

The

Palimpsest

VOLUME 57 NUMBER 3

MAY / JUNE 1976



The Spirit of '76

IOWA STATE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Palimpsest

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Division of the State Historical Society, 1976
Peter T. Harstad, Director

L. Edward Purcell, Editor

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Cover: The Spirit of '76 recreated in a recent painting by well-known military artist H. Charles McBarron of Chicago. The fifers and drummers represent troops from the rebellious American colonies. Whether the Revolution is alive and well in Iowa is considered by Society Director Peter Harstad, beginning on p. 66. Painting courtesy of Steven E. Coulter, all rights reserved and may not be reproduced without permission of the owner. Photo courtesy of William N. Hopkins.



The Meaning of the 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 record 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.

THE SPIRIT OF '76 IN IOWA

by

Peter T. Harstad

In 1776 Iowa was wilderness, far distant from the people and events that caused the American Revolution. The Indians of the Mississippi Valley and the few Europeans and half-breeds living at St. Louis and even as far upstream as northern Iowa may have felt the impact of the restless Americans. Nevertheless, to write a full history of Iowa during the Revolution is impossible. Iowa's native people, for example, did not document their response to the great events to the east. The scant records surviving from eighteenth-century Iowa show ripples, not tremors from the Revolution.

What can be said about events in this part of the country during the Revolutionary period? The most recent scholarly treatment of this subject from a Caucasian perspective is found in the first volume of the projected multi-volume history of the neighboring state of Wisconsin. Historian Alice E. Smith discusses the period when the great powers of western Europe — France and England — vied for empire in North America. France lost the race and, after 1763, smarted from the transfer of Canada and the American backcountry to England. That same year England began a policy of discouraging the settlement of the West.

Nevertheless, people in the seaboard colonies and beyond learned about the lands even on the banks of the Mississippi. In 1766, Jonathan Carver, a Massachusetts veteran of the French and Indian War, came to Prairie du Chien where he found a Mesquakie Indian village of some 300 families. He saw "many horses of a good size and shape," which hinted of trade with Plains Indians. Carver camped across the Mississippi from Prairie du Chien on the banks of the Yellow River of present-day Iowa.

In 1773, Peter Pond, a Connecticut Yankee, also visited the present site of McGregor where he claimed, in his incomparable spelling, to have caught a catfish that measured "Sixteen Inches Betwene the Eise!" The following year he recorded scenes at the "Planes of the Dogs" where traders from as far away as New Orleans and Mackinac beguilingly separated large quantities of furs from the natives. At the Indian camp which stretched a mile and a half in length there was "Sport of All Sorts" until the trading was done and the people "Began to Draw of for thate Differant Departments and Prepare for Insewing winter." Carver made no mention of Frenchmen in the area, but Pond found them "Veray Numeres."

Even though the evidence of vis-

itors such as Carver and Pond shows little to connect the Iowa country with the 13 rebellious colonies, some have asserted Iowa was involved in the Revolutionary War. The boldest claim is an alleged episode concerning a man of French extraction, Jean Marie Cardinal. According to a recent version of the story prepared for Iowa school children by the Ashmore Audio Production Company, the British commander at Mackinac sent a troop of soldiers and Indians down the Mississippi to capture the city of St. Louis in the spring of 1780, and to take control of the Upper Mississippi lead mines on the way. "It was from these mines that the American rebels were getting lead for the bullets to fight the Revolution." The account strongly implies that Cardinal — trader, farmer, and frontiersman — also owned and operated a lead mine in the vicinity of present-day Dubuque. Realizing that the mines could not be defended from the hostile force, Cardinal hastened to St. Louis to warn the inhabitants that the red coats were coming. When the British soldiers and Indians attacked St. Louis on May 20, Cardinal "was in the thick of the fighting." He was captured, tried to escape, but the Indians shot and killed him — "Jean Marie Cardinal, the only Iowan known to have died in the fight for the independence of the thirteen colonies of the United States of America."

Parts of this interesting story are plausible and other parts difficult or impossible to verify. It is certain that a Jean or John Marie Cardinal was killed near St. Louis during an attack



Patriotic images of the nineteenth century often mingled classical elements with actual historical figures. George Washington was, of course, a great favorite of lithographers.

in May 1780. That a man of a similar name lived in the Prairie du Chien area at the proper time is also reasonably certain. However, that he lived in Iowa, mined lead near Dubuque, and that his product was a menace to the red coats during the Revolutionary War require more historical proof than is available. Even if these points are true, in order to verify Cardinal's Paul Revere-like mission it must be proven that the "Iowa" resident was the same man who was killed near St. Louis.

In evaluating the evidence, several points in conflict with the Cardinal story must be reconciled. The day-book of the garrison at St. Louis fails to note the arrival of Cardinal, for example. Frederic Billon in *Annals of St. Louis in its Early Days* (St. Louis, 1886) asserted that a John Marie Cardinal, formerly from "the little village of St. Phillippe, a few miles above Fort Charles," was killed by

Indians on "a piece of land he owned" near St. Louis May 26, 1780. This Cardinal, probably a farmer, maintained a residence in the City of St. Louis. Were *two* Cardinals killed near St. Louis?

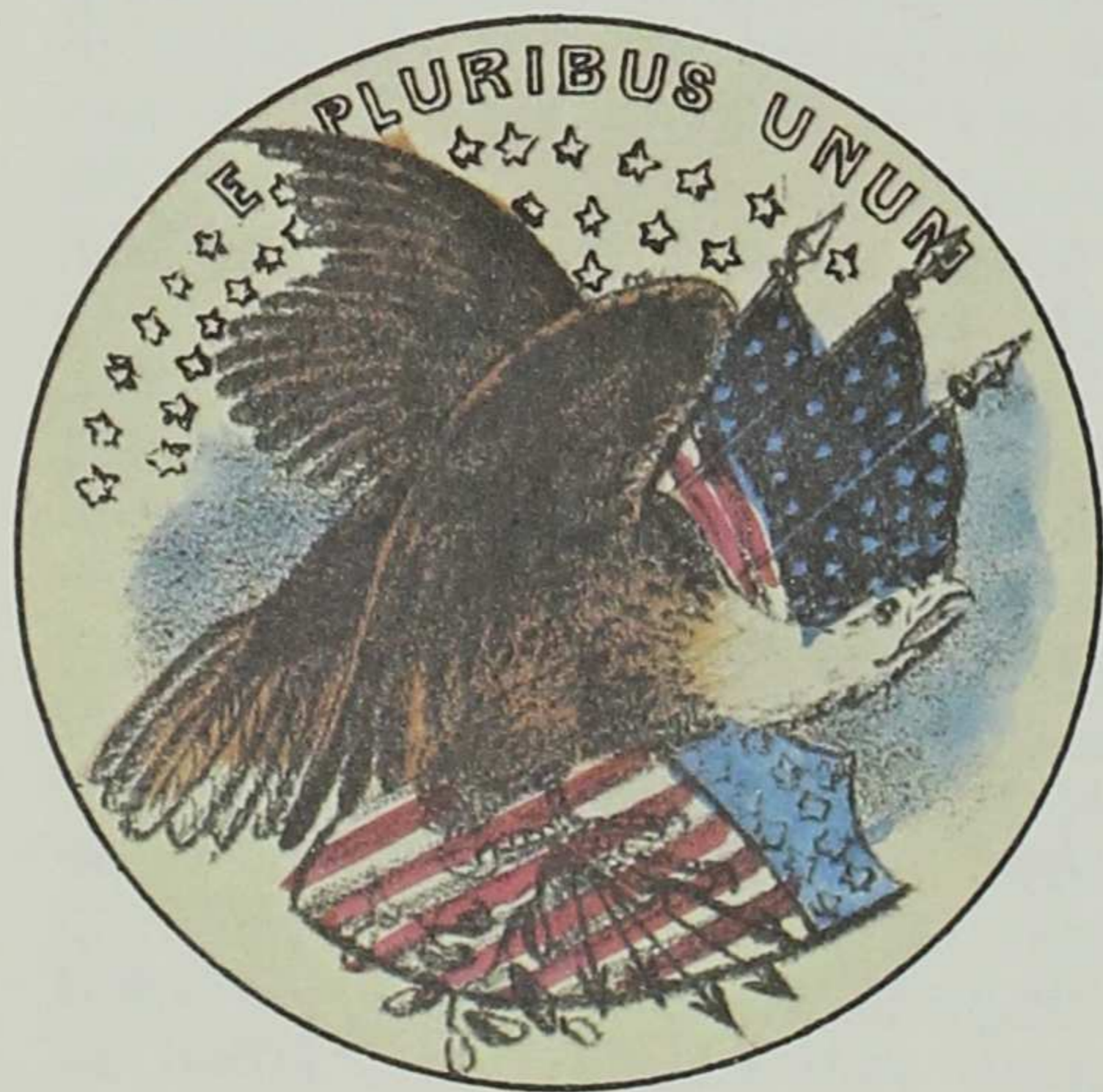
Those who will "re-enact" during the summer of 1976 the canoe voyage of Jean Marie Cardinal from Dubuque to St. Louis may not be paddling in the wake of a martyred Paul Revere of Iowa.

