

The
PALIMPSEST
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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

THE MEANING OF PALIMPSEST

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the records of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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THE PALIMPSEST

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The Election of 1843

One of the most turbulent political contests in the early history of Iowa occurred in the summer and autumn of 1843. Whereas the campaign in the previous year had centered around the question of the admission of Iowa into the Union, the 1843 election concentrated attention on the selection of a Delegate to Congress. Because the 1842 proposal for calling a constitutional convention had been defeated by a vote of 6825 to 4129, the Democrats, who had advocated Statehood, deemed it wise to let the issue drop for at least a year. The Whigs, opposed to Statehood for fear of increased taxes, were also glad to avoid that issue. Election results of 1842 had slightly enhanced the power of the Whigs, but the election of 1843 was destined to be a triumph for the Democrats.

Residents of the Territory of Iowa were awakened from their every-day living habits in April when the Burlington *Hawk-Eye* and the Iowa

City Standard began discussing the coming October elections. The two Whig papers suggested likely candidates of their party for the office of Delegate. Ralph P. Lowe was mentioned by the Burlington newspaper and William H. Wallace was the choice of William Crum, editor of the *Standard*. In mentioning the name of Wallace, a member of the legislature, Crum wrote: "The Whig cause has no more efficient supporter, nor would any more closely press the enemy in the contest." The editor also claimed that Wallace was the choice of more than three-fourths of the Whig members in the legislature. Because of this, Crum suggested that a candidate might be agreed upon by holding county conventions in the twenty counties then organized.

The Whigs were further stirred to action by an editorial printed in the *Davenport Gazette* during the first week in April. It admonished the Whigs to "go systematically to work, nerved by the stern determination that Iowa shall no longer be represented by Locofocoism. Let meetings be held in every county, all aiming at the convention of a mass meeting at the Capitol. Let committees be appointed in each precinct to bring the Whigs together . . . to awaken the disaffected from the lethargy which recent events have conspired to produce, and by concert action to so organize the

party that all the wily trickery of Locofocoism will be unable to swerve them from that duty which they owe their country, their party and themselves."

Early in May a central committee of five men was appointed to organize the Whigs in the various counties of the Territory. On May 24th this group issued a notice requesting partisans to hold primary meetings in each county and "determine whether, under all the circumstances, it is expedient to hold a Territorial Convention." If a convention should be approved by the county caucuses, they were requested to appoint delegates, equal in number to their representation in the legislature. July 4th was the date proposed for the Territorial convention, providing a majority of the counties voted "yes" for the meeting. This date was later changed to July 19th in the belief that the counties had not had sufficient time to organize.

While the Whigs were banding together for the coming political battle the Democrats, too, were holding county meetings and organizing. They were preparing to combat "all the tricks, treachery and humbuggery of which whiggery is so notoriously productive." After the first few county meetings it became apparent that the incumbent Delegate, Augustus Caesar Dodge,

would be the choice of his party for renomination to that office. Nevertheless a Territorial convention was scheduled for June 26th at Iowa City.

The day of the Democratic convention arrived and at ten o'clock in the morning the forty-five delegates started a parade from the main Iowa City hotel to the capitol. Led by Samuel Trowbridge, Iowa City postmaster, the group wended its way to Representative Hall in the capitol carrying banners with such inscriptions as "Stick to the Party" and "Augustus Dodge". James H. Gower of Cedar County was appointed chairman for the meeting. The morning was spent in preparing an address to the "Democracy of the County", and in electing officers of the convention. Shortly after two o'clock Amos Ladd of Lee County arose from his chair to nominate Dodge as candidate of the Democratic party for Delegate to Congress. The nomination was accepted by acclamation.

In the address prepared earlier by a special committee, Dodge was described as being "so well and so favorably known to the people of Iowa, that reference to him at length would be quite superfluous. He has been in their service for three years and can therefore appeal to the past for evidence of his faithful stewardship. With what untiring zeal and success he has labored for

our common interests is known to all, and attested in the deep hold he has upon the affections of his constituents." Following the reading of the message to the Democrats and also speeches by Edward Johnstone of Lee County, Thomas Rogers of Dubuque County, and James P. Carl and Curtis Bates of Johnson County, the convention adjourned.

