

A Commonplace Calendar

Winter began early in Iowa a hundred years ago, threatening unusual hardship, while the public land sales were in progress and the first Territorial legislature pioneered in law making.

Thursday, November 1. Cyrus S. Jacobs died of the wound inflicted by David Rorer. § The *Gypsy*, passing Burlington on her way down stream, reported that the *Palmyra* had sunk on the upper rapids. § Merchant W. S. Edgar married Lavinia Janes.

Friday, November 2. The funeral of Jacobs was attended by "one of the most numerous and respectable concourses of people" Burlington had witnessed. § William Luster offered a reward of \$20 for the return of his old bay mare which the intemperate, fiddle-playing Peter Lloyd had borrowed "a week ago" to "ride a few miles".

Saturday, November 3. Citizens of Burlington were invited to attend a meeting of the Iowa Territorial Thespian Corps. § Tailor A. J. Lucas promised to give particular attention to the cut of gentlemen's garments, following eastern fashions. § Richard Plumbe wished his boarders at the Washington Hotel "would endeavor to be punc-

tual at meals". § E. Mattox and J. W. Markle of Dubuque dissolved their partnership. § A store in Burlington offered fifty cents a bushel for potatoes.

Sunday, November 4. L. G. Bell did not preach because no "proper house" for public worship could be procured in Burlington. § E. C. Remington lost his pocketbook.

Monday, November 5. The first public land sale began at Dubuque. The town was crowded with settlers ready to buy "the places upon which they have expended their labor". § James M. Morgan, who had "connections with Washington", opened a land agency at Burlington to obtain land patents promptly. § Judge T. S. Wilson opened district court in Lee County.

Tuesday, November 6. W. W. Chapman started to Washington to take his seat in Congress. § Dubuque legislators Hempstead, Lewis, Swan, and Bankson, accompanied by Editor J. B. Russell, set out for Burlington in canoes.

Wednesday, November 7. "Winter is upon us." The ground was covered with snow, five inches deep at Dubuque, and the weather turned "bitterly cold". § Settlers were paying a high premium to exchange their Indiana bank notes for "land office money".

Thursday, November 8. Ice began to form in

the river. § Some of the Dubuque legislators abandoned their canoe at Lyons and went on by carriage. § Proceeds from the Dubuque land sale at the end of the fourth day amounted to nearly \$30,000.

Friday, November 9. The Methodist Church was nearly ready for the legislature, "notwithstanding the numerous drawbacks experienced by the enterprising gentleman under whose care it has been fitted up." § The *Gazette* shop was ready to do the printing for the legislature "with the utmost dispatch".

Saturday, November 10. News came that John Plumbe had been appointed postmaster at Sinnipee, Wisconsin. § Michael O'Brien "took up" a stray brown ox on "Whiskey Hill, within one mile of Du Buque". § J. J. King again opened his boarding house on Third Street in Burlington to accommodate legislators and other transients. § J. B. Lawson offered to meet settlers at the land sale and pay cash for corn and cattle.

Sunday, November 11. The Reverend Mr. Reynolds preached in Burlington. § Neighbors in Bellevue exclaimed over Kirkpatrick's big cucumber 18 inches long, and 16 inches around.

Monday, November 12. The First Legislative Assembly of Iowa met in the Methodist Church at Burlington. § In a message "characterized

throughout for high toned morality", Governor Lucas admonished the legislators to perform their duties with prudence and vision. § Judge Wilson opened court in Van Buren County.

Tuesday, November 13. The river was full of floating ice at Dubuque. § Contrary to his expectation, J. B. Browne was elected President of the Council. William H. Wallace promised to preside "faithfully and impartially" as Speaker of the House. § J. B. Russell arrived at the capital, glad to end his cold, tedious canoe voyage. § Choir members in Dubuque were invited "to learn sacred music" from Azor Richardson.

Wednesday, November 14. The mail from the east failed to reach Burlington, but from Van Buren County came a letter that had been four weeks on the way. § James A. Burchard contested the election of S. R. Murry to the House.

Thursday, November 15. E. A. M. Swazy arrived from Van Buren County and took his seat in the Council. § A Male and Female Academy was opened by Allen M. Scott "in the beautiful and lovely town of Mount Pleasant" to provide a thorough education "without that smattering of science, by which the mind of the pupil is made a lumber-room without order or harmony."

Friday, November 16. A large, unfinished two-story frame house, suitable for a hotel, was for

sale at Parkhurst. § Isaac Cook died at Burlington. § The House refused to hire James G. Edwards to print the laws.

Saturday, November 17. George H. Beeler was elected to the vacant seat of C. S. Jacobs. § The legislature adjourned until Wednesday so that the members could attend the land sale. § O. L. Huntington had for sale at Danville "several sets of elegant coach harness silver and brass mounted". § The weather continued cold. § James G. Edwards announced that he would issue the first number of *The Burlington Patriot* next Saturday.

Sunday, November 18. The Reverend Mr. Arrington preached in Representative Hall in the morning and A. M. Scott of Mount Pleasant in the same place "at early candle lighting".

Monday, November 19. Judge T. S. Wilson opened district court at Mount Pleasant. § The public land sale began at Burlington. Settlers were warned to "come prepared to bivouac, for our hotels and boarding houses even now are pretty well filled."

Tuesday, November 20. David Rice married Levara Griffey of Burlington. § Squatters had to pay a twenty per cent premium to exchange bank notes of small denominations for \$20 bills to meet land office requirements.

Wednesday, November 21. The legislature reconvened. Hughes, Whittlesey, and Murry arrived and took their seats. § Judge Mason, at the request of a Representative, submitted a bill regulating court procedure in criminal cases.

Thursday, November 22. Hempstead's bill to divorce Rhoda P. Mallet from Paschal Mallet was rejected by the Council. § Cash receipts from the land sale at Burlington were averaging over \$25,000 a day!

Friday, November 23. Secretary Conway submitted to the Council wax impressions of the Great Seal of the Territory, designed to be "perfectly expressive of a distinct idea, intimately associated with the history of the delightful country which we have the happiness to inhabit". § The establishment of a Territorial University was proposed in the Council. § A Presbyterian Church was organized at Burlington.

Saturday, November 24. The capital was crowded with strangers attending the land sale. § Alexander Hilleary promised that any one who returned his stray ox with the "crumple horns" would "be satisfied for their trouble". § The first issue of the Burlington *Patriot* did not appear.

Sunday, November 25. Citizens in southern Iowa were wondering whether the Mormons, driven out of Missouri, would settle in Iowa.

Monday, September 26. The sheriff sold the livestock, wagon, and "one mantle clock" to pay Michael Harris's debt to L. N. English. § District court convened in Burlington.

Tuesday, November 27. Commissioners met to adjudicate claims to town lots in Fort Madison. § Clarke & McKenny were hired to print the journals of the legislature and Russell & Reeves got the contract for publishing the laws.

Wednesday, November 28. The House resolved to change the method of voting in elections to *viva voce*. § The first session of the Territorial Supreme Court was held in the parlor of a Burlington pioneer home.

Thursday, November 29. A legislative committee went to Dubuque to investigate the Miners' Bank. § B. Rupert invited interested citizens of Dubuque to reorganize the Lyceum. § Thanksgiving Day was not yet observed.

Friday, November 30. The House petitioned Congress to give two townships of land for the erection of a penitentiary, which prompted the editor of the *Gazette* to denounce capital punishment. He was "well satisfied that the day is fast approaching when this relic of savage brutality shall no longer deform the statute book of young Iowa."

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