When and where was the first Independence Day observance held on Iowa soil? An article in the June 18, 1925 *Iowa Magazine* identified the time as July 4, 1838 and the place as Table Rock near what is now Elkader. Earlier reports in Dubuque newspapers clearly refute the claim that the "rolling phrases of the Declaration of Independence" were first heard in Iowa at Table Rock. A more likely place for the initial celebration would be Ft. Madison (a frontier post

established within 35 years of American independence) but this is conjecture, not historical fact.

During the pioneer period, which lasted several decades in Iowa, an Independence Day celebration was likely to be one of the first public events in a new settlement. In its first issue, the *Sioux City Eagle* of July 4, 1857 reported the first such celebration in that town. "This glorious . . . day of our independence was properly celebrated for the first time in Sioux City, by the gathering of our citizens in the grove above Perry Creek where seats had been prepared. The assemblage was addressed in a spirited and eloquent manner by Dr. S. F. Yeomans and W. Van O'Linda. True, there were no firings of cannon or strains of music, but every bosom swelled with patriotic emotions at the remembrance of the glorious and successful struggle for freedom made by the gallant and patriotic sons of '76."

In a year or two the people of Sioux City got their music, their firecrackers, and their cannon. But it is doubtful whether any northwest Iowa town ever claimed the participation of one of the heroes of '76 in an Independence Day celebration. In more eastern parts of the United States veterans of the Revolutionary War occupied the seats of honor at such occasions as long as they lived. At an appropriate time during his address, the orator of the day would turn to the patriot and mention his heroism in days of yore. "Strong hands would raise the old man aloft that all might see him and the old man's presence would kindle a more





One of the best-loved patriotic painters in American history was John Trumbull. His version of the surrender of British General Burgoyne at Saratoga, New York in 1777 was reproduced by the famed lithographer Nathaniel Currier in 1852. It undoubtedly graced the walls of many homes, reminding Americans of their Revolutionary heritage.

intense flame of patriotic fire in the hearts of the multitude than could be kindled by the most impassioned oratory."

In 1837, one of the heroes of '76, Charles Shepherd, moved to Iowa. He had fought at Trenton, New Jersey and had survived a harsh winter at Valley Forge with George Washington. When Shepherd came to Iowa he was receiving an \$8 a month pension from the federal government for his service during the Revolutionary War. He lived in a small cabin in Henry County beside the Old Territorial Road near the town of Rome. The January 1897 *Iowa Historical Record* asserted: "Mr. Shepherd is remembered as being a very small man, whom time had bowed until he

almost went double." This account explained that the Shepherd family was not held in high esteem by the settlers because of the "worthless character" of the old man's three sons (two of whom had families) "all of them depending upon his pension, to a great extent for a living." When emigrants and travellers learned of Shepherd's history, they stopped to see the old soldier, "that they might be able to tell, they had seen one who had served in the Revolution." They often made him "small presents of tobacco and whiskey, for he was not an exception to the rule that 'drinking is the soldier's pleasure.'" Under such treatment, "he never tired of fighting his battles over again." Shepherd died in 1845 at the

age of 84.

The Daughters of the American Revolution have found the graves of some 40 Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Iowa. The farthest west of these burial sites is the grave of Daniel Dow at College Springs. According to DAR research, Dow enlisted at his home town of Coventry, Connecticut at the age of seven and carried messages from one command to another. He died on the eve of the Civil War and very likely lived longer after the Revolution than any other veteran of that war in this state.

Details surrounding the military service of another future Iowan, John Lepper, dispel notions that the American Revolution was a simple war consisting of two carefully defined foes. The April 1904 *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* hints at various alternatives open to Lepper, originally of Johnstown, New York. Should he remain passive, flee behind the lines of the British army, unite with a force of Loyalists which was allied to a band of Indians, or should he join those who were testing the power and patience of the British government? He chose the latter alternative by enlisting for three terms of service in the patriot army. In later life, Lepper lived on a farm near De Witt, Clinton County, Iowa.

How much closer could one come to achieving Thomas Jefferson's dream of a free agricultural society? The Iowa soil was rich and deep; institutions in Iowa functioned smoothly according to patterns laid down by the founding fathers. Slavery, that unsolved problem which

Jefferson struggled with pathetically in an early draft of the Declaration of Independence, was not allowed in Iowa. Surely, Revolutionary War soldiers could find satisfaction in Iowa during the pioneer period.

In addition to patriots, the early population of Iowa included at least one red coat who fought against Washington's army. He was the father of Dr. William R. Ross, an early medical practitioner of southeast Iowa. After military service in America, the elder Ross went home to England, was discharged, returned to the United States, raised a family in Kentucky, and lived his last years at Burlington. If Ross ever visited Charles Shepherd, the whiskey-drinking patriot of Henry County, it would be interesting to know what they talked about.

The DAR has performed admirable service in researching the lives of Iowans who donned uniforms (other than British, Tory, or Hessian issue) and fought during the Revolutionary War. During the Bicentennial year, Iowans might also search for links to the Revolutionary Era through female lines. A daughter of Betsy Ross, for example, settled permanently at Fort Madison. Many communities in this state were peopled by women whose lives go back to the eighteenth century; some of these are at least as interesting as the men who bore arms against the mother country.

As has been illustrated, some of the people who came to Iowa embodied the "Spirit of '76" in a literal sense. It would require the services of a skilled intellectual his-

torian and much effort to examine the fabric of life that connects Iowa with the fervor and rhetoric of the American Revolution. A brief exercise may illustrate that present-day Iowans may have better opportunities for feeling the impact of the Revolution than did Iowa residents 200 years ago. What, for example, is the source of the following quotations?

All men are, by nature, free and equal, and have certain inalienable rights — among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

No religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust . . .

No law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech, or of the press.

Not one of these statements is directly from the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, or the Bill of Rights. All are from Article I of the present Constitution of the State of Iowa. All were written by Iowans, undoubtedly with the basic documents of the Revolutionary Era in mind or even on the writing table.