One unknown Whig who attended the convention (he must have been admitted by mistake) described the convention as a farce and added: "The committee reported and read an address which was adopted forthwith. Several members having dropt asleep during the reading were awakened to vote for the adoption of the reported address . . . when the very modest, retiring and interesting young man from Dubuque who misrepresented the north in the Legislature last winter, was called upon. The most uninterested spectator would have been struck with his remarkable appearance and his very striking physiognomy; it appeared as if a drum and fife would be required to call together the few scattered hairs that bore the appearance of having been forced out from his frog-mouthed visage by balm of Columbia, or some other hair growing remedy."

Following the close of the session, five members

were selected to inform Dodge of his nomination by the convention. When the news reached him at his home in Burlington it was received gratefully by the veteran politician. Immediately he began to map his campaign for the coming months.

All was not well, however, amongst the Whigs who could not agree upon the Territorial convention scheduled for July 19th. Johnson County members and several newspaper editors thought a convention would be "inexpedient" but other counties had previously voted to hold the meeting. It was finally decided by the central committee that a convention to select a candidate would be needless as William H. Wallace was considered the logical man. It was with great pleasure, indeed, that Editor Ver Planck Van Antwerp, of the *Iowa City Capitol Reporter*, wrote on the day set for the conclave: "The 19th instant was a day which will long be remembered in the annals of whiggery, as the day on which the Whig Convention met for the nomination of a candidate for Delegate to Congress in opposition to Gen. Dodge. . . . So great was the rush that the Capitol was filled to overflowing."

After the failure of the convention it was recognized by most Whigs that Wallace was their candidate. Ralph P. Lowe had, in the meantime, dropped out of the Whig race for the candidacy.

Wallace was called a "harbinger of good" by his party and "servile, designing and covert" by Democrats. He was actually an ardent champion of a tariff for revenue and for protection to industries within the United States. He also favored a national bank, paper money rather than hard metal, and an equitable pro rata distribution of the revenue arising from the sale of public lands. Minor points in his platform were: one term for the President of the United States, restoration of the country's credit, and revival of her credit abroad.

Dodge, true to the Democratic cause, strongly opposed a bank and desired no tariff of any kind except on lead. He declared himself to be a friend to an "entire and exclusive hard money currency", which one Whig sarcastically quipped was "hard to be got". Also the Democratic platform proposed that the Territory of Iowa should become a State in order to get the benefit of the Federal land grant for public schools. This resolution was not mentioned, however, during the ensuing months.

The campaign for the Delegate's seat unofficially began when Dodge spoke to a large audience at Keosauqua early in July. There, he made a fiery speech against the Whig policy of supporting a tariff and a national bank. Presently Wal-

lace, also, began canvassing the counties of the Territory in an attempt to win more Whig votes.

The campaigns of both men had not progressed far before Whigs and Democrats, alike, clamored for a joint stumping tour. They desired to hear the men debate the conflicting issues of the two parties. During the first week in August, Dodge invaded Henry County, where Wallace lived, to make several addresses. He informed his opponent of his itinerary and expressed the wish that Wallace accompany him on the tour. When Wallace failed to appear with Dodge at Mount Pleasant he was accused of being "afraid to meet his opponent on the stump."

Whigs came to the defense of their candidate by explaining that Wallace had received the Dodge note too late, for he had already made speaking engagements which he felt he could not break. Wallace decided to keep his appointments and absorb the bitter words of the Democratic candidate and his followers. Finally, after failing to meet Wallace at Eddyville and Harrisburg, Dodge overtook him at Brighton. There, the two men planned a tour of many towns, touching almost every county in the Territory.

