

The
PALIMPSEST
MARCH 1943
CONTENTS

Hello Central 73

CARL B. CONE

The Tegarden Massacre 82

WALTER H. BEALL

Oregon Fever 93

REEVES HALL

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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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Hello Central

On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell spoke the first understandable sentence over a telephone. He said, "Mr. Watson, come here; I want you." When the Emperor of Brazil inspected the instrument at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia later in the year, he was as surprised as he was impressed. All he could say was, "My God! It talks!" The London *Times* described the telephone as the "latest American humbug" but, in case the invention should prove successful, the *Times* established a basis for revising its judgment by claiming that the inventor was "a Scotchman, though a naturalized American". Americans were convinced that the telephone was not a humbug, but considered it not much more than an ingenious toy. In only a few years, however, the telephone became a necessity in our social and economic life.

Perhaps the first apparatus purporting to transmit the human voice was brought to Iowa

City from the Philadelphia Exposition by John Hensel. He paid one dollar for nothing more than two cans connected by a string. Of course persons could not talk over this device, but sounds were actually carried from one end to the other by the string. It was nearly three years later that S. D. Pryce and W. J. Schell, who operated a hardware store in Iowa City, ordered three telephones, one of them for Father Emonds of St. Mary's Church. During this interval a few telephones had been installed at Marshalltown, Burlington, Dubuque, Des Moines, and Keokuk.

As the number of telephones increased, the desirability of a central exchange office in Iowa City became so apparent that in the fall of 1880 Frank Moffitt, manager of the local telegraph office, undertook to organize one. In an advertisement in the *Iowa City Daily Republican* on October 6, 1880, he listed several advantages the telephone had to offer. A person could use it to call the doctor or to order groceries, and its potentialities in the world of business were unlimited. Merchants who had once installed a telephone "would not part with it for four times the cash". All these benefits are obvious today, but the need for a central exchange is not so clear without an understanding of the

operation of the early telephones in the pre-switchboard days.

If Mrs. Smith wanted to talk with Mrs. Jones, she could do so only if there was a direct wire connection between the two homes. An entire neighborhood might be connected on the same wire, with leads dropping off into the various houses. If there were several parties on this line, one subscriber called another by giving the appropriate ring. This arrangement was similar to a modern country line except that the latter has the advantage of a central exchange. One neighborhood could not talk with another part of town unless a direct connection existed between them. This system was so crude that it was much better to set up a central exchange into which the wires from all the telephones would lead. Then the operator could establish a connection between one phone and any other on the switchboard.

Moffitt was so successful in enlisting subscribers for the proposed exchange that construction was begun by the Iowa Telephone Company during the winter of 1880-1881. The city council gave permission to use the streets for telephone poles by an ordinance passed on December 17, 1880, which stipulated the conditions that had to be met. Prior to this time, the wires

were strung from barns, trees, or any other support that was convenient. The newspapers printed frequent notices of the progress of the work, exhorting the crew to "rush up" the poles and "the more the merrier". In the meantime, the *Republican* was compiling a directory, and it advised all who desired phones to notify the company at once. This directory was a card listing the names and numbers of subscribers. As additional telephones were installed, the *Republican* promised to give notice to its readers to add the new names and numbers to their directories. On February 19, 1881, there were fifty-four names on the list, and more persons were about ready to join.

The exchange was formally opened on March 7th, with "about" thirty-five phones in working order and others to be attached soon. The newspaper reported that the exchange was a "grand success". D. H. Ogden of the Iowa Telephone Company told the *Republican* that everything was in good shape and business was thriving. By the end of the first month the central office reported an average of about a thousand calls daily among the seventy-three phones in use. Obviously those who proudly possessed telephones were making diligent use of them.

No copies of the first directory seem to have

been preserved, and the complete list of subscribers was never published in the *Republican*, but on April 1st these names were printed to be added to those already on the card:

- 68 — Star Grocery, W. J. Welch
- 51 — Saunders, S. L., store
- 69 — Hughes, W., residence
- 70 — Whetstone, J. H., drug store
- 66 — Close & Co., oil mill
- 62 — Hughes, W., music store
- 73 — Hinman, A. C., store
- 63 — Iowa City Glass Co.
- 65 — O'Hanlon & Son, grocers
- 67 — Rockey, Dr. A. E., residence
- 64 — Shrader, W. E., drugs
- 71 — Seydel, John, residence
- 72 — Thornberry, J. H., grocer

On April 29th the paper cautioned its readers not to forget to add these names to their card:

- 75 — Noel, J. B., confectionery
- 31 — Packing House
- 76 — Carson, T. C.

