

The PALIMPSEST

JANUARY 1935

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THE EDITOR

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT IOWA CITY BY
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

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

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

Superintendent

THE MEANING OF PALIMPSESTS

In early times palimpsests were parchments or other materials 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.

PRICE—10c per copy: \$1 per year: free to members of Society

ADDRESS—The State Historical Society Iowa City Iowa

THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY JOHN ELY BRIGGS

VOL. XVI

ISSUED IN JANUARY 1935

NO. 1

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Similarities and Contrasts

A panoramic view of Iowa's Governors presents many interesting similarities and quite as many striking contrasts. Twenty-eight men have served as Governors of Iowa — three during the Territorial period, and twenty-five since Iowa became a State. Five of these men were born in New York, four in Pennsylvania, and only four in Iowa. Among this distinguished company, some were trained in the art of war. Two of them were soldiers in the War of 1812. One was a soldier in the Black Hawk War. Among them were three colonels, two captains, and a brigadier general of the Civil War. One was wounded at the Battle of Shiloh. Another was wounded at Blue Mills, taken prisoner at Shiloh, released through an exchange of prisoners, and wounded again at Vicksburg. Two veterans of the Spanish-American War have served as the chief executive of the State.

One of Iowa's Governors was once a stage driver. Another was a dealer in automobiles. Two

were editors. Three were farmers. Four were merchants. Seventeen were students of the law. Most of the men were content to earn their livelihood, directly or indirectly, from the soil of Iowa. One made a fortune by mining gold in California.

Two of the Governors were Whigs, six were Democrats, and twenty were members of the Republican party.

Before coming to Iowa several had legislative experience: one in New York, another in New Hampshire, one in Kentucky, and another in Ohio. One had been Governor of Ohio before he became Governor of Iowa. Four of these men served in the Constitutional Convention of 1844, and eighteen of them, at some time in their careers, served in the legislature of Iowa. After being Governor, six of them became members of Congress, and two attained the distinction of becoming members of Presidents' cabinets. One became Governor at the age of thirty-three. Another did not attain that office until he was sixty-five. One of the Governors died at the age of thirty-eight. All others lived to be at least fifty-four. Fourteen — one-half of the whole number — have lived more than the allotted span of three score and ten years, and one attained the ripe old age of ninety-five. Six of the Governors of Iowa are still living.

J. A. SWISHER

Territorial Governors

During Iowa Territorial days the Governors were appointed by the President of the United States. The three men who held the office of chief executive of the Territory of Iowa were Robert Lucas, John Chambers, and James Clarke. The first two of these men were sons of Revolutionary soldiers, and were themselves soldiers in the War of 1812. Lucas and Clarke were Democrats while John Chambers was a Whig.

Militant, impulsive, aggressive, Robert Lucas, the first Governor of Iowa, was a leader of power and influence among the pioneers. Born among the independent planters of Virginia, the son of a Revolutionary soldier of wealth and prestige, educated by a private tutor, trained in the militia, and experienced in military affairs, he was not one to be swayed by changing fads and fashions of the hour, or to be blown about by every wind of political doctrine that swept across his path. He was slender in stature, with pronounced physical features, and a prominent chin that presaged a man of resolution and power.

Before coming to Iowa, Lucas had served for nineteen years in the legislature of Ohio, and had

been twice elected Governor of that State. He had played an important rôle in the Michigan-Ohio boundary dispute and was credited with having been victorious in the so-called "Toledo War". He was a staunch Democrat, having served as chairman of the National Democratic Convention that met at Baltimore in 1832 and nominated Andrew Jackson for President.

Having been appointed by President Martin Van Buren to the office of Governor of the Territory, Lucas came to Iowa in 1838 only to find that the Secretary of the Territory, the young and ambitious William B. Conway, had already arrived and assumed much authority that was intended to be vested in the Governor. The early period of his Governorship was stormy because of the attitude of Conway and the opposition of a youthful and spirited Territorial legislature which chafed at the limitations imposed by the absolute veto power frequently exercised by the Governor.