Iowans have had three major attempts at constitution making, the last of which came in 1857 and produced the passages quoted above. When Jonathan C. Hall of Burlington showed up at the Constitution Convention of 1857 in Iowa City he manifested the "Spirit of '76" as

clearly as any Iowan has. He refused to take an oath to support the Constitution under which Iowa had become a state in 1846. "I want to alter it, break it down, tear it to pieces . . ." said Hall. This placed Hall in the tradition of Thomas Jefferson and the Continental Congress back in 1776. But it would misrepresent a basic American tradition and also Jonathan Hall to stop the quotation there. Hall's full statement was: "I want to alter it, break it down, tear it to pieces, and build it up again." The lawmakers of 1776 and 1857 were anything but anarchists; they were constructive men who wanted to improve government, not abolish it.

Iowans must be reminded that they still have constitutional access to a modified right of revolution. "All political power is inherent in the people," reads Article I Section 2 of the Iowa Constitution. "Government is instituted for the protection, security, and benefit of the people, and they have the right, at all times, to alter or reform the same, whenever the public good may require it." This is an abbreviated and toned down version of Jefferson's statement:

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by

Note on Sources

Earlier versions of this paper were delivered as speeches at five regional meetings sponsored by the Iowa State Historical Department during the fall of 1975. The author acknowledges with gratitude that the present version incorporates information and ideas brought to his attention by many Iowans, including several members of the staff of the Division of the State Historical Society. An annotated copy of the article is available upon request.

their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government

A subtle shading of meaning distinguishes Jefferson's key words "to alter or to abolish" from the Iowans' "alter or reform." Most Americans (including Jefferson) have tended to be uncomfortable about revolution and revolutionaries. The touched-up phrase "alter or reform" first appeared in the abortive Constitution of 1844; it was written into the 1846 document and repeated in the 1857 Constitution. Not all Americans have direct legal access to the principles of the Declaration of Independence, but Iowans can appeal to such principles



— many of which are paraphrased in their Constitution.

A reading of the section on suffrage in the 1857 Constitution illustrates the idea of the continuing revolution. "Every white male citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years . . . shall be entitled to vote" reads the document, but a rash of amendments follows to explain the times and terms under which non-whites, non-males, and people below the age of 21 came to vote. Yet, an unamended version of the 1857 Constitution stands as a landmark of where Iowans have come from in the field of human rights. Jefferson's high-sounding phrases about the rights of man sharpened sensitivities about Blacks, touched off heated debate during Iowa's Constitution Conventions, and launched a continuing revolution that is still incomplete 200 years later.

The Bicentennial year is a time to recognize some of the ideas and procedures that have been at work in this state and nation. In this context, much has been written and spoken about the subject of religious liberties and the measures that have been taken to insure them. When the Americans wiped their governmental slate clean in 1776, people like Thomas Jefferson worked diligently to separate church and state. In his home state of Virginia, Jefferson adamantly asserted that the state should not collect money for any church and that the clergy should not control the public university. The break with England made it easier to accomplish this goal. Many gains of the Revolutionary Era were solidified



in the decades thereafter, but established principles must still be applied to particular circumstances.

For example, there is controversy in Iowa surrounding the activities of Maharishi International University at Fairfield. At the head of the venture is Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a native of India who introduced Transcendental Meditation to the western world. Officials of the University insist that their teachings are secular in nature and in no way related to organized religion. Therefore, Transcendental Meditation is eligible for presentation in public classrooms and the organization must be treated before the law as any other secular college or business venture. Many Iowans, however, are equally certain that Transcendental Meditation is a form of Hindu religion, that it should not be advocated in public schools or furthered with tax dollars; the University is sectarian, they insist. The issues are far from resolution, but the controversy is contained and conducted within traditions of law

CENTENNIAL BELLS

Hark! the pealing of that bell,
As it echoes o'er the dell,
Causing each human heart to swell.

Hail the patriotic day,
Won by many a war and fray,
Just an hundred years to-day.

Great Britain did you hear that bell,
And its story hear it tell,
That we would be free as well?

Great Britain did you hear it say
That thy laws we'd not obey,
Just one hundred years to-day?

Hark, the ringing of that bell,
From Philadelphia it doth swell,
Over mountain hill and dell.

List ye, while we hear it say,
In its patriotic way,
We'll celebrate this joyful day.

What means the ringing of that bell,
Echoing over hill and dell;
Ah! I hear somebody say,
'Tis our grand Centennial Day!

A bit of 1876 verse, based on the poetry of E.A. Poe.

and precedent going back to the Revolutionary Era. There is peace in Fairfield, religious liberty in Iowa, and a procedure for separating matters of church and state.

The years have brought change in the manner in which Iowans have observed July 4 and interpreted the "Spirit of '76." Before the Civil War the embryonic frontier settlements sponsored celebrations as an annual affirmation of faith in a sacred union of sovereign states — the great experiment in American democracy. Impromptu toasts, local orators, singing,

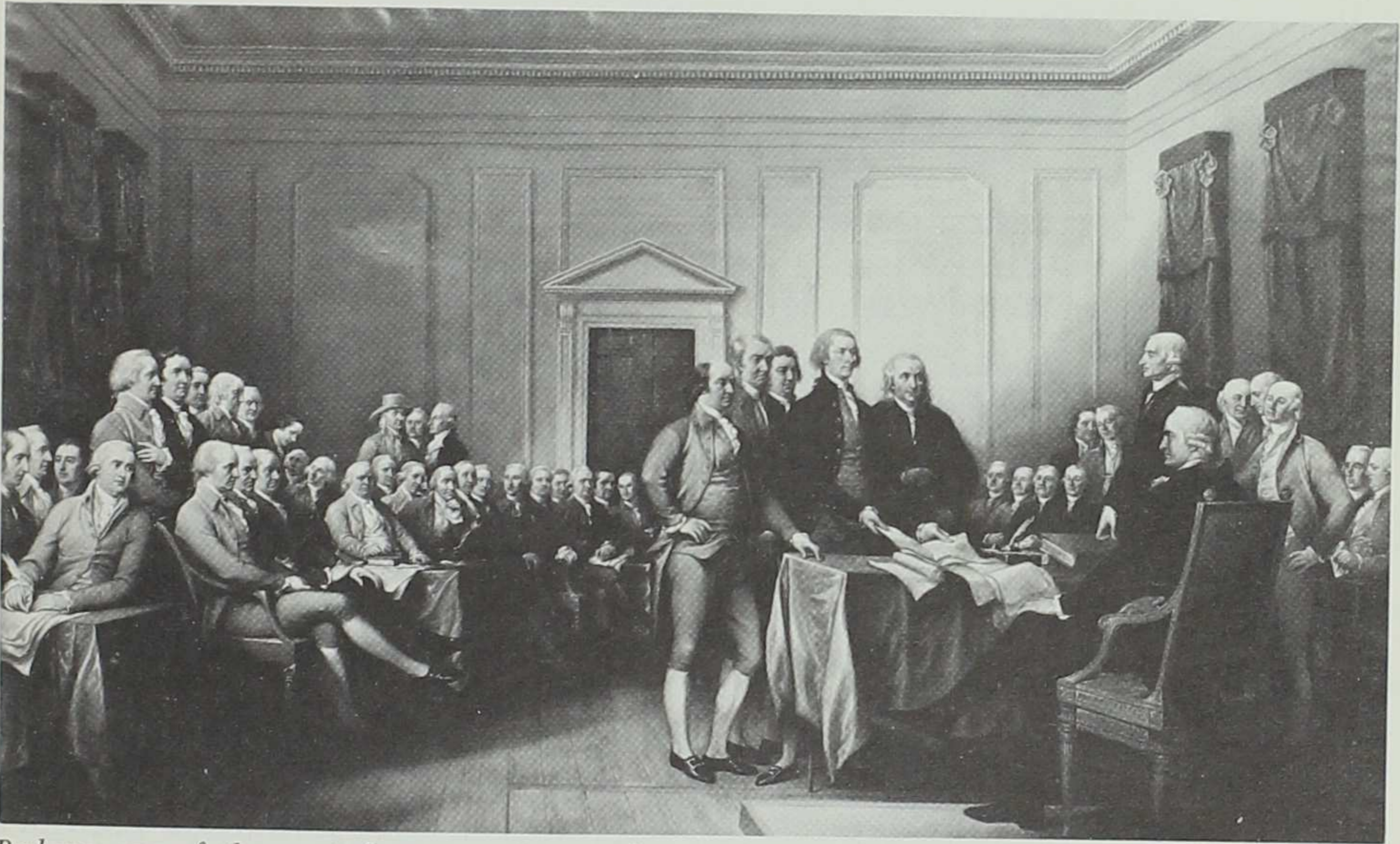
community parades, the presence of original settlers (and in some instances of veterans) added spontaneity and authenticity to these occasions. The sobering experience of the Civil War changed attitudes about the union and altered the exuberance of the old time Independence Day observances.