The use of the telephone in those early days was typically American, for it was an instrument for both pleasure and business. To give concerts over the telephone was a favorite indoor pastime until the novelty wore off. Charles Litzenburger, leader of the Light Guard Band,

was a favorite performer. When he played in Nixon and Brainerd's furniture store and funeral parlor for the listeners assembled in the *Republican* office, "every note was distinct and perfect and the harmony was never broken." In the estimation of the editor, it was one of the finest entertainments he had ever heard, well worth a substantial admission charge. The headwaiter at the Palace Hotel, Mark Fisher, was an "inimitable genius" on the harmonica. The *Republican* thought it only fair to point out for the enlightenment of persons who liked to have Mr. Fisher play for them over the telephone, that "he is a first-class savings bank for spare quarters". In short, these concerts were "all the rage".

The telephone provided other conveniences. The *Republican* thought marriages by telephone would become very popular, for the preacher could not kiss the bride. Fathers at their business establishments could comfort their crying children with assurances that they would bring home peanuts and popcorn. The *Republican* was confident that newsgathering would be facilitated and would also be devoid of risk because the inquiring reporter "can interview a pugnacious individual with perfect safety". This might work both ways, however, for irate readers could call the office, express their opinions about the news-

paper, and then hang up. The ease with which a radio can be shut off has also been considered a prime virtue.

Merchants were quick to grasp the advantages which the telephone contributed to the conduct of their business. Only three days after the exchange had opened, an advertisement announced that persons could telephone their orders to Tanner's mill from Fink's store or the express office. Bradley's grocery store had five telephone orders on the morning of March 11th. John Seydel reported that he simply couldn't do without a telephone — one man was busy taking orders, "and the way groceries were called for was a caution". Nixon and Brainerd, undertakers, advertised that if their services were required at night, call Number 17. The Star Grocery solicited orders by telephone, while A. C. Atwater, who had just received fifty cases of Milwaukee beer, assured thirsty patrons that "orders by telephone [will be] promptly filled".

Miraculous and beneficial as the early telephones might have seemed, they were still crude. The exchange was located at 110 East Washington Street, occupying the floor above the telegraph office. Frank Moffitt was the local manager for both the telephone and the telegraph companies. Luella De Wolf was the first oper-

ator. Frank Patterson was the night operator and Ada Carter the day operator between 1883-1885. The operators also took care of collections and other business connected with the office. A lineman in the employ of the company installed phones and had charge of general maintenance.

One of the greatest difficulties in the days before insulated wires and lead cables, was the prevalence of "crosses" in the lines. There being no cables, each phone was connected with the central exchange by direct wires. As the wires converged on the exchange they were strung close together. In a heavy wind the wires would blow against one another and become tangled, the conversations would then be jumbled, subscribers would be unable to get the proper connections, and general ill-feeling resulted. The lineman would have to climb the pole and "shake out the crosses" before order could be restored and tempers soothed.

To the early users of the telephone, however, the crossed wires, imperfect connections, and faulty reception were not serious drawbacks. The crude telephone was as miraculous to them as the radio set with its headphones and batteries was to people in the early 1920's. If it seemed fantastic that one person could talk with another a mile away merely by speaking into a mouth-

piece, it was even more like a tale from the *Arabian Nights* when one could carry on a conversation with a person in Tiffin, Oxford, or even Cedar Rapids twenty-five miles distant. Yet this impossibility was a reality before the year 1881 had run half its course. Only five years after the first telephone was a proven success, the residents of Iowa City were accustomed to talk with their neighbors in town or their friends in nearby communities without leaving their homes.

CARL B. CONE

The Tegarden Massacre

The aboriginal inhabitants played a more prominent rôle in the pioneer history of Fayette County than in most Iowa counties. Of these Indian activities, the incident which has left its sharpest impress upon the consciousness of Fayette County people was the Tegarden massacre, in which three white persons lost their lives just a century ago, on March 25, 1843.

