

## A Trip to Sioux City

[Pioneer editors were a convivial lot; they always enjoyed getting together to compare notes on problems relating to their profession. In 1872 the editor of the Spirit Lake *Beacon* and a companion made a trip to the metropolis of the Upper Missouri — Sioux City. They traveled by stagecoach to Storm Lake and then boarded the newly-completed Dubuque and Pacific [Illinois Central] to Sioux City. Overnight stops were made along the way at Spencer, Sioux Rapids, and Storm Lake, during which time visits were paid to local editors and an estimate made of the hotels and meals served along the way. The excitement over a local railroad bond election at Spencer, the court activities in Sioux Rapids, as well as the “glitter and tinsel” of “gay and dashing” Sioux City attracted the “green uns” from Spirit Lake. The trip was made during the decade that saw the last American frontier line, that of 1870, pass out of northwest Iowa. The enthusiasm of the frontier had not been dimmed by the Panic of 1873 or the ravages of the grasshopper plagues. The letter appeared in the Spirit Lake *Beacon* of March 1, 1872. THE EDITOR.]

On Monday, the 19th ult., in company with Henry Barkman, we left our quiet and peaceful home to encounter the temptations which beset the verdant in the gay and dashing “metropolis of Northwestern Iowa.”

After a chilly ride of three hours we reached the busy town of Spencer. Called on Bro. Ford,

of the *News* and found him up to his ears in business, yet he spared us time for a pleasant chat. The people of Clay county justly recognize the *News* as their friend. Spencer is an example of what railroad prospects will do for a town. The citizens we met were all jubilant over the voting of the five per cent tax in favor of the Minneapolis, St. Paul & U. P. R. R.

Tuesday morning we left Spencer for Sioux Rapids, arriving there at about 10 o'clock a.m. We first visited the new Court House, and were surprised to find so commodious a structure. It is provided with good desks, seats, tables, and other conveniences for the accommodation of the bar. The Circuit was in session, His Honor, J. M. Snyder presiding. The Bar was represented by the following gentlemen: Galusha Parsons, of Fort Dodge; Judge Cook, of Cedar Rapids; Sutfin & Wirick, G. S. Robinson and Frank E. Chamberlain of Storm Lake; Eugene E. Snow, of Spencer; John T. Long and J. C. Saylor of Newell; Eugene Cowles, of Cherokee; D. C. Thomas and Lot Thomas, of Sioux Rapids. The Court was engaged in the trial of a suit of *mandamus*, which will occupy the most of the term. We understand that the case was argued at the last term upon a demurrer, which was sustained, and the Plaintiffs amended their petition. The suit is to get possession of the office of the Board of Supervisors. — Attys. for Pltf. — Sutfin &

Wirick, Joy & Wright and Judge Cook. Attys. for Defts. Galusha Parsons, Lot Thomas and John T. Long.

While at Sioux Rapids we took our "hash" with W. S. Lee, mine Host of the Sioux Rapids House, by the way, one of the best hotels in Northwestern Iowa.

**NEW STAGE LINE**

FROM  
**Storm Lake to Spencer.**

ON AND AFTER JULY FOURTH, 1871,  
THOMAS M. SELKIRK

will run a semi-weekly Stage from Storm Lake to Spencer, starting on Tuesday and Friday mornings immediately after the train arrives from the East. Will connect at Spencer with the Jackson, Minnesota Line and Spencer and Algona Line. Stage will leave Spencer for Storm Lake on the mornings of Wednesday and Saturday at six o'clock.

Office at the Lake House.  
STORM LAKE, June 28, 1871. 36m3

**CHARLES A. SANDERS,**  
**Architect & Builder,**

P. O. Box 157, STORM LAKE, IOWA.

ALL kinds of Furniture made to order. Carpenter and joiner work promptly done.

**J. B. PHIPPS,**  
**Physician & Surgeon**

HAVING permanently located at Newell, Buena Vista county, Iowa, respectfully solicits patronage from all those that need medical assistance. All calls promptly attended to. Office and Residence in the south part of town. 32m6\*

**N. W. CONDRON,**  
**Notary Public, Real Estate Broker,**

**AND TAX-PAYING AGENT.**

Will pay the highest Cash price for county Warrants.  
NEWELL, Buena Vista Co., IOWA.