Their stumping tour got under way when the two candidates met at Iowa City on Wednesday, August 23rd. Dodge commenced the program

with an hour-and-a-half tirade against Wallace and Whig principles. His adversary followed with a much shorter address explaining why he favored the establishment of a national bank and the necessity of a tariff. His speech was, according to Whigs, shorter but much more convincing. Editor Van Antwerp wrote, "Mr. Wallace commenced with 'I have *saw* occasion,' and concluded with 'I hope at the polls in October, my fellow citizens will record their votes for William H. Wallace!' This is sufficient proof that Mr. Wallace is not only a man of genius, but a man of invincible modesty."

Dodge and Wallace then spoke at Dubuque on September 2nd and left soon after for a stumping tour which took them to Rochester and Tipton. They returned to Dubuque for their second debate there on September 8th. Wallace charged his opponent with an attempt to get appropriations from Congress for the improvement of the lower Des Moines River rapids and divert money intended for construction of roads and canals in interior Iowa. Dodge claimed he had sought, but unfortunately had not received, money for both the upper and lower rapids. The editor of the Dubuque *Miners' Express* wrote of the address of Wallace: "We might speak of his sins against syntax, history and logic, but knowing he will be

beat by more than a thousand, we think it ungenerous to attack a doomed foe." Throughout the entire tour of the two men, they traveled together by carriage and horseback, slept and ate together. But once on the stump each vigorously denounced the other and lauded his own party. Dodge always spoke first and Wallace followed. Wallace, and his party, complained that Dodge interrupted Wallace in the middle of his address "so as to foil a good speech."

An amusing incident occurred when the two rivals spoke to a group which had gathered on the prairie outside the county seat of Clayton County. The men were late in arriving at the place of meeting but at last rode up on their horses, dismounted, and, after turning their horses out to graze, entered a small ring and introduced themselves. Dodge then climbed on a stump, hewn on two sides, and began to spellbind his audience. He spoke for more than an hour. During Wallace's talk a large snake entered the ring and was driven away, only to reappear after a lapse of several minutes. Some people took the part of the snake and said it should remain, others disagreed and a near riot resulted. It remained for General Dodge to request order for his opponent and Wallace's address was resumed.

As the election drew near, the men finally ter-

minated their tour and each headed for his home county to fortify himself among his neighbors. While the candidates for Congress had been campaigning, rivals for the various county and district offices had also been active.

Election day arrived on October 3rd and voters of the Territory of Iowa went to the polls with firm partisan convictions and confidence in their favorite candidates. Interest centered, of course, in the principal office to be filled, that of Delegate to Congress. When the ballots were counted, it was clearly evident that Dodge had been reëlected by a total vote of 6084 to 4812. He carried all but five counties, polling the largest majorities in his home county of Des Moines and in Lee, Van Buren, Jefferson, Jackson, and Dubuque. Wallace carried his home county of Henry, as well as Washington, Johnson, Muscatine, and Scott by narrow margins. The vote in Jones County was a tie, eighty-eight to eighty-eight.

In the election of members to the Territorial House of Representatives the Democrats were likewise successful. There was a rather surprising change of personnel, for only seven members of the previous session were returned. Nineteen of the twenty-six Representatives were Democrats. The seven Whigs came from Lee, Des Moines, Henry, Scott, and Jones counties.

And so, a hundred years ago, Iowa went Democratic. Augustus C. Dodge returned to Washington to sit beside his father, Henry Dodge, newly-elected Delegate from the Territory of Wisconsin. Wallace moved to the Territory of Washington soon after his defeat — where, presently, he was chosen Delegate to Congress. Newspaper editors began a search for new topics to fill their editorial columns so recently occupied with angry utterances against the opposing party. And the people of the Territory again settled down to normal living with political conversation giving way to the weather, crops, and neighborhood affairs.

REEVES HALL

Lincoln at Burlington

October 9, 1858, eighty-five years ago, was a memorable day in the history of Burlington, although then and perhaps for many years thereafter, it was not so recognized. On that day the city was host to Abraham Lincoln — one of the few occasions when he visited Iowa. There, in the evening, he spoke before a large gathering in Grimes Hall. The episode is particularly interesting because it occurred in the midst of his series of debates with Stephen A. Douglas, which rank among the most famous in the political life of the nation. Those were critical times when momentous issues were at stake and public opinion upon questions involving the very life of the Union was rapidly crystallizing.