As early as the Centennial year, 1876, the trend was toward entertainment. A circus boasting "10,000 New and Novel Features!" entertained people at Atlantic on the national holiday in that year, according to the June 28 and July 4 issues of the *Atlantic Telegraph*. Among the attractions were seven golden chariots, a great menagerie of trained animals (including five elephants), "Elegant Costumes adorning Shapely Ladies, the Spirit of '76 — Washington, Lafayette, Goddess of Liberty..." Ironically, all of this and more came to the western Iowans on Independence Day under the auspices of Howe's Great London Circus. As Avoca and Walnut boys came to town "holding their girls firmly by hand," it was evident that showmen could pull people away from the small towns and cash in on the "Spirit of '76."

Those who traveled to Philadelphia for the great Centennial Exposition were stricken with awe as they viewed impressive industrial displays, particularly the giant Corliss steam engine. By the end of the nineteenth century neither the American union nor American industry seemed tenuous or experimental. With the new century the United States would take its place as a leader among nations.

Politicians who appealed to the "Spirit of '76" would have to adjust their rhetoric to new realities. Those who appealed to foreign-born voters or constituents whose family roots did not go back to the Revolution had an additional challenge. Gilbert N. Haugen, who represented northeast Iowa in the United States House of Representatives continuously from 1899 to 1933, handled both challenges effectively. Beginning with his "maiden effort" on the occasion of the 119th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Haugen formed the habit of starting an Independence Day speech with a rhetorical flourish about the particular anniversary at hand. He usually interjected some history from the infancy of the country drawn from a general source. Since his own parents came to the United States from Norway well after the Revolution, he found it easy to proceed to some thoughts about how late comers to the American republic contributed to the continuing revolution "without regard to nationality." On many a July 4 he referred to the spirit of the northerners who "broke the bands which bound millions of oppressed human beings" during the Civil War.

In his Fourth of July speeches Haugen expressed gratitude to God, government, and industrious citizens for agricultural bounty and other blessings, but such rhetoric was prelude to serious discussions of contemporary issues. On July 4, 1928, for example, he deplored the "ability of one class of people to take the benefit, and the inability of others to take the benefit of laws enacted."



Perhaps one of the most famous and most frequently reproduced examples of patriotic art, John Trumbull's *Signing of the Declaration of Independence*. One of the most recent appearances is on the back of the new two dollar bill. (courtesy Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut)

His prepared text ended with a lead-in to a discussion of the plight of Iowa farmers who did not share in the prosperity of the 1920s. Both as an orator and as a working politician Haugen operated within the tradition of the "Spirit of '76." He did not fear drastic change even to the extent of pegging prices of agricultural commodities or bolstering the nation's banks with the resources of the federal government during the Great Depression.

Amid the fireworks and festivities of 1976, Iowans may wish to test the buoyancy of the "Spirit of '76." The principles of the American Revolution are intertwined with the Iowa heritage. Basic rights for which the Revolutionary War was fought are

enshrined in the state constitution. The freedom to enjoy life, liberty, property, safety, and happiness is specifically guaranteed to citizens of Iowa. If these rights are threatened, Iowans need only to recall the words of Jonathan Hall about a constitution he believed to be outmoded: "I want to alter it, break it down, tear it to pieces, and build it up again." The "Spirit of '76" cries out to Iowans and Americans to prevent their government from becoming outdated, stodgy, or unresponsive to the people. Yet, to remember the Revolution is also to remember the yearnings for order, peace, and prosperity. The balance between creative change and ordered security is the great heritage of the "Spirit of '76" in Iowa. □

The Centennial Exposition, 1876

The year of the nation's one hundredth birthday anniversary was packed with events — Washington, D.C. was rocked with political scandals, George Armstrong Custer and his Seventh Cavalry troopers met their end at the Little Big Horn, and communities throughout the land celebrated the centennial of the founding of the Union. Nothing, however, caught Americans' imagination and interest more than the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The grand and awe-inspiring buildings, the thousands of objects and exhibits, and the crush of visitors made the Exposition grounds one of the most exciting places in America during the summer and fall of 1876.

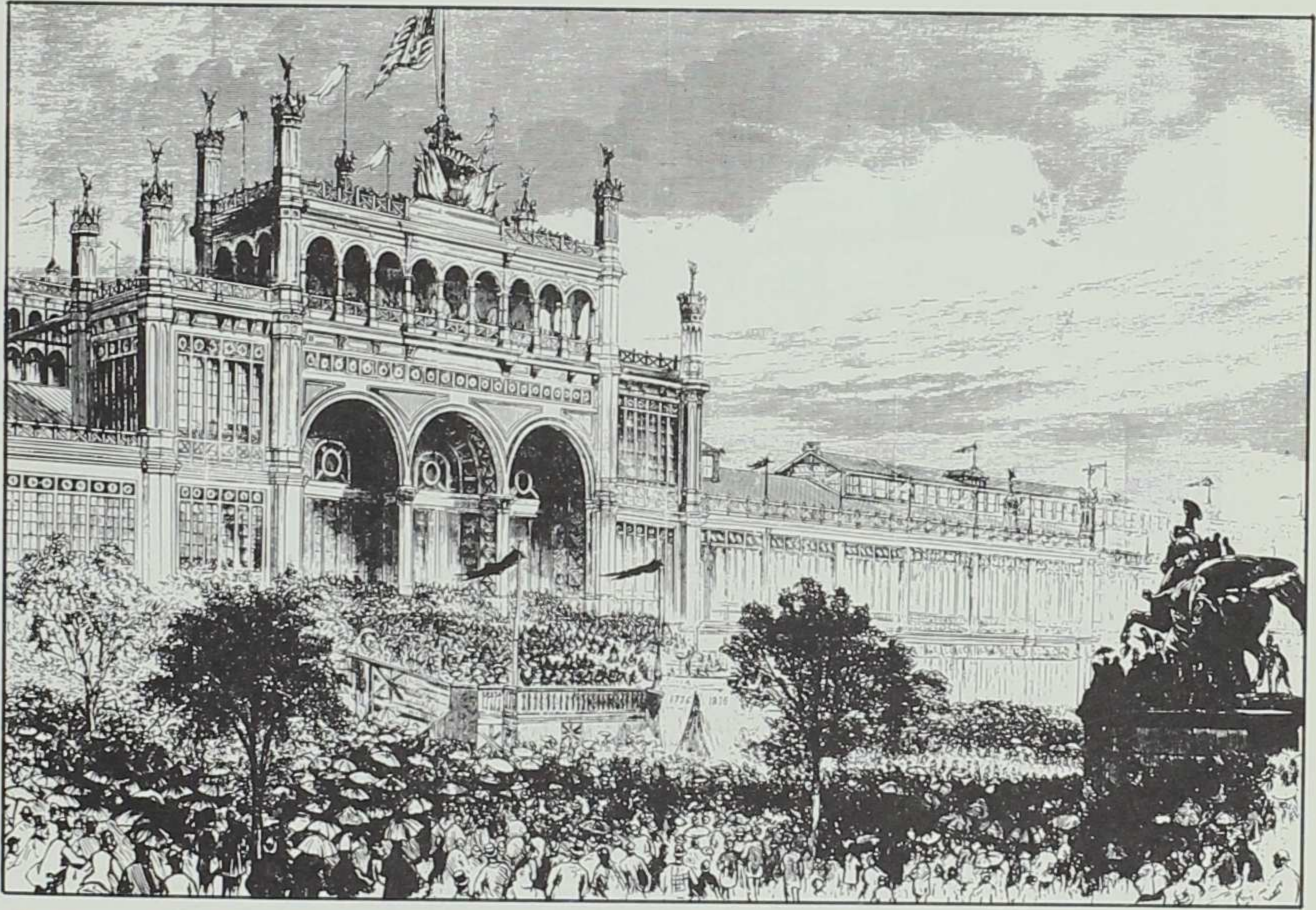
The Centennial Exposition had first been proposed to the U.S. Congress in 1869 in a memorial sent to Washington by the Franklin Institute and Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia. In 1871, Congress passed a bill "to provide for celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of American independence by holding an international exhibition of arts, manufactures and products of the soil and mine, in the city of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, in the year 1876." Commissioners from each state were nominated by the governors and appointed by the President. Iowa was represented by Robert Lowry of Davenport and alternate Coker Clarkson of Grundy Center. The Exposition was financed in part by federal funds, but also by