In Iowa, as in Ohio a few years before, Lucas soon found himself involved in a boundary dispute — the location of the line between the State of Missouri and the Territory of Iowa being the issue. Here again, as in Ohio, he emerged from the controversy with credit to himself and victory in the cause for which he contended. The dispute was not finally settled for many years, but in the

end the views presented by Governor Lucas were adopted. Meanwhile Lucas was retired from office before his term of three years expired and was replaced by a Whig in March, 1841. In the Constitutional Convention of 1844 he rendered eminent service. It was he who suggested the boundaries outlined in that constitution, which if adopted, would have given Iowa a larger area.

In 1844 Lucas retired to Plum Grove farm near Iowa City to spend his remaining years in peace and quiet. He had experienced much of the stress and strain of political life, and had been the storm center in many a vigorous campaign. But the fire of youth had burned out. Even the vigor of manhood was passing. His declining days were spent in quiet meditation, in writing verse on the margin of newspaper pages, and in leafing through a well-worn Methodist hymnal.

John Chambers, the second Territorial Governor of Iowa, was a native of New Jersey and for many years a resident of Kentucky. Like Robert Lucas, Chambers was the son of a Revolutionary soldier and was himself a soldier in the War of 1812, having served with distinction on the staff of General William Henry Harrison. He was four times elected to the legislature of Kentucky and three times elected to Congress before he came to Iowa.

On March 25, 1841, Chambers was commissioned Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Territory of Iowa. Despite the predominance of members of the Democratic party in Iowa at that time, Chambers, a Whig, succeeded in administering affairs with skill and approbation. He gave much attention to Indian affairs and as Commissioner for the United States government, concluded a treaty with the Sauks and Foxes in 1842 whereby these Indians agreed to give up the remainder of their land in Iowa and go to Kansas. In 1844 he was reappointed to the office of Governor by President John Tyler, but the following year he was removed by President James K. Polk.

White-haired, bowed with the weight of more than three score years, and with health impaired, he retired to his "Grouseland" farm near Burlington — so called because of the abundance of grouse in that vicinity. Shortly afterward, however, he returned to Kentucky where efforts were made to nominate him for the State Senate. Indeed, he feared that a public declaration would be necessary in order to prevent his nomination. In June, 1851, however, in a letter to his daughter he said: "I believe I have got out of my political difficulty, for I have positively refused to suffer myself to be used as a candidate and after the meeting of the County convention (day after tomorrow) I

suppose there will be no more said about it. Your excuse for me that I am upwards of 70 years seemed to have no effect, for every body insisted that I was just as able to do service as ever I was — fools, they don't know how a man of seventy years old feels".

His declaration was final. He was not nominated and in the following year, 1852, his career was ended. No monument marks his final resting place, but the symbol of his rich and wholesome life is found in the straight and stately pines at Cedar Hill nearby.

While the War of 1812 was in progress and Robert Lucas and John Chambers were active soldiers in the field, James Clarke, who was to become the third Governor of Iowa, was in his infancy, having been born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in July, 1812. At an early age Clarke learned the printing trade, which prepared him well for his later public career and served as a stepping stone to political preferment.

In the spring of 1836 young Clarke joined the westward movement, coming first to Saint Louis where he found employment in the office of the *Missouri Republican*. When the Territory of Wisconsin was organized, Clarke, in partnership with John B. Russell, engaged in the publication of a newspaper at Belmont, Wisconsin, where the

First Legislative Assembly was convened in the fall of 1836. The paper was called the *Belmont Gazette*, and its publishers were appointed as printers for the First Legislative Assembly.