On July 24, 1858, Lincoln, acting upon the advice of his party leaders, challenged Douglas to appear with him in a series of joint debates, to be held at various places throughout Illinois, in their campaign for election to the United States Senate. He proposed particularly to argue the slavery question, which had recently been aggravated by the Dred Scott decision of the United States Supreme Court.

Douglas, known throughout the land as the "Little Giant", readily accepted the challenge and suggested that they should meet at the towns of Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy, and Alton. To this Lincoln immediately acceded and the first two debates were held in August, on the 21st and 27th, the second two in September on the 15th and 18th, and the last three in October, at Galesburg on the 7th, at Quincy on the 13th, and at Alton on the 15th. It was between the Galesburg and the Quincy debates that Lincoln crossed the river to meet his friends in Burlington.

It has been said that probably no more strenuous political campaign was ever waged for election to the United States Senate than that made by Lincoln and Douglas during the summer and early autumn of 1858. Lincoln himself made more than one hundred and fifty speeches, often speaking two and sometimes three times in a single day. Taking into consideration the slow and cumbersome mode of travel necessary in those days, one marvels at the physical endurance of the men who were able to withstand the terrific strain involved.

In this respect, Lincoln fared better than Douglas. Being of a cool, jovial disposition, with a keen sense of humor, he fretted little over the many inconveniences of frontier travel, and

laughed at situations which annoyed a person of Douglas's nervous temperament. Between debates each man went his own way, stopping at various places en route to rest and visit or to speak wherever and whenever the occasion permitted. Both, therefore, made other important speeches, separately, in towns in northwestern Illinois, close to the Iowa border, all of which attracted considerable attention across the river. Among other places, Douglas spoke at Galena and Rock Island, Illinois, and at Burlington, Iowa; while Lincoln spoke at Augusta, Toulon, Oquawka, Monmouth, and Carthage.

It was a part of Lincoln's strategy to follow Douglas and speak in the same town, in order to "drive some nails in his coffin". Consequently, after Douglas appeared in Burlington, it was not difficult to get Lincoln to accept an invitation to speak there also. For a long time the political leaders of the early capital and political center of Iowa had wanted Lincoln to visit the city. As early as 1844, the Whigs, in arranging for a party rally to be held on July 13th of that year, issued a printed "dodger" on July 1st, urging "the attendance of the Whigs of the Territory generally." James W. Grimes, one of the promoters of the gathering, wrote to David E. Blair of Yellow Springs in Des Moines County, inclosing a circu-

lar. On the inner page he wrote a note earnestly requesting him to arouse and bring the voters of his "whole township" to the meeting and adding, evidently as an inducement to insure their attendance, "Baker and Lincoln of Illinois and some Missouri men — besides Lowe, Woodward, and Reid, are expected." Lincoln, however, it seems, was unable to attend, and so those who had come with the expectation of hearing him speak must have been disappointed.

Again during the campaign of 1856, Governor Grimes wrote Lincoln a cordial letter inviting him to "come over the river and give his aid and influence to the Republicans to increase their chances of carrying Iowa for Fremont and Dayton." Lincoln, however, sent his regrets, saying he had not the time; and also, that he feared the psychological effects of importing a speaker from outside the State. It might do the Republican cause more harm than good — citing several instances in contemporary political history when such endeavors had brought disastrous results.

Two years later, then, knowing that Lincoln was to be in the vicinity, for his scheduled debates with Douglas at Galesburg and Quincy, the Burlington Republicans invited him to address the citizens of Iowa, this time with better luck. Attorney Charles Darwin, chairman of the Republican

county committee, issued the invitation and made all the local arrangements.