contributions from Philadelphia, the state of Pennsylvania (and surrounding commonwealths), and private subscriptions.

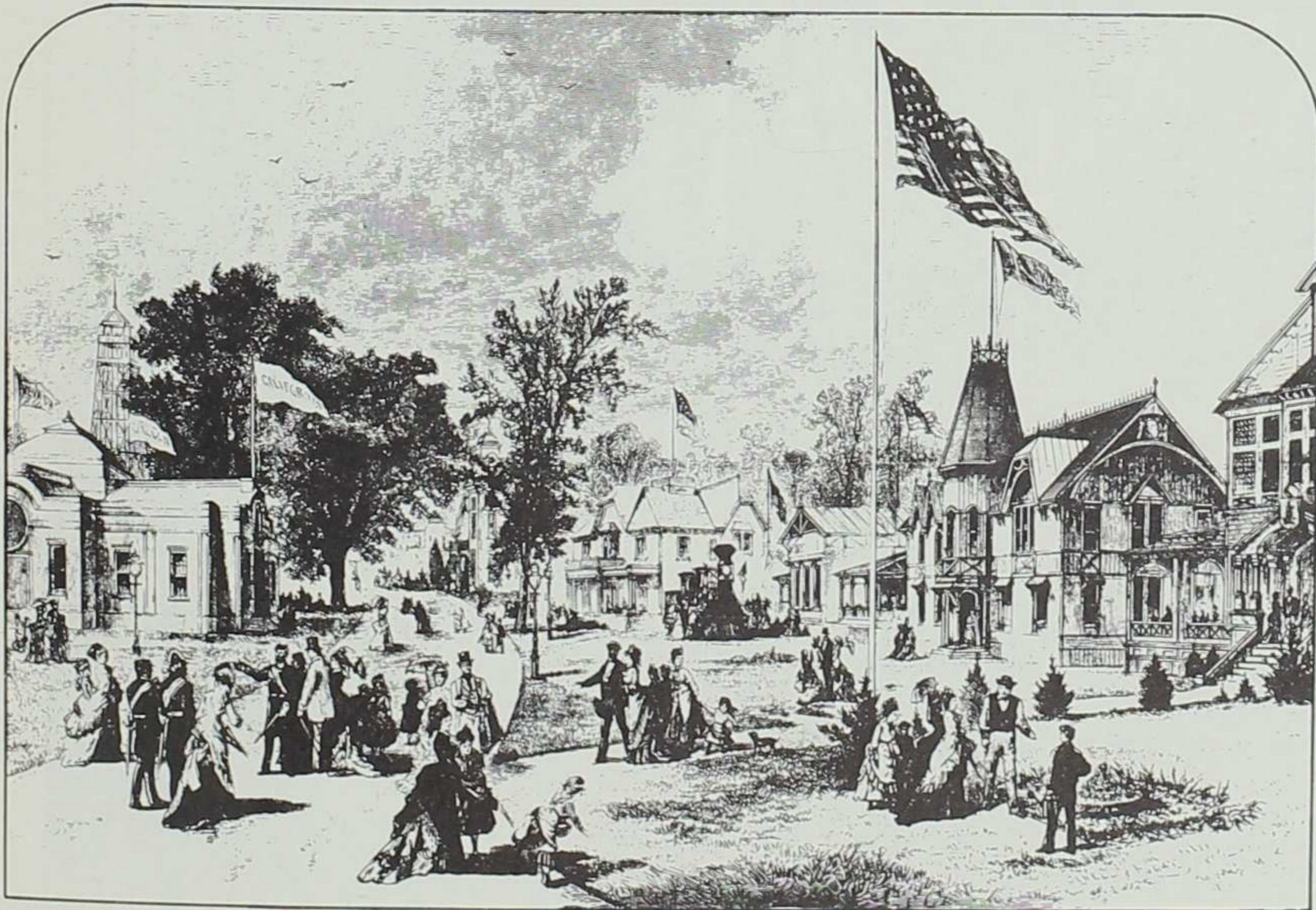
Undoubtedly many Iowans made the trip eastward to view the display. Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Simpson of Clarence, Iowa, for example, junketed to Philadelphia in September, following a side trip to Washington, D.C. (where they visited most of the nation's public buildings). They arrived in Philadelphia on September 8. Visiting the Main Exposition Building the next day, Mr. Simpson confided to his diary that he could not "describe the magnificence, everything was so grand." His wife recorded that during their first day's tour they saw such diversities as tableware, carved mantelpieces, jewelry, communion services, tea sets, an elephant tusk, and what purported to be the nation's oldest piano. During the remainder of their week at the Exposition, the Simpsons saw everything from the "Monster" Corliss engine to a 1307 pound Chester White hog.

For Americans who could not visit the Exposition in person, magazines such as *Harper's Weekly* provided the experience vicariously by publishing a series of engravings based on sketches of the Exposition grounds. Following is a sample of the illustrations of the Exposition from *Harper's*, including a feature on Iowa's exhibit in Agricultural Hall. □