In 1837 the capital of Wisconsin Territory was moved to Burlington where the second session of the Legislative Assembly was convened in the fall of that year. In anticipation of this meeting Clarke established the *Wisconsin Territorial Gazette and Burlington Advertiser* at Burlington, where he was again employed as printer of the public laws. He was also named by Governor Henry Dodge as Librarian for the Territory of Wisconsin. In 1838 Iowa was organized as a Territory, and, upon the death of William B. Conway the following year, Clarke was appointed by President Martin Van Buren as Secretary of the newly organized Territory.

In political affairs Clarke was frequently associated with the leading personalities on the frontier. Young in years and youthful in spirit he came to be prominent in social as well as political affairs. He fell in love with Christiana H. Dodge, who was the daughter of Henry Dodge, the Governor of Wisconsin Territory. They were married on September 27, 1840, by Father Samuel Mazzuchelli.

During the same fall Clarke called together the

Free and Accepted Masons who were living in the vicinity of Burlington, and on November 10, 1840, he helped organize the first Masonic lodge to be established in Iowa. Clarke served as mayor of Burlington and was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1844 before he was appointed Governor of the Territory at the age of thirty-three. In the office of Governor, Clarke advocated principles of economy and efficiency. He recommended the abolition of certain offices, the reduction of fees, and a more centralized governmental organization. He was also instrumental in securing treaties with the Winnebago and Pottawattamie Indians by which all the land owned by these tribes was ceded to the United States.

After Iowa became a State, Clarke resumed his connection with the *Burlington Gazette* of which he was the founder. In the summer of 1850, Burlington was stricken with a virulent epidemic of cholera. Ex-Governor Clarke was one of the victims, passing from the activities of a busy life at the early age of thirty-eight. What might have been his place in Iowa history had he survived can only be surmised.

J. A. SWISHER

Early State Governors

Under the first State constitution of Iowa, adopted in 1846, the Governor was elected for a term of four years. Three Governors — Ansel Briggs, Stephen Hempstead, and James W. Grimes — served under this constitution. Governor Briggs was a product of the school of experience, with but little educational training, yet he was an advocate of improved educational methods. Hempstead and Grimes were both students of the law and exerted influence in the development of early legislation.

Briggs first appears in Iowa history as a stage driver and mail carrier during the Territorial days. A pioneer in the field of transportation, he became conversant with a large range of Territorial affairs and helped to lay the foundations of Statehood. That he was a Democrat among the Democrats may be suggested by the fact that his home was at the town of Andrew in Jackson County, at a time when the Democratic party was in the vigor of youth.

Born in the Green Mountain State in 1806, he moved to Ohio where in the early thirties he was engaged in the establishment of stage lines. In

1836 he removed from Ohio to Iowa where he continued to operate stagecoaches. A little later he entered into a contract for carrying the United States mails weekly between Dubuque and Davenport, and also between Dubuque and Iowa City. In 1842 he was elected as a member of the Territorial House of Representatives from Jackson County. Subsequently he was named sheriff of the same county.

When Iowa was admitted to the Union in 1846 there was a constitutional provision which prohibited banks of every description. Immediately the outstanding political issues centered around the banking question — banking institutions being favored by the Whigs and opposed by the Democrats. Three candidates were available for the Democratic nomination for Governor — Judge Jesse Williams, William Thompson, and Ansel Briggs. At a banquet shortly before the nominating convention, Briggs struck a responsive chord by offering the toast "no banks except earth, and they well tilled". This slogan, with its appeal to the pride of the producers and the prejudice of partisan leaders, was at once caught up as a party cry and became a potent factor in winning the nomination for Ansel Briggs.

The administration of Governor Briggs was generally placid, although now and again the Gov-

ernor exhibited an independent firmness that was not easily shaken. One of the perplexing problems of his administration developed in connection with the Missouri boundary question, which had arisen during the Territorial days, but which was not finally settled in the courts until 1848.