Evidently a number of Burlingtonians had journeyed to Galesburg to hear the debate on October 7th, for in the Burlington *Hawk-Eye's* brief announcement of Lincoln's coming visit, published on the morning of the eighth, Editor Clark Dunham referred to it. "Those who attended the debate at Galesburg yesterday returned last night. They say it was an immense gathering of people, some twelve thousand persons being present. Those we conversed with think Mr. Lincoln the ablest and most popular speaker they ever heard, — say he had altogether the advantage of Douglas in the argument, even Douglas' friends acknowledging it.

"Mr. Lincoln speaks at Oquawka Saturday. All who desire to hear him can go up and return on the Rock Island packet. After he has finished speaking he will come down on the boat to this city, and speak on the street if the weather will permit, if not in Grimes' Hall. He says he has got so used to speaking that it don't hurt him a bit and he will talk as long as we want to hear him! HUZZA FOR LINCOLN!"

The *Hawk-Eye* carried only three brief notices advertising the event, scattered in large type under the heading, "Local Affairs".

"Abe Lincoln speaks in Burlington Saturday evening".

"Mr. Lincoln has consented to speak in this city Saturday evening next".

"There will be a Grand Concert at the Peoples's Garden this evening immediately after Mr. Lincoln's speech".

This was, apparently, the only newspaper publicity Lincoln's visit received.

After his fifth joint debate with Douglas at Galesburg on October 7th, Lincoln made the best of his opportunities to widen his acquaintance locally, for on the afternoon of the eighth, he spoke at the nearby town of Toulon. He arrived at Oquawka, a thriving river town above Burlington, on the morning of the ninth, where he again spoke for "several hours" in the afternoon.

As usual his speech was well received. "On Saturday last," according to the *Oquawka Spectator*, of Thursday, October 14th, "Mr. Lincoln spoke in Oquawka. The day, although rather cool, opened clear and bright, and the streets were thronged with people from all parts of the county at an early hour. Mr. Lincoln was met near the junction by the Brass Band, a procession was formed, and he was escorted to town. The procession was an imposing one and was about three-quarters of a mile long. At one o'clock a

procession was formed which escorted Mr. Lincoln from the residence of Mr. S. S. Phelps, whose guest he was, to the stand prepared for the occasion, which had been erected in front of Jamison and Moir's Block. J. H. Stewart, Esq., briefly introduced Mr. Lincoln, who proceeded to address his auditory for several hours. The crowd in attendance is variously estimated; we should set the number at between 1200 and 1500 people, but it may be that it is too low an estimate."

Directly thereafter Lincoln departed for Burlington, some twenty miles down the river, where he was to speak in the evening. While in Burlington, according to a statement made by the contemporary Iowa historian, William Salter, he was the guest of William F. Coolbaugh, being entertained at the Barrett House, where he remained over Sunday.

Many years later, W. W. Baldwin related, in a letter written to F. I. Herriott, an incident characteristic of the extreme simplicity of Lincoln's traveling habits. When Lincoln arrived at the old Barrett House, according to an eyewitness, "he had in his hand a small package, wrapped in a newspaper. Handing it to the clerk at the desk he asked him to, 'Please take good care of that. It is my boiled shirt. I will need it this afternoon.' It was his only 'baggage'."

Refreshed by the steamboat ride and attired in his "boiled" shirt, Lincoln faced the expectant crowd with friendly confidence. Unfortunately, the Monday *Hawk-Eye* reported the speech very briefly. "Grimes' Hall", wrote Editor Dunham, "was filled to its full capacity by citizens of Burlington and vicinity for the purpose of listening to a speech from Mr. Lincoln the man who all Republicans desire and a great many are very certain will succeed Judge Douglas as Senator from the State of Illinois. So great is the sympathy felt here in the spirited canvass in Illinois, and so high is the opinion entertained of the ability of Mr. Lincoln as a speaker that a very short notice brought together from twelve to fifteen hundred ladies and gentlemen.

"High, however, as was the public expectation, and much as was anticipated, he, in his address of two hours, fully came up to the standard that had been erected. It was a logical discourse, replete with sound argument, clear, concise and vigorous, earnest, impassioned and eloquent. Those who heard recognized in him a man fully able to cope with the Little Giant anywhere, and altogether worthy to succeed him.