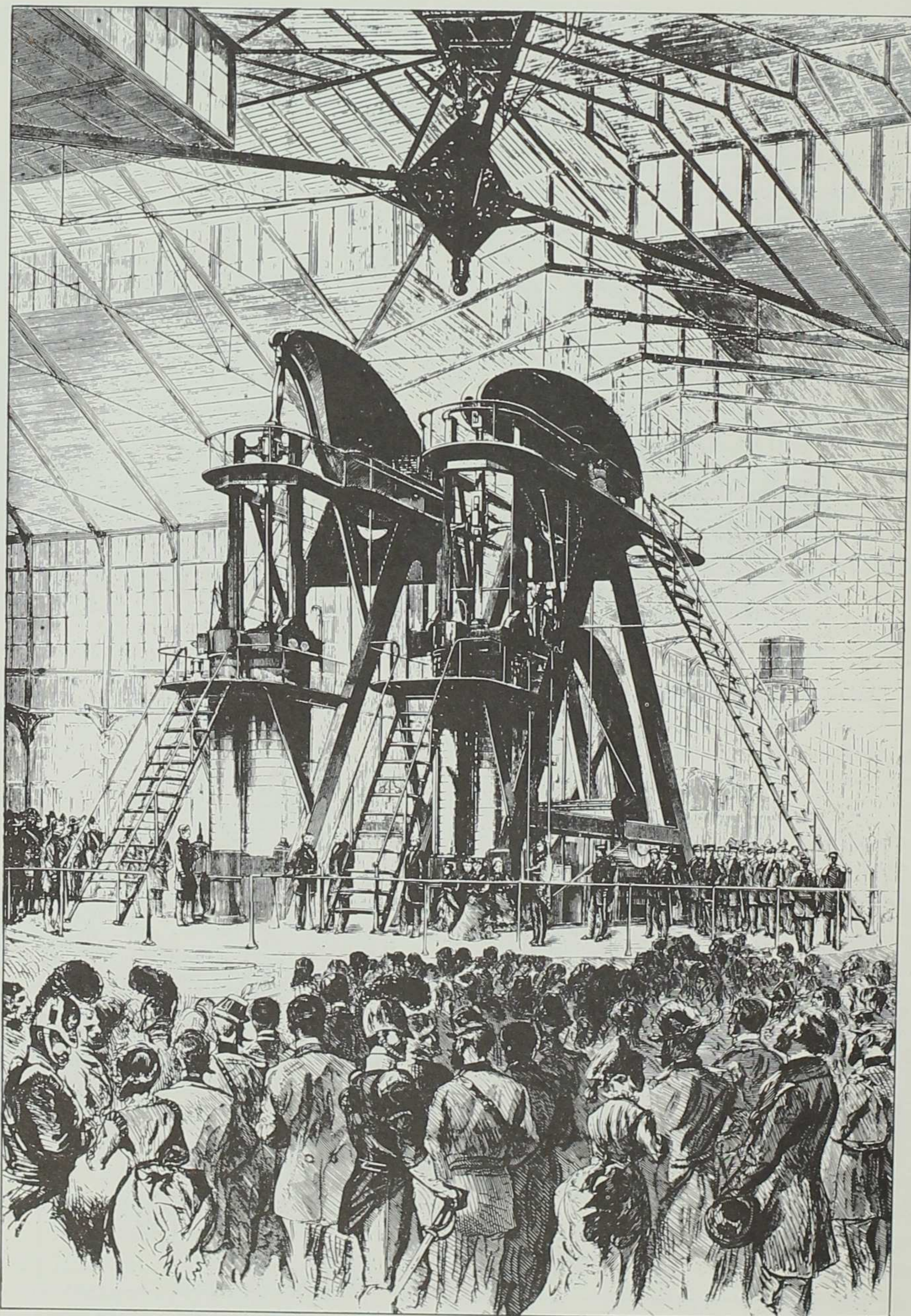
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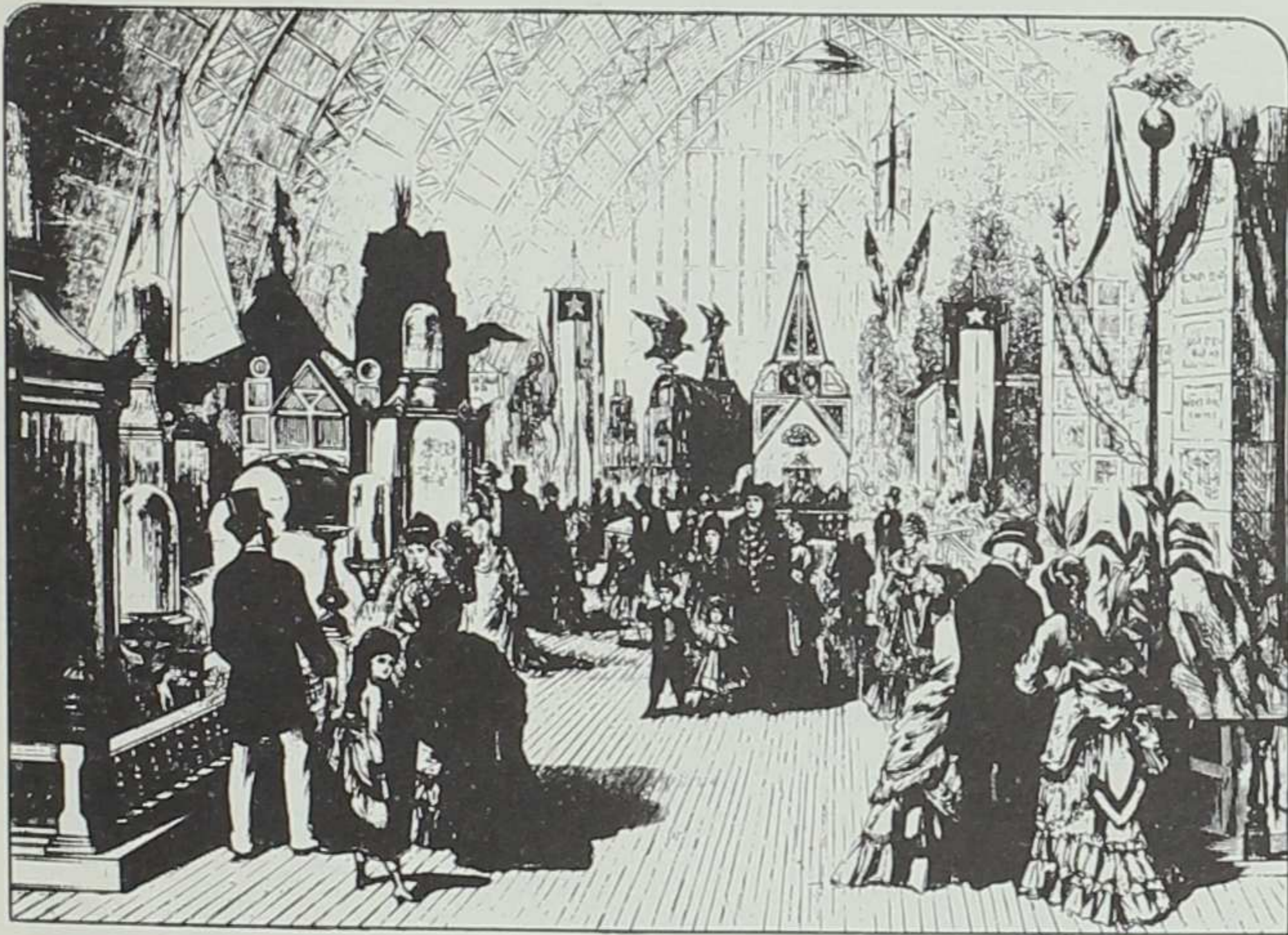
The Exposition's opening ceremonies, May 1876.