In comparison with the Spirit Lake massacre of 1857, in which thirty-two persons were killed, the Tegarden massacre seems insignificant, yet it cost the lives of more white residents of Iowa than any other similar Indian depredation, except the one in Dickinson County. With the exception of a few scares, and some thieving, the settlers on the Iowa frontier were not seriously molested.

Much of the Indian history of Fayette County centered around the Winnebago farm, school, and mission associated with Fort Atkinson on the Turkey River in Winneshiek County. Located originally on the Yellow River in Allamakee County, the school was transferred in 1841 to the north end of what is now Auburn

Township in Fayette County and was maintained there longer than it had been at the Yellow River location, and enrolled a much larger number of redskin children to receive paleface training in education, religion, and farming methods. The centennial of Fort Atkinson was celebrated with elaborate and largely attended ceremonies in 1940. This fort has two distinctions: it is claimed to be "the only fort ever erected by the United States government to protect one Indian tribe from another," and it is the only pioneer fortification in Iowa of which a single original stick or stone remains to be seen.

Fort Atkinson was built in the Neutral Ground, which was a zone forty miles wide extending from the Mississippi River more than halfway across the State to the Des Moines River. The area was established in 1830 to separate the Sauk and Fox Indians from the warlike Sioux. The south boundary of this strip cut off approximately the northern two-thirds of Fayette County from legal white settlement. This line enters Fayette County from the east at a point about where primary road No. 56 crosses the Fayette-Clayton County line, and leaves Fayette at the Bremer County line a few miles northwest of Westgate. The exact location was figured out in 1934 by S. M. Foote, Jr., assistant county

engineer of Fayette County, from the notes of the original surveyors. In 1840 the Winnebago Indians were moved into the Neutral Ground from Wisconsin to form a buffer between the hostile Sauks and Foxes and Sioux. The underlying conditions leading up to the Tegarden massacre grew out of the location of the Neutral Ground, because settlers and traders, forbidden to enter the tract, sought to get just as close to the boundary line as they dared. Inasmuch as no official surveys had been made at that time they had to do a good deal of guessing. The cabin of Tegarden, a trader with the Indians, was close to the line, on the trade route from Dubuque to Fort Atkinson. Like most of the traders, who were of a roving, unstable character, he made his home where opportunity beckoned. As a class, the traders often provoked their untutored customers by unscrupulous dealing, and sowed seeds of trouble by illegally selling to the Indians liquor which roused their savage instincts.

No more is known now about this early-day tragedy than was known in 1878, when a firm which published county histories sent a man to Fayette County to do research work and writing. Even though his very name is now forgotten, this "historian" has enjoyed the reputation of having

been assiduous in his efforts and reliable in his conclusions. "The old history", as the term goes, is always cited as authentic. This account of the Tegarden massacre is derived mainly from that volume.

Though the scene of the Tegarden massacre was definitely known in 1878, the exact location is in some doubt today. And even in 1878 some uncertainty existed as to names of the principal figures in the affair, then only thirty-five years in the past.

The locality is in what is sometimes referred to as the historical center of Fayette County. About half a mile west of primary road No. 150, and about two miles southwest of the town of Fayette, stands the memorial boulder with historical marker dedicated on June 2, 1940, on the spot where stood the cabin of Franklin Wilcox, erected just a century before as the first dwelling of a white family in Fayette County. Nearby and across the road is the Alexander mansion, still occupied as a dwelling, which in its day in the 1850's was the finest residence in the county, being the home of the county's wealthiest resident. Only a few rods behind the Alexander house is the site of the second cabin of James Beatty and William Orrear, two single men who came in 1841 or early in 1842, and whose first cabin,

several rods to the southwest, probably was the second dwelling erected in the county. At the edge of the road nearby is the famous Alexander elm which, with its diameter of six feet and four inches and its limb spread of 118 feet, is claimed to be the largest tree in northeastern Iowa.

Just about a mile west of this cluster of historic spots, and south of a county road, near a draw which in wet seasons becomes a small creek, is the supposed location of the Tegarden cabin, which was a combined dwelling and trading post. It was occupied in 1843 by a man whose name probably was Henry Tegarden, together with his wife, a son whose age was variously stated at from nine to thirteen years, a daughter said to have been either seven or eleven years old at that date, and a "baby" about three years old. A trading partner named Atwood was at the Tegarden house at the time of the massacre.