"We regret exceedingly that it is not in our power to report his speech in full this morning. We know that we could have rendered no more

acceptable service to our readers. But it is not in our power.

“Mr. Lincoln appeared Saturday evening fresh and vigorous, there was nothing in his voice, manner or appearance to show the arduous labors of the last two months — nothing to show that immense labors of the canvass had worn upon him in the least. In this respect he had altogether the advantage of Douglas, whose voice is cracked and husky, temper soured and general appearance denoting exhaustion.”

Nowhere in print has any direct quotation from Lincoln's Burlington speech been found. Probably he spoke without notes or manuscript, and no one seems to have preserved any of his words on that occasion. This is truly an unfortunate circumstance. How interesting it would now be to know what he actually said there! Judging by his debates with Douglas, however, it seems very probable that he spoke on the slavery question and the other great political problems of the times, with all the force and energy at his command. Doubtless he did not spare his opponent, but subjected his policies and logic to shrewd and penetrating analysis.

“I heard both speakers,” wrote William Salter in *Sixty Years*, “one for the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and for ‘squatter sovereignty,’ the

other against. It was in the midst of their joint debate involving the issue as to which of them should be elected United States senator from Illinois for the six years from 1859 to 1865. The result was that Mr. Douglas was elected; had it been otherwise, the history of the country would have been different. Had Mr. Lincoln been elected senator, in all probability he would never have become President.

“I was deeply interested in Mr. Lincoln’s speech in Burlington, and impressed by his calm and clear statement of the issues before the country.”

BEN HUR WILSON

Town and Countryside in 1843

A century ago, in 1843, the great tide of western expansion was pouring into the Territory of Iowa. In 1836 only 10,531 squatters were counted in the Black Hawk Purchase. Two years later, a census showed 23,242 in the newly-created Territory of Iowa. By 1840 the Federal census takers enumerated 43,112 inhabitants in the four Indian cessions that had been carved out along the eastern border of Iowa. The year 1843 gave promise of a steady influx of settlers as the government prepared to open on May 1, 1843, the eastern half of the new Sauk and Fox cession in the Des Moines Valley.

The first wave of immigrants flowed through the thriving Mississippi River ports. Early in April, Burlington and Fort Madison newspapers expressed delight at the large number of new settlers debarking at their levees, the steamboat *Osprey* landing 115 at Burlington alone. A few weeks later Iowans noted an excerpt from the *Montreal Courier* telling of a scheme to foster Irish emigration to Iowa and other northwestern States. Scores of mechanics were arriving in May, and it was estimated that they would be

surging in by the thousands in June and July. It was with no small satisfaction that Iowa editors noted "a large body of tailors, painters, and clerks had had meetings in London, and appointed committees to make arrangements for their embarkation for the United States and Canada."

The only adverse note in 1843 was the reduced number of land sales at the Fairfield and Dubuque land offices, a condition which was attributed to the "hard times" prevailing throughout the United States at the time. "Hundreds of respectable and worthy farmers", declared the *Iowa Standard* of March 23, 1843, "have been unable to enter even the smallest portion of their claims, and would now surrender them to a fair purchaser for a very small consideration. People at the east who contemplate emigrating to Iowa, will never have presented to them a better opportunity to obtain a favorable location than exists at the present time. For a trifling sum, excellent farms with good improvements upon them can be had, and in a few years, with industry and perseverance, the possessor will be rich and independent. We have heard of superior locations, having considerable improvement, and but a few miles from town, being offered for \$40 or \$50 in trade. The government price for a quarter section is but \$200; and thus for about \$250 or \$300, a substantial home might be

procured for a large family. Young folks and all folks at the east should think of this."