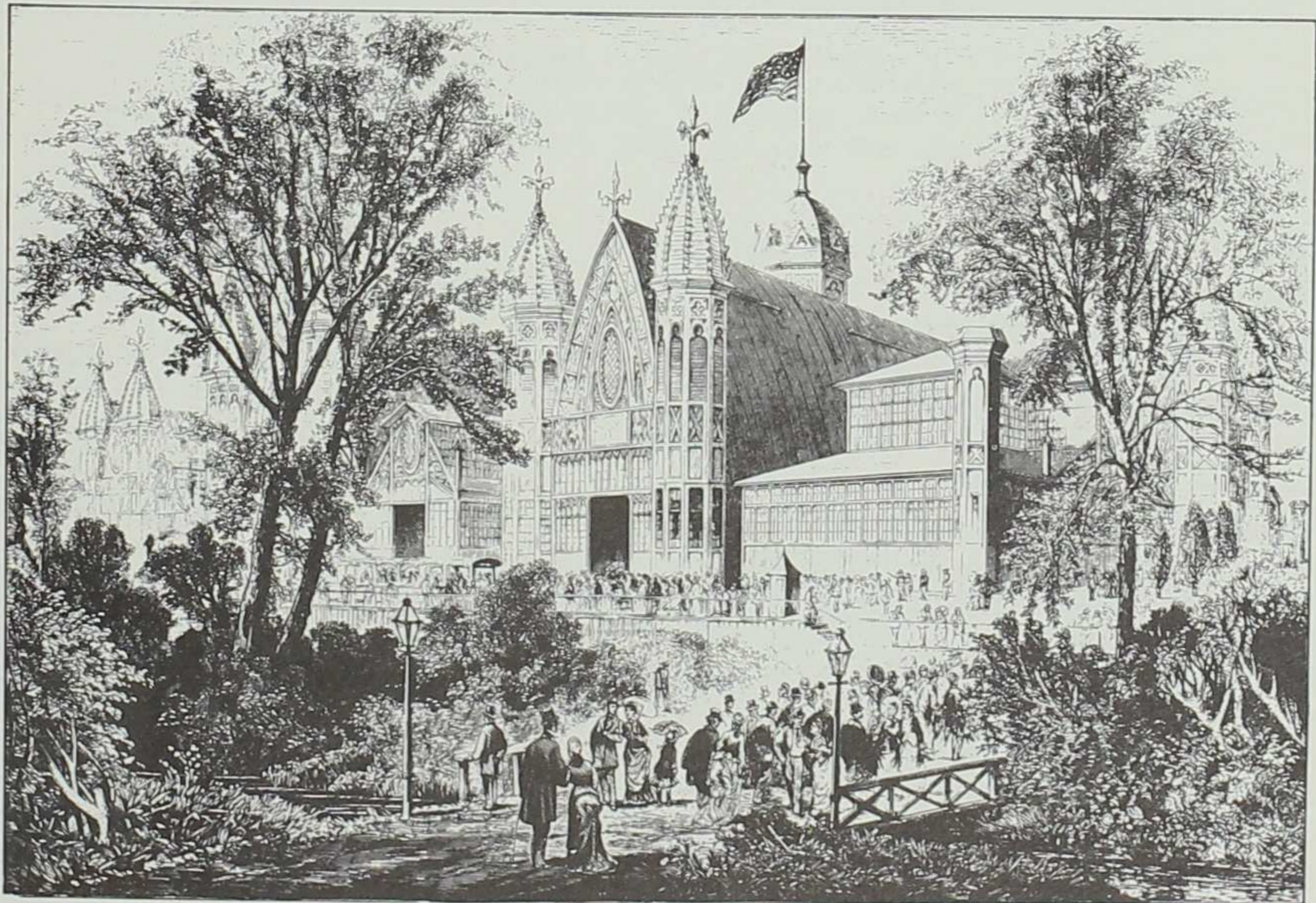
The individual states erected buildings on State Avenue. The Iowa building is in the center, flying the American flag.

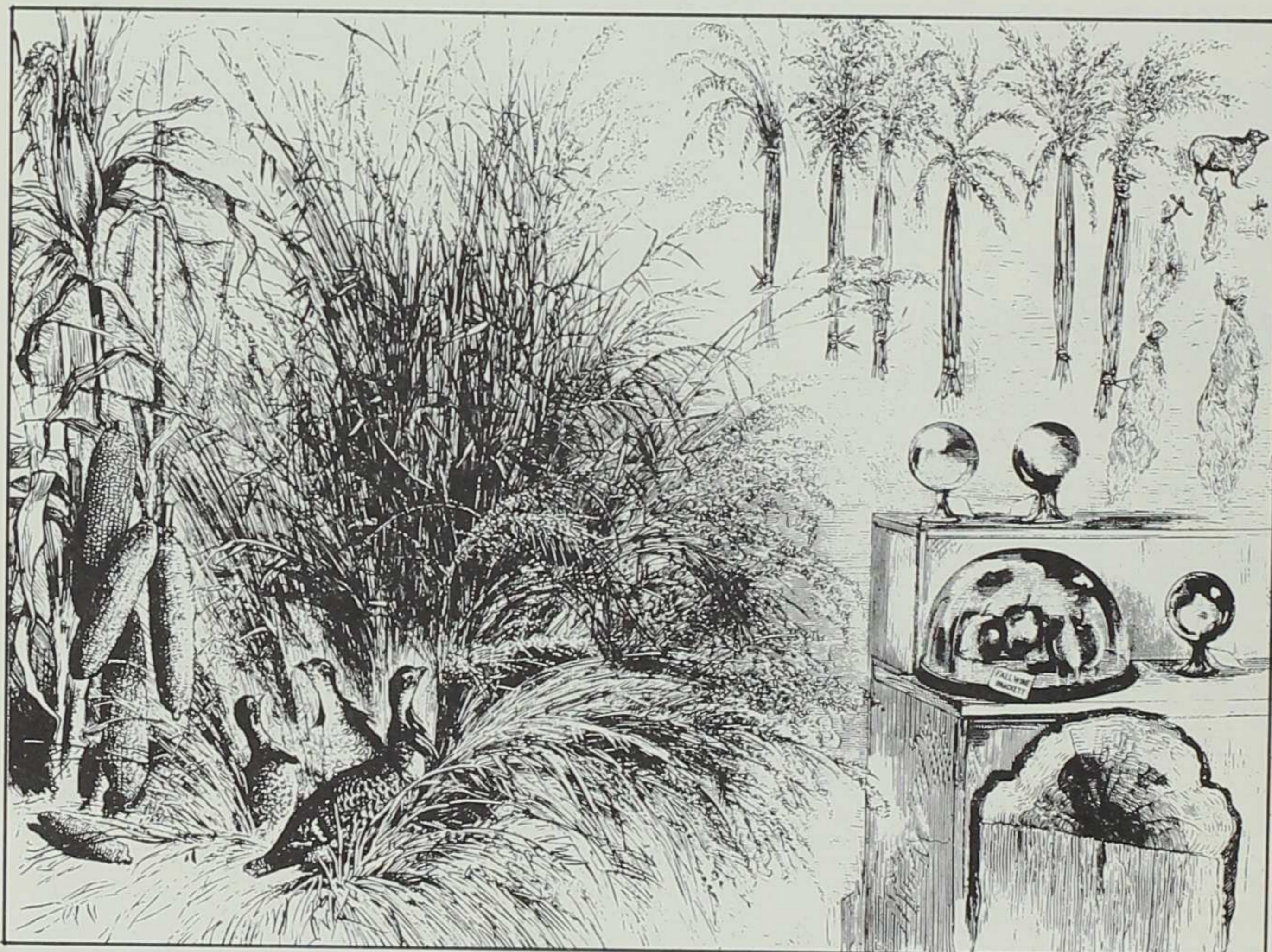


The great Corliss steam engine, one of the Exposition's major attractions. Shown here are U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant and Brazilian Emperor Dom Pedro starting up the engine.



The profusion of exhibits was mind-boggling. Here visitors tour part of the offerings of Agricultural Hall (pictured below).

