

## A Commonplace Calendar

*During the hazy days of Indian summer a hundred years ago, while politics ebbed and river traffic almost ceased, the Iowa settlers wondered where to find the cash to buy their claims.*

*Monday, October 1.* The Burlington land office opened for business and John H. Murphy was the first to buy the land he had preëmpted. § Stockholders of the Miners' Bank at Dubuque elected John Wharton president, a difficult position because the notes of the bank were not acceptable at the land office or at Davenport in payment for goods. Editor Logan hoped no "more of these pernicious institutions" would be established. § Drs. Ransom and Knapp formed a partnership the better to perform "any of the operations in surgery" with their "full setts of instruments". § Young James McKeel, who was playing about the house as usual in the morning, had a chill at noon and died in the evening. § Hundreds of uncalled-for letters were advertised by the Iowa post offices.

*Tuesday, October 2.* Robert E. Lee was making rapid progress in blasting reefs to deepen the channel over the Des Moines Rapids.



*Wednesday, October 3.* Old Chief Black Hawk died of "a violent bilious attack" in his lodge beside the Des Moines River near the agency. § A man was found dead on the river bank near Peru. He had been struck on the head with a stone in a fight the night before. § The Reverend Charles Burnham married Miss Adaline E. Jagger at Danville. § At Burlington Bradford Leonard married Ann E. Janes less than three weeks after her father died of apoplexy.

*Thursday, October 4.* Bradford Leonard took charge of settling the estate of his bride's father and that of her sister and brother-in-law who had died in August. § Thomas J. Taylor of the Du- buque firm of Scott and Taylor married Miss Sarah J. Cook.

*Friday, October 5.* A post office was established at Bentonsport with Seth Richards as post- master. § The river at Burlington rose five or six inches.

*Saturday, October 6.* Though election returns from Slaughter and Johnson counties were not yet reported, Chapman was leading Engle by four- teen votes. Editor Clarke assured the Saint Louis *Republican* that Chapman was not a Whig but "a friend of the administration". § David Lowry advertised that a "large brown OX" had strayed from the Winnebago school on Yellow River.



§ Sheriff Cummins declared that citizens of Dubuque County would have to pay their taxes in October, without "further indulgence".

*Sunday, October 7.* "Providence permitting", L. G. Bell preached in Stewart's schoolroom. In the afternoon he made a "statement of attitude" of the Presbyterian church. § William Kelley died, aged five years and seven months.

*Monday, October 8.* Quakers at Salem held a "Monthly Meeting", the "first regular business of the Society of Friends west of the Mississippi."

*Tuesday, October 9.* Jonathan Morehouse, "much esteemed by his neighbors", died at Iowa in Scott County. § Work on the Des Moines Rapids was practically suspended because laborers refused to go into the cold water, "even for \$3 a day".

*Wednesday, October 10.* Sheriff Cameron auctioned at the residence of John Meldrom three horses, one cow and calf, ten acres of corn, and twenty-six hogs to satisfy the claim of Mathew W. Latty.

*Thursday, October 11.* Dr. Joel C. Walker married Miss Martha M. Stewart near Fort Madison. § A small boy, who fell off the *Science* a few miles below Burlington, was soon pulled out of the water, "but the vital spark had fled."

*Friday, October 12.* From Bellevue and the



mines "several sporting fellows" went to hunt elk and buffalo at the head of the Maquoketa and Turkey rivers.

*Saturday, October 13.* The weather was delightfully clear and balmy, though on account of having no rain "worth talking about" for two months the Mississippi was very low, small streams were dry, the soil was parched, and dust was "something less than ten cubic feet deep" in Burlington. § Jeremiah Lamson foreclosed a mortgage on lot 89 in Burlington for a note of \$279 given by Thomas S. Easton in March. § Bradford Leonard offered to pay cash for 10,000 bushels of corn and potatoes and 1500 dozen eggs.

*Sunday, October 14.* Martha Temple, the three-year-old daughter of George Temple, died.

