

A Commonplace Calendar

A chronicle of ordinary incidents in the lives of folks who lived in Iowa a hundred years ago.

Thursday, February 1. Cold weather continued. The thermometer fell as low as sixteen degrees below zero at Dubuque. § Nevertheless, the mail was coming regularly, and so the settlers west of the river were "once more in the world".

Friday, February 2. George Cabbage, the Adjutant General of Wisconsin Territory, ordered the election of regimental officers in each militia district. § The second street "west of, and leading parallel with, the Mississippi River in the Town of Burlington," was named Main Street.

Saturday, February 3. William Sawtell and Robert Loderdale, cabinet makers at Augusta, dissolved their partnership by mutual consent. § Tailor George Temple wanted two or three apprentices "between the ages of 14 and 18." § Chauncey Swan made a "fine discovery of lead ore" near Dubuque.

Sunday, February 4. The Reverend Aratus Kent preached at the Methodist Church in Dubuque.

Monday, February 5. George H. Beeler was elected the first mayor of Burlington under the special charter adopted on January 30th.

Tuesday, February 6. The Dubuque Lyceum adopted a resolution suggesting that the "American Corps Editorial" devote more attention to "diffusion of correct information" upon the important subject of the "early development of the FAR, FAIR WEST". § Representative Isaac H. Bronson reported a bill in Congress to establish the Territorial government of Iowa.

Wednesday, February 7. The January *Lady's Book* was reported to contain "sprightly articles, plates of fashions, illustrations and music" which would, "undoubtedly, obtain the favor of its fair patrons."

Thursday, February 8. The editor of the *Dubuque Iowa News*, who got a "sumptuous piece of the wedding cake", hoped the marital path of Loring Wheeler and Susan Harrison would "be strewn with flowers".

Saturday, February 10. Scott, aged 22, a laborer who had come to Fort Madison in the fall, "committed suicide by throwing himself into the Mississippi." § Sheriff G. W. Cummins, by court order, sold at the stable of Henderson Palmer in Belleview: one horse, one set of single harness, one set of double harness, one sleigh, one string of

bells, sixteen bushels of corn, and ten tons of hay.

Tuesday, February 13. Representative Thomas Shanley of Iowa County married Melinda Rachael, the daughter of Arthur Inghram, President of the Council. § At Dubuque the temperature went down to twenty-five degrees below zero, but at Burlington the thermometers were "all too short" to measure the cold. Everything was "friz up", including the pockets of newspaper subscribers and the hearts of creditors.

Friday, February 16. "Stolen, I expect," advertised John W. Markle, "But missing any how, a small black 'Fiste,' or if that ain't spelt right, a *little dog*, well known by the name of 'TONEY,' with a plain, smooth, honest countenance, dressed in a blue stockinet jacket, decorated with ribbons; but as he took all his clothing with him, it is quite likely he may change his dress."

Monday, February 19. A public meeting at the Methodist Church in Dubuque sent a memorial to Congress asking for increased mail facilities. § More votes were cast for Davenport than for Rockingham as the seat of justice in Scott County.

Tuesday, February 20. Prominent citizens of Burlington met in the room over Webber & Remey's store and unanimously petitioned Congress for a land grant with which to build a peni-