After the expiration of a four-year term, Governor Briggs continued to reside in Jackson County where he engaged in commercial business and enjoyed the companionship of old friends. There in gladsome retrospection he lived over again the strenuous days of his Governorship, much as soldiers fight again the battles that have long since passed. Coming to Iowa in an early day he had played an important rôle in the development of the Commonwealth. The remembrance of these early experiences and the continued growth and development of the State were sources of real delight to him. Thus in honorable old age he was comforted with the realization of a hope that he had expressed upon retirement from the Governorship, that his adopted State might "ever be distinguished for virtue, intelligence, and prosperity".

During the closing years of his life ex-Governor Briggs resided with a son in Omaha, Nebraska, where he died in 1881 at the age of seventy-five years. His remains were interred at

Omaha, but in 1909 were removed to Andrew, Iowa, where a suitable monument was erected by action of the Thirty-third General Assembly.

Stephen Hempstead, the second State Governor of Iowa, was a native of Connecticut, born in 1812. His youthful days, it is said, were typical of those of other boys — a cruel schoolmaster, a love affair with a black-eyed girl, and an admiration for anything pertaining to military training. He organized an artillery company of boys, armed with wooden swords, and "felt as proud as a general at the head of an army".

Hempstead's father was a member of a partnership in the boot and shoe business. When the business had prospered for a while the other member of the partnership contracted debts and then absconded with all available funds, leaving the elder Hempstead to suffer insolvency and to be thrown into prison for the payment of partnership debts. Upon release from prison, he moved to Saint Louis, braving the danger of Indians in that frontier region in preference to the ignominy of imprisonment for debt.

Young Stephen Hempstead did not remain long in Saint Louis, however, but soon left for Galena, Illinois, then known as the "Eldorado of the North". Then came the Black Hawk War, in which he participated. At the close of the war, he

attended college at Jacksonville, Illinois, later returning to Saint Louis where he studied law. In the spring of 1836 he settled at Dubuque, being the first attorney to enter upon the practice of law at that place.

In 1838 Hempstead was elected as a member of the Territorial Legislative Assembly. At the following session he was selected as president of the Council. In 1845 he was again elected as a member of the Council which then convened at Iowa City, and again he was named as the presiding officer. In 1850 he was nominated by the Democratic State convention as candidate for Governor, and was elected for a term of four years.

True to the principles of the Democratic party at that time, Governor Hempstead like Governor Briggs was opposed to the establishment of banks. In his first inaugural address he said: "By the restriction of State debts, the prohibition of banking and of special acts of incorporation, except for political or municipal purposes, we are secured from many evils which exist in older States, where, in consequence of the establishment and continuance of those institutions, their governments have become complicated, oppressive, and subversive of civil liberty.

"With no banks among us to create distress or panic by their failures, contractions, and expan-

sions, with but few corporations except those formed under general laws, our citizens relying on their own industry and frugality, are advancing steadily to competence and wealth, showing to the world that bank indulgences, paper money, and special privileges, are unnecessary to secure to a people happiness and prosperity."

After serving successfully for a term as Governor, Hempstead filled various local offices, including that of county judge, county auditor, and justice of the peace, in Dubuque County. He is remembered not alone as Governor of the Commonwealth, but also as one of the most sturdy of Iowa's pioneer statesmen.

James W. Grimes, who succeeded Hempstead as Governor of Iowa, was a man of conspicuous integrity and courage. Of Scotch-Irish descent, a native of New Hampshire, born in 1816, he entered Dartmouth College at the age of sixteen, read law in an office, and at the age of twenty he came to Iowa, locating at Burlington. In 1838, when Iowa Territory was organized, young attorney Grimes was chosen as one of the Representatives from Des Moines County to the Legislative Assembly. The Democratic party was then in power in Iowa and there were many southern sympathizers. Grimes, with the New England background, was soon looked upon as the cham-

pion of the rising opposition to the westward as well as the northward extension of slavery.

In 1854, Grimes, representing the Whig party, was elected Governor of the State. His attitude against the extension of slavery made him a national figure, and Salmon P. Chase referred to his election as "the best battle for freedom yet fought."