*Monday, October 15.* Citizens of Dubuque were respectfully invited to attend a lecture on temperance. § Anxious to make Burlington the "most eligible point for the seat of Government", the *Gazette* urged that the deep gullies in the streets be filled up so that strangers would not break their necks at night in the dark of the moon.

*Tuesday, October 16.* The "multitude of dogs which nightly" patrolled the streets managed "to steal their own maintenance — and imitating the example of other public *servants*, after having pro-



vided for themselves" howled "most horribly to show their watchful care of the community."

*Wednesday, October 17.* Frosty weather had done wonders to improve health. Soon, ague patients predicted, the doctors would have nothing to do. § Completion of the Methodist Church in time for the legislature seemed doubtful.

*Thursday, October 18.* All the counties finally reported the results of the election. Governor Lucas proclaimed that Chapman had been elected to Congress by a plurality of thirty-six votes. § The government annuity was paid to the Winnebagoes at Painted Rock in Iowa twelve miles north of Prairie du Chien.

*Friday, October 19.* Edward Langworthy got a writ of attachment "against the lands and tenements, goods and chattels, rights and credits" of John Walsh and Wesley Parker for \$1339.41.

*Saturday, October 20.* In anticipation of the legislative session, J. B. Wiley opened the Tremont House in Burlington. His bar was "supplied with the choicest liquors". § John Harris died, "leaving a numerous family to mourn his loss." § J. S. Kirkpatrick of Bellevue was convinced that the "large sorrel mare" he lost in July and another in September had been stolen. "I had rather have the thief than both horses", he declared, offering a reward of \$100.



*Sunday, October 21.* A coroner's jury decided that Mr. Tyler had died of delirium and exposure. § Levi Anderson married Ame Carmichael.

*Monday, October 22.* The weather was "squally" with a prospect for rain. § John H. Rose threatened to contest the election of Thomas Cox to the legislature because he said Cox was not a citizen of the Territory on July 4, 1838.

*Tuesday, October 23.* Peter Lloyd borrowed William Luster's bay mare to ride a few miles.

*Wednesday, October 24.* Farmers were much interested in a variety of corn developed by Thomas N. Baden of Maryland. James Clarke saw Baden corn in Muscatine County fourteen feet high capable of yielding 150 bushels to the acre.

*Thursday, October 25.* The *Palmyra* arrived at Dubuque with a heavy cargo from Saint Louis. The *Pavilion* passed Burlington eight days up from Saint Louis.

*Friday, October 26.* The *Relief* passed Burlington, freighted for the upper country.

*Saturday, October 27.* The *Burlington Gazette* was a "dull paper indeed" because the editor had received few exchanges, partly due to poor mail service. § The weather was "charming — delightful" as everybody knew, and the river "too low" for mention. § W. W. Coriell sold his in-



terest in the *Iowa News* to Edwin Reeves whose law partner, John V. Berry was to be an assistant. § Legislators in the northern counties were afraid navigation would close before the Assembly convened. § A post office was opened at Pleasant Valley with Austin B. Lathrop as postmaster.

*Sunday, October 28.* The river was gradually rising. § A. K. Trollinger lost his pocketbook.

*Monday, October 29.* David Rorer shot Cyrus S. Jacobs. The wounded man was taken home and the ball, which had lodged against his spine, was extracted. § The arrival of the *Pavilion, Relief,* and *Ariel* at Dubuque probably prevented profiteering in flour and other staple groceries.

*Tuesday, October 30.* Jacobs suffered terribly. § If the "little rivulet upon which our town is situated should rise so as to permit keel-boats to float", good accommodations such as the new Land Office Hotel afforded would be needed in the capital.

*Wednesday, October 31.* According to Coriell, "Booby Stephen" Hempstead spent the day "toiling under the weight of a large bundle of handbills, and going about from house to house," distributing calumny. § Jacobs could scarcely endure the pain of his wound.

JOHN ELY BRIGGS