An Iowa editor who traveled through southeastern Iowa described Wapello and Davis counties in the New Purchase as two of the "most lovely spots that could be imagined." Another traveler reported that the New Purchase was, "taking it all in all, for every advantage under the sun, the greatest country that mortal man ever beheld." The town of "Ot-tum-wah", strategically located on the Des Moines River rapids, possessed "tremendous hydraulic power for the erection of any kind of machinery with all the facility nature could possibly afford. The town is on a narrow prairie of a quarter of a mile in width, with a gradual descent from the timber, which is of the best quality and of any quantity. We have seen, however, one mile below this spot on the river, a location more desirable, known by the name of Appanoose's field, which contains upwards of 50 acres in a high state of cultivation, at present planted in a good crop of corn. The town contains nine or ten buildings with one store."

Agriculture was the mainstay of the Territory of Iowa, giving employment to possibly nine-tenths of the population. Late in August the Davenport *Gazette* noted that several Scott County farmers were engaged "pretty exten-

sively" in raising hemp. "Three out of four fields which have been reported to us, will yield handsomely, encouraging the proprietors to extend their operations the following season. We were shown last week, a few samples of rope and twine manufactured by Mr. Moore of Rock Island which is considered superior to that made at St. Louis." The return to hemp raising a century later is but a part of Iowa's all-out effort in World War II.

That Iowans were alert to better farming methods is attested by the fair held by the Agricultural Society of Van Buren County on October 11, 1843. "A large number of premiums is offered, embracing almost every article of farming and household production", the *Iowa Standard* noted on September 7th. "Many more such societies should be formed in the Territory."

Farmers were then as now sometimes plagued by the weather. On September 7th the *Iowa Standard* promised an abundant corn crop despite the unfavorable weather earlier in the season, rains and warm weather having come at exactly the right time. Seven weeks later the same Iowa City editor reported the ground covered with snow on October 28th. "Our farmers, we are sorry to say," declared the *Iowa Standard* on November 2nd, "are not prepared for such visitors,

as snow and continual cold weather, as nearly their whole crop of corn and potatoes are still remaining in the fields."

The Iowa City editor was pleased, however, with the progress made on a mill dam three miles above Iowa City (Coralville) on the Iowa River. "It is the most business-like looking place that we have been at for some time. About thirty hands were employed in hewing, digging, &c. Yesterday it was proposed to commence laying the foundations of the work. Two months will probably see the dam nearly completed; the arrangements are already made, or in progress, that will insure a saw and grist mill to be put in operation by New Years, at farthest. Those engaged upon the work are taking stock in the most liberal manner. Upwards of \$2500 were subscribed within a few days making \$10,000 in all."

Typical of the newspaper descriptions of the country in 1843 was the travelog printed in the *Iowa Standard* on August 17th, which chronicled a tour through Johnson, Linn, Jones, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, and Cedar counties. This genial raconteur observed three towns in Linn County. Ivanhoe he thought "very prettily named" and not "badly situated" when finally built. It was located on the Cedar River at the crossing of the military road between Iowa

City and Dubuque. Ivanhoe contained only "three or four Cabins and shanties" but Squire Wolf, the ferryman, had commenced building a large brick structure. The town was projected by Anson Cowles, an eccentric character from Utica, New York, who envisioned the erection of a large university, a zoological park for native wild beasts, and a palatial residence for the entertainment of strangers. A fall from a tree brought Anson Cowles's schemes to an abrupt end.

Marion, with a population of two hundred in which bachelors and single ladies were all too numerous, was composed almost entirely of frame buildings. Three brick structures, a courthouse, and a tavern were to be erected that season. The Methodists and Old School Presbyterians also contemplated churches. Cedar Rapids was a place of "much natural beauty" with considerable advantages for manufacturing but handicapped by quarrels among the townsite owners. As soon as the "bad men" who had given Linn County an "unfavorable repute" were "routed out" it was expected the whole county would enjoy an immense growth.

Jones County was in a bad way because all the timber in the county was situated upon its outer borders, and so, of consequence, was the population. "This gives the county a very *hollow* as-

pect", the observing visitor recorded. Edinburgh, the county seat, located in the center of the county in the middle of a big prairie, contained a "two story frame tavern, a log court house, and two cabins. None of the county officers were to be found at Edinburgh except by accident."