A trapper and Indian trader in Dubuque County in 1837 and 1838 was known as Henry T. Garden or T. Garden. In Clayton County the name is variably spelled T. Garden, or Tegarden, or Tegardner, the last variation appearing in a marriage record of 1846. In Fayette County the spelling style of Tegarden has been generally followed. In the indictment of the

Indians for murder, still another difference is noted, the decedent being named as Moses Tegarden.

Atwood had a bad reputation, and may have been the man whose manner of dealing with the Indians provoked the retaliation; but both Tegarden and Atwood in their trade with the Winnebagoes made whisky their staple merchandise. One of the Winnebagoes of Little Hill's band had pawned his gun to either Atwood or Tegarden, in exchange for whisky. The trader sold the gun, and so could not produce it when the Indian came to reclaim his property. The brave was apparently pacified with a little more firewater, but the transaction evidently rankled.

The Indian who had figured in the gun trade, together with two companions, came to the Tegarden cabin in the afternoon of March 25, 1843, and by evening the three Indians and the two white men were all thoroughly intoxicated. The signs pointed toward trouble. As evening approached Mrs. Tegarden walked a mile east to the Franklin Wilcox home for refuge, but was not permitted by her husband to take the children.

"After carousing until late in the evening", according to a statement of A. J. Hensley as quoted in the Fayette County history of 1878, "all went to sleep on the floor except the little girl, who

was in the bed. Along in the night the Indians awoke, and moving about stealthily bound Atwood and Tegarden securely with cords before their doomed victims awoke. The red fiends, maddened with whisky, began hacking Atwood with their tomahawks. He yelled lustily, but without avail; his cries gradually becoming weaker, and the little girl thought they were about half an hour in killing him. They then commenced cutting her father, but he begged of them 'if they were bound to murder him to shoot him at once, and not murder him by inches,' whereupon one of them seized a gun and shot him through the head. They then killed the little 'three year old,' and badly wounded the older boy, leaving him for dead. One of them came to the bed where the little girl lay listening and shuddering as the murderous work went on, and struck her two or three times with a tomahawk, cutting her badly; one blow laid open one side of her face. The little heroine told Mr. Beatty that she supposed they would have killed her, too, only she had noticed, while they were pounding and cutting the others, that the more their victims writhed and screamed the more the Indians struck, so when they struck her she cried out once or twice and then lay perfectly still and quiet, so that they left her thinking that she too was dead."

After the slaughter, the Indians went out to harness Tegarden's horse to his cutter. While they were gone the two wounded children, scantily clad because they had not dared to wait to dress, fled from the house into the brush. The Indians soon returned, took what property they wanted, and set fire to the cabin, which burned to the ground.

The night was cold and the ground was covered with fifteen inches of snow. The boy was so badly hurt that he was able to travel only with the help of his injured sister. Though struggling bravely, they soon reached the limit of their endurance. It was daylight when they got as far as Beatty's fence. Worn down by pain, loss of blood, and exposure to cold, they could go no farther. Climbing on the fence, they screamed until Beatty heard. He came to their rescue, took them into his cabin, and gave them the best care he could. Both children had been badly hacked about the face and shoulders. Both survived, though they were left with bad scars, and the little girl lost all her toes from freezing.

Beatty and Orrear went a few days later to the Tegarden cabin site, gathered up the remains of the three persons and the fragments of property, and covered them with a mound of earth which Mr. Hensley said he "had seen many a time".

When the Fayette County history was being prepared in 1878, the "historian" went to the site indicated by A. J. Hensley and traditionally identified by Hensley's father, and found there, near a large spring, ashes, charcoal, bits of bones, broken crockery, and parts of black bottles. Not long afterward further visits were made by Aaron Brown, Judge J. W. Rogers of West Union, A. E. Metzger, and others who did some excavating. Out of the pit that evidently had served as a liquor cellar were dug human bones, a bullet mold, broken bottles, a pocket knife, a child's thimble, table utensils, fragments of dishes, buttons, pipe bowls, an ax, a tomahawk, a silver half dollar, and Indian buffing stones for dressing deerskins — in all over a hundred articles.