**J. C. SAYLOR,**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW & LAND AGENT,**

NEWELL,  
Buena Vista County, Iowa.

Special attention given to the Collection of Claims. Will also attend to the purchase and sale of Real Estate, to Conveyancing, Examining Titles, Paying Taxes, &c., on reasonable terms.

ORANGE WARNER,  
**Real Estate Agent,**  
AND CLERK OF THE COURTS.

SIOUX RAPIDS, Buena Vista County,  
Iowa.

Taxes paid. Lands bought and sold. No. 15. ly.

G. W. STEVENS,  
**Justice of the Peace,**  
Newell, Iowa.

D. C. THOMAS,  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW,**

Real Estate and Tax-Paying Agt.,  
SIOUX RAPIDS, Buena Vista Co., Iowa.

STEPHEN OLNEY, Jr.,  
**Physician & Surgeon,**

SIOUX RAPIDS, IOWA.

**ASHLEY HOUSE,**  
K. BATEMAN, Proprietor.

Hotels, stagecoach lines,  
land agents, and lawyers  
all advertised in the Storm  
Lake Pilot.

**FORT DODGE HOUSE,**  
A. J. Burbank, Proprietor.  
FORT DODGE, IOWA.

**City Hotel.**  
Lake Avenue, bet. 5th and 6th Streets.

T. S. SMITH, Proprietor.  
This House is centrally located and offers good accommodations to travelers and boarders.

**Lake House.**  
Cor. Lake Avenue and Third St.,  
STORM LAKE, IOWA.

THOS. M. SELKIRK, PROPRIETOR.  
THIS hotel has just been completed and opened to the public, and the proprietor solicits the patronage of travelers. 1ly.

**CLIFTON HOUSE.**  
SIOUX CITY, IOWA.

JOHN WEBBER, Proprietor.  
Located in the business centre of the City and newly refitted and furnished with a view to first-class accommodation. Free Bus to and from all trains and steamboats. n26yl

**"EAGLE SALOON."**  
(First door south of Iowa House.)  
FORT DODGE, IOWA.

For choice Wines, Ale, and Porter, Cigars and Tobacco, this is the place. n26yl

Leaving Sioux Rapids Wednesday in one of Selkirk's stages, we arrived in the course of time

at the pleasant town of Storm Lake. We first landed at the Lake House, but upon reflection we concluded not to take our "peck of dirt" in so short a time, as we should have been obliged to had we remained there. Accordingly we wended our way to the City Hotel, which we found to be a "hotel what is a hotel." We assure the traveling public that the City Hotel is a first class house, and that they will find in Mr. T. S. Smith, the proprietor, a gentleman ever attentive to their wants.

We called at the *Pilot* office, but did not have the pleasure of seeing Col. Vestal, the Grand Mogul of Iowa journalism, as he was attending to his *stern duties* at Des Moines.

