

## A Commonplace Calendar

*Politics rather than romance characterized the month of June in 1838. The separation of the Territory of Iowa from Wisconsin might be regarded as the public analogue of the many petitions for divorce considered at the special session of the Territorial legislature.*

*Friday, June 1.* The bill to create the Territory of Iowa was debated, amended, and passed by the United States Senate.

*Saturday, June 2.* The eight companies of the fifth regiment of militia met at designated places in Des Moines and Henry counties to elect officers. § John Cameron declared that persons owing for goods from his store at "Taney Town prairie" would save themselves cost by settling before June 20th.

*Sunday, June 3.* Milton Kimball of Augusta, Illinois, preached in the schoolhouse on Water Street near Miller's landing at Fort Madison.

*Monday, June 4.* Governor Henry Dodge arrived at Burlington from Washington aboard the *Rolla*. § Instruction began in J. P. Stewart's Academy of Science and Literature in Burlington. § Judge Charles Dunn opened a two-weeks term of district court at Dubuque.

*Tuesday, June 5.* In the Committee of the Whole House of Representatives, the insistent arguments of western Congressmen for the bill to create the Territory of Iowa prevailed against Southern oratory.

*Wednesday, June 6.* After considerable debate, a few amendments, and much parliamentary maneuvering, the House of Representatives voted 118 to 51 in favor of establishing the Territory of Iowa. Toward the end of the afternoon the Senate concurred in the House amendments. § A meeting was held at the courthouse in Dubuque "for the purpose of obtaining a free and unequivocal expression of public sentiment on the leading questions of national policy, and adopting such preliminary measures as will ensure the organization of the Democratic party."

*Thursday, June 7.* The sound of the saw and hammer was heard in Burlington where about forty dwellings were being erected, including "several fine brick houses, some of which will be three stories high."

*Friday, June 8.* Though it was still cold in southern Iowa, "refreshing showers" broke the drought in Dubuque.

*Saturday, June 9.* The Burlington Gazette was limited to two pages because a new supply of paper did not arrive in time. § James Gipson de-

clared that he would not pay his note for \$200 to Elijah Turner because it was given without consideration.

*Monday, June 11.* The legislature of Wisconsin Territory convened in Burlington to reapportion the members according to the recent census. § George W. Brown warned everybody not to harbor his wife Elizabeth, or trust her on his account, because he would pay none of her debts.

*Tuesday, June 12.* President Van Buren signed the bill creating the Territory of Iowa. § "The sound of the music and tripping of the light fantastic toe, together with the splendor of the boat," elicited envy of the excursionists to the Falls of St. Anthony on the *Brazil*. § Joseph Ducoste, a short, dark, pockmarked French Canadian, accused of murdering a Winnebago squaw, escaped from the Dubuque jail. § Judge Dunn married George W. Girton and Miss Charlotte Maria Gear. According to the local editor, George was "determined to GIRD-ON the pleasures of double blessedness, and we hope the GEAR-ing may be well suited to his shoulders — that they may pull together in harmony through the journey of life, and neither wish their mutual engagements un-DUNN."

*Wednesday, June 13.* About sixty men were constructing boats to use in deepening the chan-

nel over the Des Moines Rapids between Keokuk and Montrose. § S. B. Parker, who lived four miles above the Narrows on Big Cedar Creek, reported the loss of a dark bay horse. § A legislative committee was appointed to see what books were missing from the Territorial Library.

*Thursday, June 14.* Frequent showers and a warm sun calmed the fears and excited the hopes of "industrious husbandmen".

*Friday, June 15.* Secretary W. B. Slaughter submitted the census returns to the legislature. § Citizens of Fort Madison met at the Madison Hotel to plan a celebration of Independence Day. § A flock of wild pigeons lighted in Dubuque on the building occupied by the preëmption commission.

*Saturday, June 16.* Members of the new military company met at the Exchange Coffee House to elect officers and select a uniform. § District court at Dubuque adjourned until September with many cases still on the docket. § J. Lamson advertised low prices for cash on 100 kegs of lard, 50 barrels of mess and prime pork, 15 hogsheads of sugar, 10,000 cigars, and 50 kegs of nails that he had just received.

*Sunday, June 17.* James S. Clark preached in Mr. Webster's new building in the west end of Fort Madison.

*Monday, June 18.* The marriage contract be-

tween James L. Thompson and Catherine Thompson was annulled by the Territorial legislature. § John King sold his interest in the *Iowa News* to his partners, W. W. Coriell and J. B. Russell. § A meeting to prepare for a Fourth of July celebration in Dubuque was postponed because a "violent storm" prevented attendance.

*Tuesday, June 19.* Caleb H. Booth of Dubuque and Miss Henrietta Eyre of Macomb were married at Burlington. § A flatboat, heavily loaded with stone and lime, sank when it was struck by a squall while crossing the river between Appanoose and Fort Madison. Two of the crew swam ashore but the third, Samuel Oliver, was drowned.

*Wednesday, June 20.* James G. Edwards was so busy lobbying the legislature for a printing contract that he was "obliged to omit publishing" the *Fort Madison Patriot*. § A public sale of lots was held at Richfield on the Big Maquoketa near the center of Jackson County. § A "large and respectable meeting of citizens" in Jackson County proposed Thomas S. Wilson for Delegate to Congress.

*Thursday, June 21.* Cyrus S. Jacobs was so ill with inflammatory rheumatism that he could not attend to the editorial department of the *Burlington Gazette*. § Permelia Emeline Adams was "released and divorced" from Richard Evans. The

legislature also annulled the marriage contract of James and Letitia Gilbert.

*Friday, June 22.* Governor Dodge approved a law to organize the government of Johnson County and locate the county seat at Napoleon. § The incorporation of the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Burlington was authorized by law.

*Saturday, June 23.* Abigail and Jonathan King of Burlington were divorced. § James Claiborne was authorized to run a ferry across the Mississippi at Camanche for ten years. § By order of Colonel Paul Cain the companies of the fourth regiment of militia were paraded "with arms and accoutrements" within their "respective beats".

*Sunday, June 24.* Persons who went for a Sabbath stroll in Fort Madison might have observed that "notwithstanding the hard times, between thirty and forty buildings" were going up. The river landing was also being improved by the construction of several wharves.

*Monday, June 25.* The Legislative Assembly adjourned. § The Dubuque Guards met at the schoolhouse to elect company officers. § At the "ringing of the bell" citizens of Dubuque met at the Washington Hotel and appointed committees to arrange a Fourth of July celebration.

*Wednesday, June 27.* A bad storm did "con-

siderable damage to the standing grain" in southern Iowa. Some of the hail stones that fell at Montrose were "*ten inches in circumference,*" and very few "could be got into a *common sized tumbler!*"

*Thursday, June 28.* A "large and respectable meeting of the Mechanics of the city of Burlington and vicinity" nominated George Temple to represent them in the first Iowa legislature.

*Friday, June 29.* Thomas S. Wilson was "unanimously nominated" for Delegate to Congress by a public meeting in Dubuque. A "vigilance committee" of sixteen was named to correspond with other counties in Wilson's behalf. § Eliphalet Price and J. H. D. Street at Little Turkey River in Clayton County dissolved their partnership.

*Saturday, June 30.* Rachel Goda left the "bed and board" of Alixy Goda at Peru "without any just cause or provocation". § In spite of the late spring, crops looked better than in any season since the country was settled. § William T. Sterling announced that forty-seven volumes, including many law books, Turner's Chemistry, an Essay on Truth, Byron's poems, and novels by Cooper and Sterne, were missing from the Territorial Library.

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