The three Indians were arrested at Fort Atkinson soon after the crime by Captain E. V. Sumner, and examined before P. P. Olmstead, a justice of the peace at Monona, in Clayton County.

The Clayton County grand jury on April 25, 1843, returned an indictment for the murder of "Moses" Tegarden against three Indians — "Hogaw-hee-kaw, Wau-kon-chaw-neek-kaw, and Haw-kaw-kaw". James Crawford was district attorney, and James Grant was appointed to defend the Indians when they informed the court they

were too poor to employ counsel. Their application for a change of venue to Dubuque County was granted, and so they were confined in the old log jail in Dubuque. Judge Thomas S. Wilson presided at the trials. Ho-gaw-hee-kaw, whose trial was begun August 7th, was found guilty on August 9th. Wau-kon-chaw-neek-kaw went to trial on August 15th and was found guilty the next day. Haw-kaw-kaw was found guilty on August 17th, also one day after being put on trial.

Although Judge Wilson on August 18th sentenced all three to be hanged between 10 A. M. and 3 P. M. on September 12, 1843, the sentence was not executed. Their cases were appealed to the Supreme Court of the Territory which affirmed the judgment of the District Court, but did not fix a time for execution. "Why sentence was not executed, or what final disposition was made of the Indians, cannot be definitely ascertained. It is said that one of them was killed in jail by his companions."

Atwood, Tegarden, and the baby were the first white persons known to have died in Fayette County. All who were involved in the Tegarden massacre were human driftwood, of little account while they lived. No trace of any of the survivors has existed for several decades. Yet in the century since that fatal night no chapter in the

history of Fayette County has quite the power to stir the imagination painfully as that first stark tragedy on the winter prairie.

WALTER H. BEALL

Oregon Fever

“Oregon fever” — that adventurous spirit which made men and their families desire to pull up stakes and journey to the new and bountiful Oregon country — became epidemic in Iowa City in the spring of 1843.

Agitation for the settlement of the Columbia River Valley in order to establish a better claim to the vast northwest region had been mounting for several years. Neither the British nor Americans wanted to continue joint occupation much longer. Pioneers in Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Iowa were anxious to move farther west if the government would provide some protection and free land. In the United States Senate a bill introduced by Lewis F. Linn of Missouri was debated almost daily in January and passed on February 3, 1843, by a margin of two votes. It provided for the erection of a line of forts from the Missouri River to the best pass over the mountains and for granting a section of land to any settler who would cultivate it for five years. The courts of the Territory of Iowa were to have jurisdiction over the Oregon country.

In the House of Representatives where the

members were predominantly from the East, there was less interest in emigration to Oregon. The bill was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations from which John Quincy Adams reported it to the House on February 16th with the recommendation that it should not pass. No further action was taken.

Though this measure was defeated in the House of Representatives, it stimulated much interest. Iowa newspapers were full of information about Oregon — the contest with Great Britain for possession of the country, the long trail across the plains and over the mountains, and the opportunities for making a fortune. Oregon talk could be heard in every neighborhood in eastern Iowa. At Burlington, Muscatine, Iowa City, and other towns, men planned to form companies of emigrants.

On March 3, 1843, citizens of Clear Creek Township in Johnson County met at the home of Archibald Gilliland to consider organizing a company to emigrate to Oregon. John Conn presided at the meeting and called upon the host to outline a plan. After considerable discussion a committee of seven was appointed to draft a constitution and report in two weeks at the home of Jarvis H. Frost. The committee consisted of Archibald Gilliland, John Conn, Bryan Dennis, G. N.

Headly, G. L. Frost, David Switzer, and Asa Calkin.

At noon on Saturday, March 18th, the men who had caught the Oregon fever met according to agreement to hear Asa Calkin, a lawyer of Iowa City, read the "constitution and by-laws for the formation, regulation and government of an 'Oregon Emigration Society'." The document was published in both Iowa City newspapers and is here reprinted from the *Iowa Capital Reporter* of March 25th.