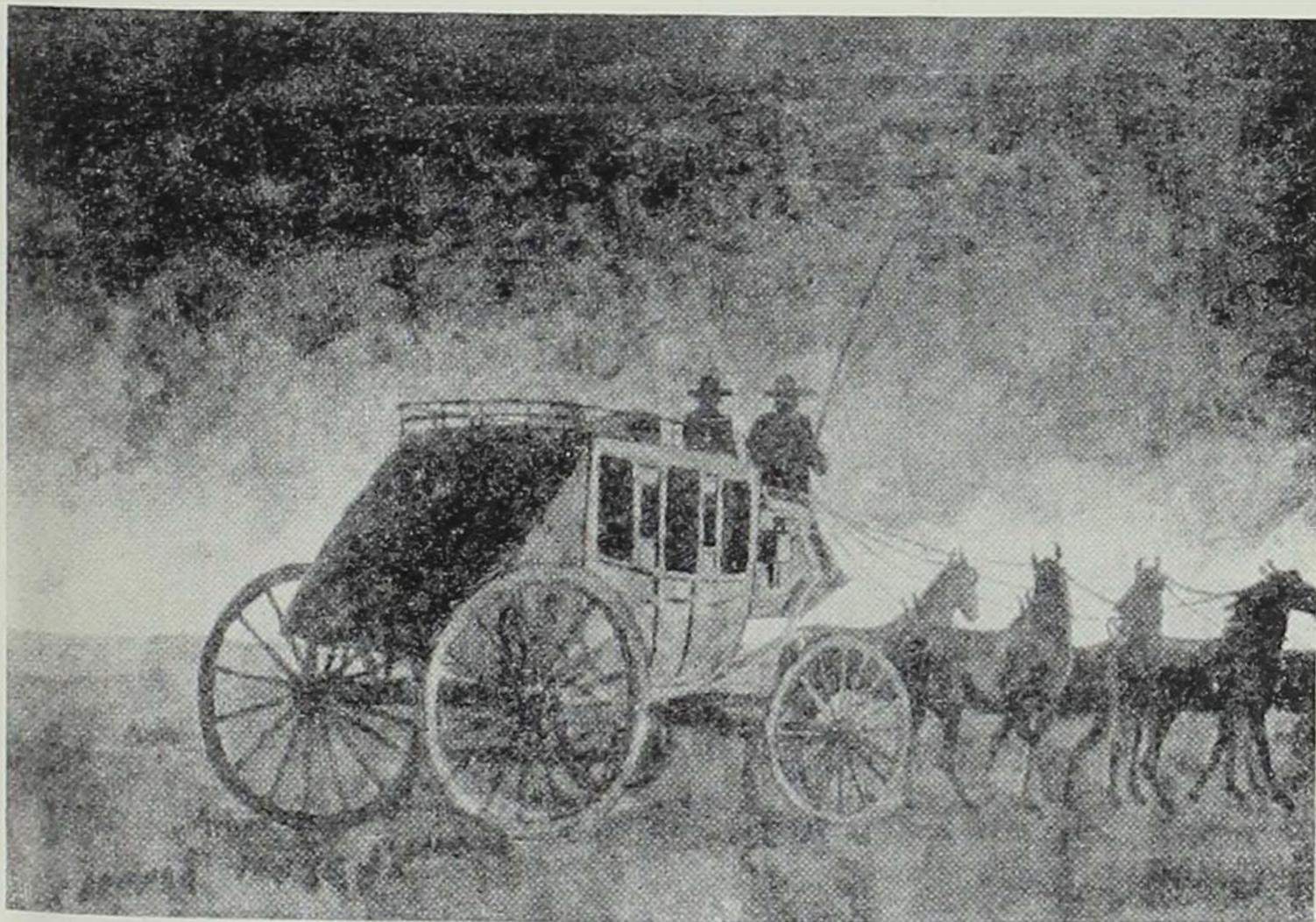
Thursday morning we took the train for Sioux City, where we arrived after a three hours ride. Busy and bustling is the embryo metropolis; many changes had taken place since our last visit; still we recognized the gay and reckless town; the energetic and enterprising Sioux City.

The merchants are getting ready for the spring trade, which promises to be very heavy. The Hubbard House, which was closed for a time, has been re-opened under the management of Messrs. Ballantine Bros. & Bragg. This House is of brick, four stories high, and 80 feet in width by 125 in length, and with one exception the largest hotel in the state.

City politics was the all-absorbing topic and the

coming municipal election is one of unusual interest. The *Journal* thus defines the situation:

"The question is as to whether our city government is to be a help or simply an encumbrance; whether it is to be so conducted that Sioux City



Deep mud, flooded streams, rough roads, prairie fires, and howling blizzards — these made stage coaching memorable if not comfortable.

shall be recognized as a haven for liquor-sellers, gamblers and prostitutes, or be inviting to merchants, artificers, and all the better classes of society."

We met many of our old friends at Sioux City and passed the time pleasantly until Monday, the 25th, when we bid adieu to the "glitter and tin-

sel" of city life and started for our hyperborean home, arriving here Tuesday noon, with the comfortable feeling of having acquired considerable polish during our metropolitan pilgrimage.