Under the leadership of James W. Grimes, many changes were accomplished. The government was so completely reorganized during the years of his Governorship that his administration might be designated as the beginning of a new era. A new constitution was adopted in 1857. New school laws were enacted. Provisions were made for State educational institutions, libraries, and the State Historical Society. Progressive business and banking laws were passed. In all these things Governor Grimes was the moving spirit both in influence and in action during the years from 1854 to 1858.

After serving as chief executive of Iowa he devoted his talents for ten years to national affairs in the United States Senate where he displayed more than usual courage. At the time of the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson, he was an old man and so ill that he could scarcely attend the session. His friends everywhere were urging him to vote

against the President. When the name, Grimes of Iowa, was called in the Senate, however, he arose and with much effort announced his vote, "Not guilty". By this declaration, Grimes lost many friends and much political power, but he was true to his ideals. His action that day spoke louder than words, and placed him with Henry Clay in declaring: "I'd rather be right than President."

Under the Constitution of 1857 the term of the Governor was reduced from four to two years. The first Governor to serve under this constitution, also the first elected on the Republican ticket and the last to serve during the pre-Civil War period, was Ralph P. Lowe.

Lowe was a native of Ohio, born in 1805. He graduated from Miami University in the class of 1829. Thereupon his father offered him a farm located within what are now the city limits of Chicago, but young Lowe preferred adventure. He borrowed two hundred dollars, purchased a pony, and started on horseback through the South. In Alabama he taught school and read law. In 1834 he returned to Ohio and four years later moved to Iowa, bringing his wife and an infant son. They came overland with two wagons and two saddle horses, and it is said they "greatly enjoyed their journey". Having located at Bloomington (now Muscatine), Lowe entered the practice of law.

and was soon elected to the office of district judge. He also served as a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1844.

In 1858, Ralph P. Lowe was elected Governor. As a member of the Republican party, he favored the establishment of banks and corporations. Yet he declared that no "maxims of political economy, however well observed — no system of currency, however nicely adjusted or guarded", can compensate for a departure from the law of labor. In accordance with this view, in his inaugural address in 1858, he said: "Let agriculture, the vanguard of all other occupations, have its full and appropriate share of the industrial forces of the country, with a commerce just equal to a fair distribution of its products, always following, and never in anticipation of its annual crops, and the world's affairs and business will in the main flow on with comparatively a smooth and full stream."

Throughout his administration Governor Lowe advocated industry, integrity, and thrift in government as well as in private affairs. Upon retirement after two years of service as Governor, he was elected to the Supreme Court of Iowa. Later he moved to Washington, D. C., where he practiced law for more than a decade, becoming one of the prominent attorneys of the capital city.

Thus, prior to the Civil War, seven Governors

ruled Iowa — three during the Territorial period and four after Statehood was attained. Of these no two were born in the same State, and none was a native of Iowa. They came from Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Ohio. One was a farmer, one a printer, one a stage driver, and four were lawyers. One was a Republican, two were Whigs, and four were Democrats. After their service as Governor, one became a district judge, one a Supreme Court judge, and one went to the United States Senate. There was unanimity among them only in the fact that all were men of stalwart character and all attained the high office of Governor.

J. A. SWISHER

Civil War Governors

Running through the warp and woof of Iowa politics, for more than a quarter of a century, are threads of influence which clearly reveal their connection with the Civil War. Samuel J. Kirkwood is widely known as the Civil War Governor, but there were other Governors who quite properly belong to that period of history. Six veterans of the Civil War served as Governor, and it was not until 1898 that the last of these "Boys of 1861" retired from the office of chief executive of the Commonwealth. Among these soldier-governors were two captains, three colonels, and a brigadier general.

Kirkwood, the first Governor of that era, entered Iowa politics at the convention which convened at the Old Stone Capitol in Iowa City in 1856 for the purpose of organizing a Republican party in Iowa. Although an accredited delegate at the convention, he was a comparative stranger and few present knew of his training or ability. On the floor of the convention, however, his good sense, convincing logic, and forceful oratory enabled him to hold the audience spellbound through the deliverance of a great speech. From that day

the name of Kirkwood was a familiar one throughout the State of Iowa.