*Constitution of the Oregon Emigration Society
of Iowa Territory at Iowa City*

"Whereas a number of the citizens of Iowa Territory have it in contemplation to remove to, and settle in the Territory of Oregon, west of the Rocky Mountains, and whereas it is desirable and necessary, in order to secure union and concert of action, insure tranquillity and promote the general welfare, that there should be some fixed and permanent rules for the government of the Society during its preparation for said removal, and also during its march, — We do therefore ordain and establish the following Constitution or form of Government, and do mutually agree with each other, to abide by and support the same.

Article I.

“Section 1. The Legislative authority of this Society shall be vested in four Trustees, and twelve Councilmen, to be elected by the male members of this Society, entitled to a vote for civil officers under this Constitution.

“Sec. 2. The Trustees shall be elected on the 18th day of March, eighteen hundred and forty three, at an election to be held for that purpose, at the house of Jarvis H. Frost, (provided there shall be fifteen members present who shall be entitled to vote) who shall hold their offices until the first Monday of May, A. D. 1843, and until others are chosen in their place.

“Sec. 3. The Trustees and Councilmen shall be elected annually on the first Monday in May, and shall hold their offices until others are elected in their place. The first election of civil officers shall be held at Iowa City on the first Monday of May, A. D. 1843 — Provided there shall be at that time forty-five members who are entitled to vote.

“Sec. 4. No person shall be eligible to the office of Trustee or Councilman who shall not at the time of his election have attained the age of twenty-five years and be a member of this society.

“Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Trustees and Councilmen to make, ordain and publish all

such by-laws, rules and regulations for the government of the society, as in their opinion, or the opinion of a majority of the whole number, would be expedient and subserve the best interest of and promote the general welfare of the society.

"Sec. 6. They shall keep a journal of all their proceedings and the yeas and nays of the members on any question, shall at the desire of any two members be entered on the journals. The journals shall at all times be open to the examination of any member of the society.

"Sec. 7. Any member of the Trustees and Council shall have the liberty to dissent from and protest against any act or resolution which he may think injurious to the general welfare of the society, or any individual, and have the reasons of such dissent entered on the journals.

"Sec. 8. They shall have power to provide for the incidental expenses of the society by levying a tax, or establishing an admittance fee, to audit all accounts and make appropriation for the same; and no payment shall be made by the Treasurer, except upon the appropriation of the Trustees and Council and order of the President.

"Sec. 9. They shall also, when on the march, meet in council and consult with the military officers of the company and a majority of the whole

shall determine the course to be pursued in any case of emergency.

“Sec. 10. They shall have power to appoint hunting parties from time to time, while on the march (whose duty it shall be to hunt and procure game and provisions for the general use of the society), and to determine their duties and term of service.

“Sec. 11. They shall also have power to impeach, try and for good cause remove from office the President or any other civil officer who is elected by the society.

“Sec. 12. They shall also have a general supervision over and regulation of the Military, and have appellate jurisdiction of any decision of the military officers of the company.

“Sec. 13. They shall also have power to hear, try, and determine all complaints against any member of the society, for dishonesty, immoral, or improper conduct, and to dismiss any member from the society who shall wilfully disobey or violate any of the provisions of this constitution or the by-laws of this society — or be guilty of any immoral, dishonest, or improper conduct, or for other good cause.

“Sec. 14. They shall also use their influence to encourage the emigration with this society of

Ministers of the Gospel, Teachers, Artizans, and Physicians.

“Sec. 15. It shall be the duty of the Trustees especially to examine all applicants for admission into this society, and shall make report of the result of such examination at each regular meeting of the society, and no person shall finally be admitted or rejected except by the vote of the society — and no person of intemperate habits, dishonest or immoral character, shall be entitled to admission into this society.

“Sec. 16. The said Trustees shall also open books for the subscription of stock as provided in the 2d Resolution adopted at a meeting of the citizens held on the 3rd day of March, 1843, at the house of Archibald Gilliland, and until otherwise provided by law, they shall be governed in their duties by said resolution.

Article II.

“Sec. 1. The Executive power shall be vested in one President and two Vice Presidents, who shall be chosen annually on the first Monday in May, by the male members of this society, entitled to vote for civil officers under this constitution, and shall hold their offices for one year and until others are chosen in their places.

“Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the President

to preside at all public meetings of the society, and at all meetings of the Trustees and Council, and also when on the march, at all meetings of the Trustees and Council with the military officers of the company. He shall not, however, be entitled to a vote upon any question before the meeting, except in case of a tie, when he shall give the casting vote.