Cascade in Dubuque County was hailed as a "flourishing" village with a half dozen frame buildings going up and a mill grinding very superior flour. Dubuque was described as one of the largest towns in the Territory with 1400 inhabitants, many engaged in lead mining. The town was well built, the larger business houses being of brick and the residences of wood, generally very neat. The city boasted four churches — the Catholic and Methodist congregations had brick edifices, the Presbyterians a stone building, while the Baptists worshipped in a frame building. The courthouse was a fine two-story brick structure.

Swinging southward the perambulating gazetteer found the land in Jackson County generally well-wooded and watered, and, in point of cultivation and settlement, prophesied it would doubtless excel any of the adjoining counties. The principal river town was Bellevue with nearly one hundred inhabitants. Andrew, the county seat, could count only eight or ten families.

The traveler found no towns worthy of note in

Clinton County, whose sparse population was attributed to its lack of wood and water. The fine river front in Scott County, on the other hand, could probably not be equalled by any other county in the Territory. Davenport was a "most pleasant and well-built town — but dull." The population was estimated at a thousand. There were five churches, an "elegant" courthouse, and a \$27,000 hotel — the LeClaire House. By 1843 Davenport's former rival, Rockingham, was "rapidly falling to decay". Scott County was composed of "broad bottoms of unsurpassed fertility and healthfulness, nearly all of which are in cultivation." About two-thirds of the population of the county was located upon or adjacent to the river, the interior being very destitute of timber and water, and sparsely settled.

Returning through Cedar County, the excursionist noted the rivalry between Tipton and Rochester for the county seat. Tipton, with a population of about a hundred, was "pleasantly situated" in the midst of a fine farming country.

Although the whole Territory was teeming with activity, the Mississippi River towns and the Des Moines Valley in southeastern Iowa were especially attractive to immigrants. Three reasons were particularly responsible for this growth: the proximity of this section to the more settled areas,

the highway afforded steamboats by the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers, and the concentration of newspapers in the southern half of Iowa — at Davenport, Iowa City, Muscatine, Burlington, Fort Madison, and Keosauqua. With the establishment of the *Iowa Democrat* and the *Des Moines River Intelligencer* in 1843 Keosauqua became the second inland town (Iowa City was first) to secure a newspaper. These journals serve not only as an index to population growth but they were also a deciding factor in attracting settlers to their respective regions.

The diversity in population in 1843 is indicated by the 1831 inhabitants recorded at Burlington that year — twenty-six States, one Territory, nine foreign countries, and the District of Columbia being represented. Ohio alone was the native State of 279 settlers compared with 226 who were born in Burlington and the Territory of Iowa. There were 175 Germans, fifty Englishmen, and forty-nine Irish in the metropolis of Iowa.

Every effort was made to attract more settlers. Who would not be impressed by the following item appearing in the *Lee County Democrat*? "The rapid stride of buildings now going up in our town is truly wonderful", declared the Fort Madison editor. "There are now some fifty brick buildings about being erected and completed, be-

sides a number of frame buildings. But two years ago we could not number more than from 3 to 4 brick houses in our town, and now we can count from seventy to eighty good and substantial brick buildings completed. If our town continues improving so rapidly, it will take but a very short time to make it one of the largest towns north of St. Louis."

Only one northern Iowa town, Dubuque, could boast of having a newspaper in 1843. The entire hinterland — Jackson, Jones, Delaware, Clayton, and Fayette counties — was dependent upon the Dubuque papers for favorable publicity. Northern Iowa was perfectly aware of the preponderant population in southern Iowa, for the census of 1840 revealed 17,816 people in the southeast triangle comprising Lee, Van Buren, and Des Moines counties compared with 4328 in a similarly situated northern triangle containing Dubuque, Clayton, and Delaware counties. Southeastern Iowa continued to attract a larger share of immigration, for Lee, Van Buren, and Des Moines counties contained more than five times as many people in 1844 as could be found in Dubuque, Clayton, and Delaware counties that year. Four years previously the proportion had stood at four to one.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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