Kirkwood was a native of Maryland and lived for a time in Washington, D. C., where not infrequently as a boy he sat in the gallery of the United States Senate and listened to the debates of distinguished statesmen. Later he practiced law in Ohio where he won for himself the name of "Honest Sam". He served in two constitutional conventions in Ohio, and in 1855 came to Iowa and entered the milling business at Coralville near Iowa City.

It was in the garb of a miller that he appeared at the Republican convention in 1856, but his dusty apparel did not conceal his innate ability. Soon after making his initial appearance he was elected State Senator, and in 1859 he won the election to the office of chief executive of the State against his versatile opponent, Augustus Caesar Dodge, who had lately been United States Minister to Spain.

During his second term in the office of Governor, the pro-slavery element, known as "Copperheads", gained strength and threatened insurrection. On one occasion he assured the insurgents that if their opposition were continued he would make an example of those engaged in these disturbances, which would forever deter others

from engaging in like proceedings, and concluded with the declaration: "*I say what I mean and mean what I say.*"

After serving in the office of Governor for two terms, Kirkwood was named United States Senator to fill the unexpired term of James Harlan, who was advanced to a position in Lincoln's cabinet. In 1875 Kirkwood was elected Governor for a third time. Before the end of his term, however, he resigned to go again to the United States Senate. This latter position he likewise resigned to become Secretary of the Interior in the cabinet of James A. Garfield. As legislator and Governor of Iowa and a close associate of Lincoln during the Civil War, as United States Senator, and member of a President's cabinet during the days of reconstruction, few men in Iowa have reflected greater honor upon the State of their adoption than did Samuel J. Kirkwood.

Near the end of Kirkwood's second term in office the Republican State convention met to nominate his successor. Who would be selected as party leader was a matter of much doubt. It was only by chance that Colonel William M. Stone of Knoxville, a man who had been wounded at the battle of Blue Mills, taken prisoner at Shiloh and wounded again at Vicksburg, attended the convention, with one arm in a sling. By a patriotic

appeal to members of the convention he won sufficient support to secure the nomination. And at the ensuing election he was named Governor.

Stone was a native of New York. At the age of fifteen he was a farm hand in Ohio. At seventeen he was employed, as was James A. Garfield at the same age, in driving a canal boat team on the tow-path of the Ohio canal. Later he was a chair maker and at the same time a student of law. Upon admission to the bar in Ohio, he entered upon two important partnership engagements — one with Attorney James Matthews in the practice of his profession and another with Matthews's daughter in a matrimonial adventure.

In 1854 Stone came to Iowa, locating at Knoxville, where he relinquished the practice of law to become editor of the *Knoxville Journal*. He was among the leaders in organizing the Republican party in Iowa, was among the first to enlist in the Civil War, rose to the rank of colonel, was once captured and twice wounded in service, and was quick to turn personal and military defeats into political victories. The shot which ended his military career sent him forth upon a new adventure which resulted in making him twice the chief executive of the State.

A biography of Samuel Merrill, the next chief executive of Iowa, might be written under the title

"A Man from Maine", for he was a resident of that State until he was twenty-seven. He then moved with his family to New Hampshire, served in the legislature, and continued to reside there until 1856 when at the age of thirty-four he moved to Iowa, locating at McGregor. There he entered the mercantile business, became a member of the General Assembly of Iowa, and enlisted in the Civil War, where he was advanced to the rank of colonel of the Twenty-first Iowa Infantry. When he returned home at the close of the war he was chosen President of the First National Bank of McGregor.