"Sec. 3. The President shall have power to nominate, and by and with the consent of the Trustees and Council, to appoint one Recording Secretary who shall be ex-officio clerk of the Board of Trustees and Council, and one Corresponding Secretary who shall be Treasurer ex-officio.

"Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the 1st Vice President to preside in the absence of the President, and in case of a vacancy of the office of President, he shall fill the office and perform all the duties of the office of President until the vacancy shall be filled.

"Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the 2d Vice President to preside in the absence of both the President and the 1st Vice President.

"Sec. 6. No person shall be eligible to the office of President or Vice President who shall not have attained the age of 30 years, and be a member of this society at the time of his election.

Article III.

"Sec. 1. The Military authority of this society shall be vested in a Captain, two Lieutenants, and three Sergeants, who shall be elected by the male members of this society between the ages of forty-five and seventeen years, whose duties it shall be to drill and exercise the Company in Military tactics and who shall be elected in the manner provided by law.

"Sec. 2. Every able bodied male member of this society between the ages of forty-five and seventeen years, shall be disciplined, shall arm and equip themselves, and be liable to do military duty under the rules and regulations provided by law, except the civil officers while on the march.

Article IV.

"Sec. 1. Every male member of this society over the age of seventeen years shall be entitled to vote for the election of the civil officers of this society.

"Sec. 2. In case of a vacancy from any cause whatever, in any of the civil offices, there shall be an election held to fill the vacancy at such time and place as shall be designated by the President, who shall give twenty days previous public notice of the time and place of holding such election and of the office to be filled, by

publication in one or more of the public newspapers printed in Iowa City.

“Sec. 3. In case of vacancy in the office of, or in the absence of the President, the 1st Vice President shall give the requisite notices for such election, and in case of the absence of both the President and first Vice President, then the said notice shall be given by the 2d Vice President.

Article V.

“Sec. 1. No person shall be entitled to become a member of this society who shall not have attained the age of twenty-one years, unless he shall, at the time of making his application, present to the Trustees the written consent of his parents or guardian.

“Sec. 2. No persons of *intemperate* or *immoral* habits or principles shall under any circumstances, be admitted as members of this society.

“Sec. 3. No Black or Mullattoe persons shall in any case, or under any circumstances whatever, be admitted into this society or permitted to emigrate with it.

Article VI.

“Sec. 1. The President, Vice Presidents, Trustees, Councilmen, and other civil officers shall be exempt from performing actual military service on the march. They shall, however, fully

arm and equip themselves, and when on the march, in any case of emergency, shall remain with and protect the families and baggage.

Article VII.

“This Constitution may be altered or amended at any time, twenty days previous notice being given by the President, by publication in one or more of the public newspapers printed in Iowa City of the time and place of the meeting of the members of this society for that purpose — Provided, That two-thirds of all the members present shall concur therein.”

According to the newspaper this constitution “was unanimously adopted, and a large number of citizens present subscribed their names to the same.” The society then proceeded to elect four Trustees. Asa Calkin, David Switzer, Israel L. Clark, and J. L. Frost were unanimously chosen and Calkin was requested to deliver a public address before the society at its next meeting, to be held in Iowa City on the first Monday in May.

By May, however, the Oregon fever seemed to have abated, for the Iowa City newspapers reported no more activities of the emigration society. Perhaps tales of hardship and Indian hostility had cooled the ardor of the people. Spring work on the farms may have occupied all their atten-

tion. The failure of Congress to pass the Oregon bill with its generous homestead provisions probably discouraged most of the prospective emigrants. Asa Calkin, David Switzer, and others became active in organizing the Iowa City Manufacturing Company which indicated their intention to remain in the community. A few of the more venturesome families of Johnson County may have joined Burlington, Muscatine, or other companies which set out by covered wagon in May for the enchanting land beyond the Rockies.

REEVES HALL

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF IOWA

Established by the Pioneers in 1857
Located at Iowa City Iowa

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The Iowa Centennial History
The Miscellaneous Publications
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MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the State Historical Society may be secured through election by the Board of Curators. The annual dues are \$3.00. Members may be enrolled as Life Members upon the payment of \$50.00.

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Iowa City Iowa