

A Commonplace Calendar

During the month of showers a hundred years ago the pioneers of Iowa planted their crops, built new houses, welcomed the immigrants, held temperance meetings, talked politics, and faced the future with the sunlight of hope in their eyes.

Sunday, April 1. Let it be recorded "for future reference, and to show to those at a distance that we are not quite so near sun-down as to be entirely destitute of the genial influences of the bright luminary of day, even in this early part of the season." § Trailing along a road in Illinois at least 150 families "were counted on their way to the Black Hawk Purchase".

Monday, April 2. Mrs. Sheldon opened a school in Burlington. Grammar, geography, astronomy, geometry, botany, philosophy, and history were taught and spelling, reading, and writing emphasized. § Rev. P. B. Russell, agent of the American Temperance Society, lectured at early candlelighting at the Methodist meeting room in the house of W. W. Chapman in Burlington. § Alex. Butterworth, John McKenzie, Benjamin Rupert, John Plumbe, and Philip C. Mor-

hizer were elected trustees of Dubuque. § Judge David Irvin opened district court at Fort Madison with unsurpassed "order and decorum".

Tuesday, April 3. Sauk and Fox warriors were reported to be assembling, "dressed out in all their paraphernalia of warlike preparation" to make "a belligerent excursion into the country of the Sioux."

Wednesday, April 4. A fire in Edgar's drug store on Front Street in Burlington was soon extinguished.

Thursday, April 5. Lot Thornton and Miss Abigail M. Wright were married.

Friday, April 6. "Philo" hoped the citizens of Dubuque would support the Literary Association which would "ere long, lay the foundation of a Library and a Philosophical apparatus, which would tend to elevate the standard of public intelligence, and exercise a very important influence on our village". § Ann Judson, the baby daughter of J. T. Fales, died.

Saturday, April 7. L. N. English, who lived ten miles west of Burlington, boasted that "BLUE BUCK can beat any horse of his age, (12 years,) in the western country for one quarter of a mile."

Monday, April 9. Sixteen steers and other articles "too tedious to mention" from the estate of Ira William were sold at auction. § William

Allison and Ann Frost were married "near the Little Maquoketa". § A negro fell from the *Adventure* near Burlington and was drowned.

Tuesday, April 10. A "slight fall of snow" caused some injury to vegetation. § The *Burlington*, Captain Joseph Throckmorton commanding, stopped at Fort Madison on her first trip up the river.

Wednesday, April 11. Black Hawk visited Burlington. "He attracted some notice, and seemed gratified at it."

Thursday, April 12. William Morgan and Elizabeth Sexton were married.

Friday, April 13. The river was "in a fine stage for navigation".

Saturday, April 14. A petition was circulated to move the county seat from Burlington to the geographical center of Des Moines County. § No "less than a dozen good houses" were in process of construction at Burlington. § Timothy Turner, agent for the Illinois State Temperance Society, lectured at the Methodist Church in Dubuque.

Monday, April 16. Judge Irvin opened district court at Farmington. Isaac Hendershott of Burlington, indicted for the murder of Nathaniel Knapp of Fort Madison, escaped.

Tuesday, April 17. Six brass eight-day clocks,

twenty-four wooden thirty-hour clocks, and a lot of tuck combs were sold at auction in Burlington.

Friday, April 20. A meeting of gentlemen from the Iowa District of Wisconsin Territory at Dubuque adopted a resolution asking President Van Buren to appoint George W. Jones Governor if the Territory of Iowa should be established.

Saturday, April 21. James G. Edwards was nominated for the office of president of Fort Madison by a meeting of citizens. He hoped the election would be non-partisan. § A committee advertised for bids on a contract to deliver at the public square in Mount Pleasant by August 10th "100,000 good merchantable brick" for the Henry County court house. § Jacob Pate offered to sell his claim three and a half miles below the falls of the big Maquoketa. He had 160 acres "under fence", of which "34 are broke, and 15 sowed in oats".

Sunday, April 22. So many immigrant wagons were across the river from Fort Madison that the village of Appanoose looked like a large town. § Timothy Turner, the "well-known apostle of temperance", lectured twice in Fort Madison. The evening meeting in the "spacious dining hall of Mr. Cope's Hotel" was the largest assembly that had ever gathered in that town.

Monday, April 23. Considerable damage was

done to streets and gardens in Dubuque by a severe thunder storm. "The rain poured down in torrents for the principal part of the night."

Tuesday, April 24. The discussion at the regular meeting of the Dubuque Lyceum was on the question: "*Resolved*, That early marriages are conducive to the happiness of the community."

Thursday, April 26. Governor Henry Dodge, on his way to Washington, arrived at Burlington aboard the *Cygnet*.

Friday, April 27. At the home of James G. Edwards, the "circuit preacher", Mr. Cartwright, organized the Fort Madison Temperance Society with nearly fifty members. § By prompt action the fire in the house of George B. Edwards was extinguished before much damage was done. § Ground was broken for St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Davenport.

Saturday, April 28. At Burlington the river was higher than "the oldest residents" had ever seen it. Waves blown up by a strong wind at Fort Madison washed away seventy-five cords of wood belonging to Peter Miller.

Monday, April 30. A public meeting at the court house in Dubuque asked the General Land Office to appoint a separate commission to grant preëmption certificates in Dubuque.

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