In the fall of 1867, Merrill was elected Governor of the State and two years later he was re-elected by a substantial majority. The time during which he directed the affairs of the State was one of prosperity and growth. Mineral wealth was being developed, railroads were being built, and financial interests were reaching out for further expansion. In all of these activities and interests Governor Merrill assumed a leading rôle. "Worthy industries are to be encouraged", he declared, "and internal improvements of every kind zealously promoted". His liberality and breadth of vision are best expressed in his own words when he declared: "Let it be our boast and pride that we fear nothing so much as ignorance and

artificial distinction between man and man. Let us establish our power firmly upon the foundation of intelligence and liberal ideas, making manhood our only title of nobility, and believing in nothing so hopefully as an educated public opinion".

In the decade of the forties, or perhaps the early fifties, it is recorded that a boy in Pennsylvania studying geography noted the symmetry and proportions of the State of Iowa and decided to make this State his future home, because, as he said, he "liked the looks of it on the map". Later this youth became a surveyor, teacher, legislator, Governor, and Congressman. His name is prominent in Iowa history — Cyrus C. Carpenter, twice Governor and for many years a loyal and efficient servant of the State.

As a youth Carpenter divided his time between working on a farm in summer and attending a country school in winter. Then came the period of teaching and of continued study. It was June, 1854, when he reached Des Moines on his way to Fort Dodge, then a military post in the wilderness of the Northwest. At Des Moines he spent the last of his meager savings to pay the hotel bill, and started on foot over the broken prairie to his destination, still more than eighty miles away.

At Fort Dodge he became a surveyor and the first school teacher in that vicinity. In 1857 he

was a member of the expedition that went forth to rescue the settlers after the Spirit Lake massacre. At the outbreak of the Civil War he entered military service as a private, but was soon advanced to captain. He served on the staff of W. S. Rosecrans, of Grenville M. Dodge, and of John A. Logan. He was commissary in Sherman's army in its march to the sea and was mustered out of service with the rank of colonel.

As legislator and Governor he was an indefatigable worker for every public good. Indeed, he expressed the belief that the "blessed gospel of work is a conservator and promoter, not only of the material greatness, but of the morals and decency of the world". In the office of Governor he championed the cause of the Iowa farmer and decried the reckless management of railroads. In this he declared that the "exorbitant railway rate is the skeleton in the Iowa corn crib". After serving in the Governor's office for two terms he was twice elected to Congress and later was appointed postmaster at Fort Dodge.

Governor Carpenter was succeeded in office by Samuel J. Kirkwood. When he resigned in 1877, Lieutenant Governor Joshua G. Newbold succeeded to the Governorship, being the first Governor in Iowa to attain that office by virtue of having been elected Lieutenant Governor.

Newbold, like Carpenter, was a native of Pennsylvania. Like Carpenter, too, he came to Iowa in 1854, and located on a farm a part of which now lies in the city limits of Mount Pleasant. Later he engaged in merchandising and farming in Van Buren County, and at Hillsboro in Henry County. In 1862 he left his business in the hands of a partner and became captain of Company C of the Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry. He was at the siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Arkansas Post and Lookout Mountain, and marched with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea. He represented Henry County in three sessions of the General Assembly before he was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1875. A little more than a year after his election to that office he succeeded Samuel J. Kirkwood in the office of Governor.

Governor Newbold served as chief executive for less than twelve months, but during that time he established a reputation of being a just and efficient executive. After retirement from office he served in another session of the General Assembly and was for a time the mayor of Mount Pleasant.

In 1843 John H. Gear, a youth of nineteen years, who had been born in New York and lived for a time in Minnesota, came down the Mississippi River to Burlington, where his uncle, Charles Mason, Chief Justice of the Territory of Iowa, re-

sided. Gear was a self-reliant and ambitious youth. He secured employment on a farm and then became clerk in a wholesale grocery house. Five years later he owned a half interest in the business, and at the end of another five years he was sole proprietor. Nine years after coming to Burlington he was elected alderman, and a little later became mayor of that city.

