. With a good many people it is a negative thing. Those people go about declaiming about something they regard as evil and delude themselves that they are thereby doing good. Some day we are going to get out of patience sufficiently to ask some of them what they have done to make the world a better place in which to live.

We know in advance what we will hear. They will tell us that they are fighting evil. In our book that isn't much. And it has been our observation that a good many of the folks who give that kind of an answer are not the ones about whom Mrs. Morrow was talking.

### What's There To Fear In An Honest Inquiry?

Notwithstanding the sound and fury which has been heard over the appointment of Senator Alden Doud to make a survey of the higher educational institutions in the state for the interim committee of the legislature we will be looking forward to the report with interest. And we expect to learn something.

All that we've read thus far concerns the tuition charged in the three state supported schools. Mr. Doud tells us that his instructions from the interim committee did not contemplate an inquiry in that field at all. The committee, he said, wanted a factual survey of the educational facilities which are available in the state at a level above the high schools. Such a survey should, we assume, report the relationship between tuition rates at state supported

schools and the privately endowed schools. But surely those are fact which everybody is entitled to know, though it appears that the interim committee was not much interested in that phase of the matter.

The privately endowed colleges should welcome such a survey. They are having rough going because of the trend from the small colleges to the schools at the university level. It is our guess that the liberal arts colleges in Iowa could handle almost twice as many students as they now have. That certainly is a fact which, if true, the legislature is entitled to know.

We also believe that if Iowa could achieve a well balanced higher educational program with the liberal arts colleges enabled to operate near to capacity their educational programs could be strengthened to the point where fewer students would feel that they need to go to the state schools. If the report which the interim committee is going to get sheds some light on that matter it will be well worth while.

And, incidentally, it is our opinion there are a lot of students going to the universities who would be far better off in the smaller liberal arts colleges. This is beside the point in the current inquiry but we wonder if there are not some folks who are afraid to have an honest inquiry made into that question.

Table with 2 columns: Description of advertising rates and corresponding prices.

THE FATHER'S DUTY.

By Mrs. J. M. ...

Mr. and Mrs. ...

... and ...

FAIRFIELD LEDGER.

VOLUME III. FAIRFIELD, IOWA, THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1853. NUMBER 15.

THE FATHER'S DUTY.

Mr. and Mrs. ...

... and ...

A Time to Die.

There is a time to die for almost every man...

... and ...

Marriage of the Emperor's Physician.

The marriage of the physician of the Emperor...

... and ...

Job Printing.

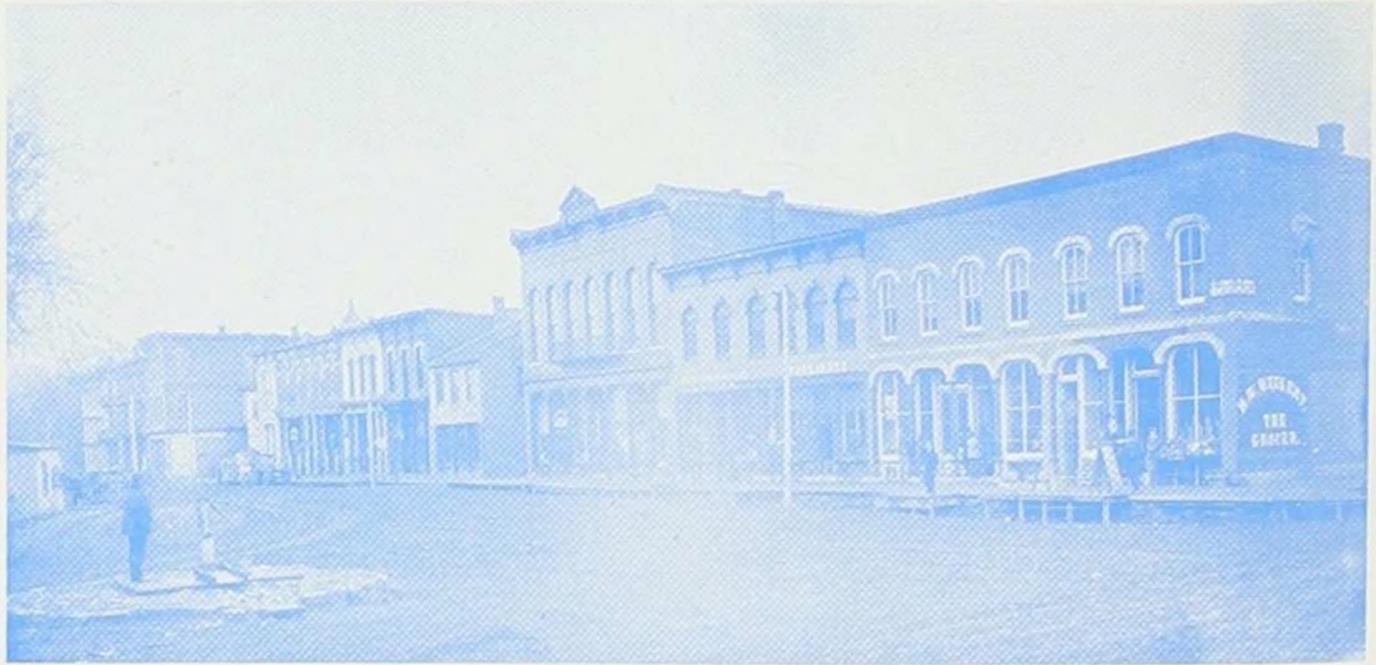
Job printing advertisement text.

... and ...

Job Printing.

Job printing advertisement text.

... and ...



Fairfield in boardwalk days—about 1891. The building to the left of the alley was built during the Civil War, the others in the 1870's and 1880's.



The east side of the square, prior to 1860. The group of men in the foreground are engaged in horse trading, an almost daily occurrence.