

A Commonplace Calendar

In the normal course of their daily experience the pioneers in Iowa made history a hundred years ago.

Thursday, March 1. March came in like a lion, bringing a snow storm. J. G. W. Fleming and Miss Mary Palmer were married at Black Hawk in Louisa County.

Friday, March 2. A "respectable number of citizens" met at the Shakespeare House in Dubuque to nominate county officers.

Saturday, March 3. At the annual meeting of the citizens of Des Moines County at the farm of James Cameron the business of "wolf-scalp and claim laws" was adjusted.

Sunday, March 4. The Iowa Temperance Society was organized at the Methodist Church in Dubuque, with Judge E. Lockwood, president; Dr. T. R. Lurton, vice president; and John Plumbe, secretary.

Monday, March 5. Election day. County officials and regimental militia officers were elected. In Lee County "much animation was manifested" over the choice of the three county commissioners.

Wednesday, March 7. A. Levi lost "a large Yellow Morocco Pocket Book", between Dubuque and Hardscrabble.

Thursday, March 8. Geo. L. Nightingale, who had been in business two years in Dubuque, declared he had not made "*Salt to my Porridge*". To "those of my *Friends* who have been indebted to me since I started, I would say, that I know it is monstrous hard that I should ask them to pay me so soon, but the fact is, I want money, and *must* have it, as neither my creditors nor myself can live on barnacles and battles of smoke."

Friday, March 9. The weather was "clear and pleasant" at Dubuque where the thermometer rose to 40° at noon and fell to about 20° at night.

Saturday, March 10. Dr. John W. Finley "earnestly requested" all persons indebted to him to call and settle by "Cash or Notes".

Sunday, March 11. William P. Wright and Miss Susan Findly were married at Casey Prairie in Des Moines County. † Mrs. Leanna Madera, aged 26, wife of Charles Madera and daughter of William Griffey, died of intermittant fever at her home two miles north of Burlington. She left two small children.

Tuesday, March 13. Ira Williams, a captain in the War of 1812 and one of the earliest settlers in Dubuque, died at his home on Locust Street. He was "much respected for his integrity and strict regard to truth."

Thursday, March 15. Henry Eno, recently ap-

pointed judge of probate for Lee County, married Miss Elizabeth S. Knapp, daughter of General J. H. Knapp of Fort Madison. § At Dubuque the frost was nearly all out of the ground, the streets were "perfectly dry", and business was "pricking up its ears with the fair prospect of seeing a boat puffing up soon."

Friday, March 16. Early risers at Burlington, where the weather had been "more like May than March", were "greeted with a two inch carpet of virgin snow upon nature's floor."

Saturday, March 17. Sixty gentlemen, with Patrick Quigley as master of ceremonies, celebrated St. Patrick's Day at Dubuque, by eating a three dollar dinner at Timothy Fanning's Jefferson Hotel. § On hearing that a building at West Point Military Academy had burned, the editor of the *Iowa News* hoped that "comfortable quarters will be found for these little sprigs of nobility, yclept cadets, otherwise they may take cold." § At the New Exchange Coffee House in Dubuque, liquor direct from Louisville was served "in a style to gratify the most fastidious palate."

Sunday, March 18. The ice began to go out of the river at Burlington.

Tuesday, March 20. The Dubuque Lyceum held a regular meeting at the office of J. T. Fales.

Thursday, March 22. Black Hawk and his

son, Nasheaskuk, attended a ball in Fort Madison. Black Hawk wore his full "court dress".

Saturday, March 24. "If a division of the Territory is effected, we propose that the Iowans take the cognomen of Hawk-eyes", wrote James G. Edwards in the Fort Madison *Patriot*. "Our etymology can then be more definitely traced than can that of the Wolverines, Suckers, Gophers, &c., and we shall rescue from oblivion a memento, at least, of the name of the old chief. Who seconds the motion?" § The Reverend Mr. McCoy, appointed by the Schuyler Presbytery to form a church in Fort Madison, preached at early candle-lighting in Mr. O'Niel's house. § The *Gypsey* was the first steamboat up the river.

Sunday, March 25. The weather was "as bland as May"; the ice was all out of the river, and the water at a high stage.

Tuesday, March 27. John W. Markle, a Dubuque merchant, married Miss Eliza Jane Stoddard. § The handsome new steamboat, *Demoine*, landed a large number of enterprising Ohio farmers at Fort Madison.

Friday, March 30. The *Demoine* arrived at Dubuque, bringing forty kegs of blasting powder.

Saturday, March 31. Mrs. Margaret Hart, aged 67, died from injuries received when she fell into the hold of the *Demoine*.

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