Gear was a member of the Fourteenth General Assembly. At the following session he was again a member and was a candidate for the office of Speaker of the House. Party strength was equally balanced, however, and there was a deadlock for two weeks. Finally, Gear won the election on the one hundred and thirty-seventh ballot. At the next session he was named Speaker with little opposition. His legislative service made him a leading candidate among the Republicans and he was twice elected Governor of the State.

After the expiration of his Governorship he served in the United States House of Representatives and in the Senate, and was an ardent advocate of the McKinley Tariff Bill. Always and everywhere, in youth and in age, at home, in business, and in politics, Gear evinced untiring industry, strict integrity, and an unusual ability for making and keeping friends.

During the days of the Civil War the name of

William Tecumseh Sherman was closely allied with the names of Lincoln and Grant. When the war was over and reconstruction was well on the way, another Sherman, less renowned perhaps than the first, nevertheless attained distinction in Iowa politics. Buren R. Sherman was a native of New York, a captain in military service, three times State Auditor, and twice Governor of Iowa.

Sherman came to Iowa with his parents in 1855 and located on a farm in Tama County, with his nearest neighbor two miles distant and the nearest post office nearly twenty miles away. During his early years in Iowa he read law. In 1860 he was admitted to the bar and moved to Vinton for the practice of his profession. When the war broke out he enlisted in the Thirteenth Iowa Infantry and became a member of the famous Crocker's Brigade. At the battle of Shiloh he was wounded and left on the field of battle to perish. But he had a mission to perform and would not die. Later he was discovered and taken to a hospital where, six days after the injury was inflicted, his wounds were dressed. Almost a miracle it was that he lived to tell the story. Returning to service he was promoted to the rank of captain. But his disability returned and he was discharged by General Grant "on account of wounds received in battle".

Returning to Vinton, Sherman was successively

elected district judge, clerk of the district court, State Auditor, and Governor. In office he was a fearless executive and an efficient administrator, always responsive to public opinion and zealous for the best interests of the Commonwealth.

A major political issue before the people of Iowa in the early eighties was the amendment of the constitution to prohibit liquor traffic. Governor Sherman favored the amendment and courageously expressed his views upon the subject. When the proposition was submitted to the people, it was approved, but was later declared to be unconstitutional. The loss of the amendment did not, however, detract from the Governor's honor in standing for what he believed to be right.

Thus, for two decades following the close of the Civil War, the office of Governor was, for the most part, in the hands of veterans. Stone and Merrill and Carpenter and Newbold and Sherman had all proved their worth on the field of battle, as had Francis M. Drake, who was Governor at a later date. All honor to these veteran-statesmen who served in times of peace with the same courage and virility that they displayed in times of war!

J. A. SWISHER

Comment by the Editor

WHENCE, GOVERNOR, AND WHITHER

All that the constitution of Iowa requires is that the Governor shall be a citizen of the United States, thirty years old, and a resident of the State during the two years just before his or her election. There is not a word about executive ability, education, or political experience. These qualifications, however, may be more significant than those prescribed.

When Governor Clyde L. Herring completes his present term, twenty-eight men will have been Governor of Iowa during its first hundred years as a Territory and State. A composite design of their characteristics would reveal the typical Iowa Governor as a lawyer, forty-eight years old, who belonged to the Republican party, and had served in the legislature.

This specific, however, is not the only formula that will produce gubernatorial incumbency. Farmers, merchants, and journalists, as well as disciples of Blackstone, have attained the office of chief executive. One became Governor at the age of thirty-three and another at sixty-five. Six were Democrats. Nine had had no experience as law

makers, and nine had been to college. No more than two have been elected from the same county.

However devious may be the paths that lead to the Governor's chair, his position seems usually to have been the end of the political odyssey. Although all but seven have occupied the office longer than two years, most have retired from public life at the conclusion of their gubernatorial tenure. If Iowa Governors have aspired to seats in Congress or the President's cabinet, they have generally been disappointed. Only six have attained such distinction. Strategically, the Governorship appears to be a political *cul-de-sac*.

J. E. B.

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