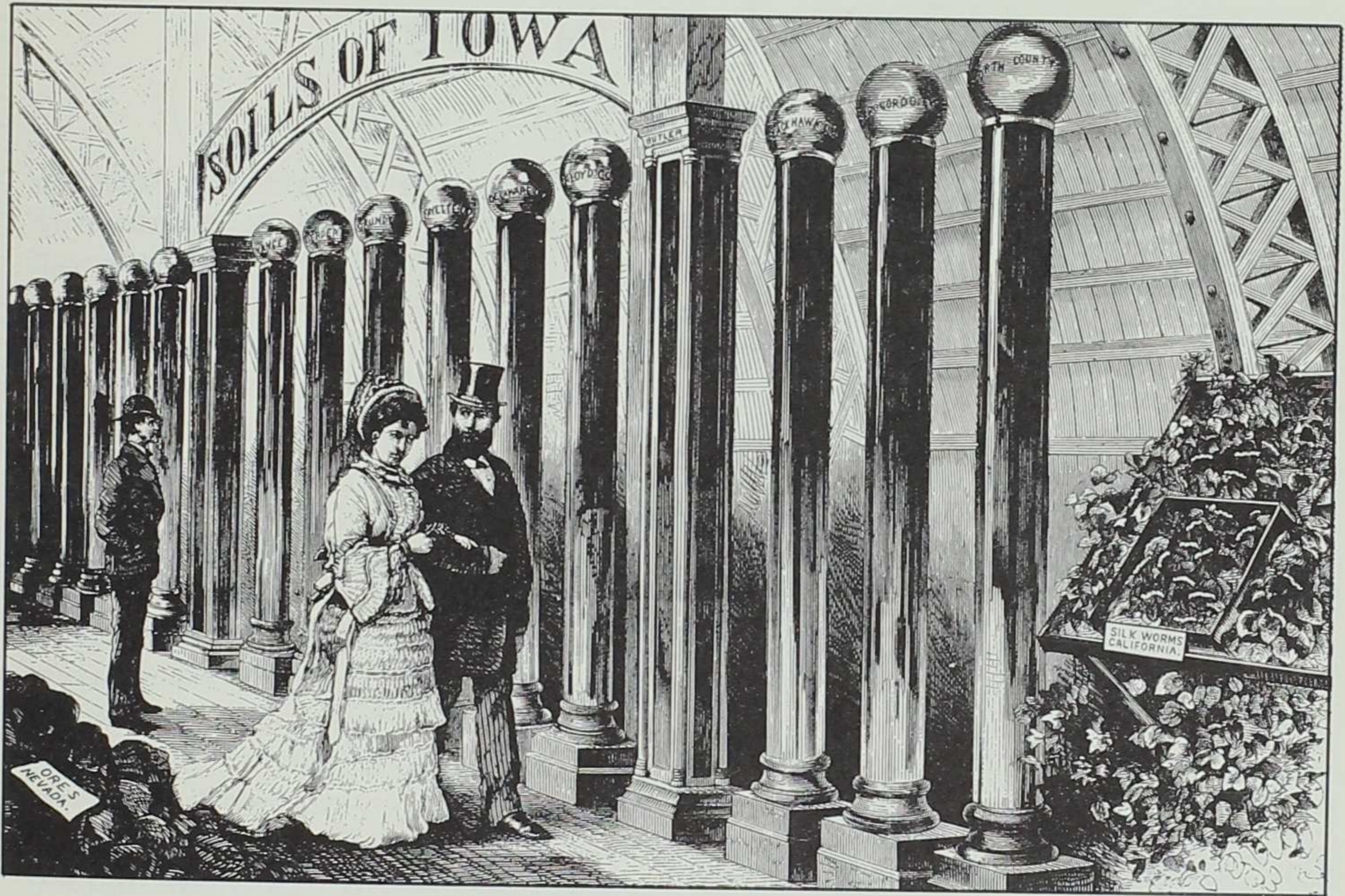




Products of Iowa — Agricultural Hall.



Thousands of tourists arrived at the Exposition daily by train.



The following short article is from Harper's Weekly, November 11, 1876, pp. 921-22. At that time, much of northern and northwestern Iowa's rich farm land was still undrained.

THE CENTENNIAL SOILS AND PRODUCTS OF IOWA.

We give this page to two engravings illustrating the products of the State of Iowa and the varieties of soil peculiar to the region, as they are exhibited in Agricultural Hall. The soils are arranged within tall cylinders of glass, so as to give the visitor an idea at once of the different elements of which they are composed. Affixed to each cylinder is a map of the State, on which a small green spot indicates the county from which that particular sample of soil was taken.

The soils of Iowa are generally excellent, and in no other section is there a smaller amount of inferior land. The valleys of the Red Cedar, Des Moines, and Iowa rivers as high as latitude $42^{\circ}30'$ present a body of arable land which, taken as a whole, for richness

in organic elements, for amount of saline matter and due admixture of earthy silicates, affords a combination that belongs only to the most fertile upland plains. North of this, the best agricultural region of the State, the lands are inferior, but still not unprofitable, and the lower grounds are either wet and marshy or filled with numerous ponds, and entirely destitute of timber. As an illustration of the extraordinary fertility of the soil in the southern portion of the State, we may cite the fact that the first planted corn crop having been destroyed last summer by the grasshoppers, the fields were replanted after the Fourth of July. The farmers were doubtful of the result, but the second crop attained a size which would appear incredible to Eastern people. The specimens shown in the Iowa exhibit average at least ten feet in height.

What's in a Name?

by Thelma E. Heflin

"I never had any thing Worth Notice to quaint you with since I left you till now," wrote Lt. Isaac Shelby to his uncle on October 18, 1774. Shelby's name was to be scattered across the hills and plains of a United States yet unborn; today nine states, including Iowa, have counties named for him, and there are 17 towns across the land that bear his name. The something "Worth Notice" that Shelby wanted to share with his uncle was the Battle at Point Pleasant, West Virginia, which has gone down in history as the first decisive victory won by an army made up exclusively of Americans.

An army of Shawnee Indians led by Chief Cornstalk met the Americans in a battle during "Lord Dunmore's War" and discovered that the farmers could be a disciplined and hard-to-defeat military unit. More than a decade earlier, during the French and Indian War in the 1760s, Indian tribes had joined French soldiers to protect their land from the steady westward push of American colonial settlers and British troops, and Americans then had often fought under British command.

At Point Pleasant, however, there were no professional British soldiers to give orders and fill in the ranks. In fact, at that very moment, the First Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia's Carpenter Hall, and the die was being cast that would lead to active rebellion against King George III.

Following an impressive military career, Shelby served his country in the political field. He was elected Governor of Kentucky in 1792 and also in 1812. In 1813, he again donned the military uniform and led 4000 Kentucky volunteers to join General Harrison in Canada for a British defeat at the Battle of the Thames, for which he was awarded a gold medal by Congress in 1818.

Historians describe Shelby as a "wise and prudent man." His reputation as a war hero and statesman made his name a natural choice for counties and towns springing up across the nation. Fourteen states have either counties or towns named for him, some states having both.

Shelby County, Iowa was named in 1851 by the General Assembly of Iowa in honor of Isaac Shelby. Two years later, the Legislature provided for the location of a county seat in Shelby County, to be named Shelbyville. The plat for Shelbyville was approved on February 5, 1855. Four years later, on April 4, Shelby County residents voted to move the county seat to Harlan. With the removal of its chief reason for existence, Shelbyville soon dwindled away. Today there is no trace of Shelby County's first county seat.

On September 6, 1870, a new township was established in Shelby County, Iowa and was named Shelby Township. The organizing officer posted notices of an election to be held "at depot building at SHELBY

STATION on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 1870.” Thus a small settlement, with the first railroad station in the county, received its name, presumably from the Rock Island Railroad.

During this Bicentennial period, Shelby County, Iowa, Shelby Township, and the town of Shelby are involved in activities to commemorate the Revolutionary War, with special emphasis on a gallant soldier and statesman who loaned them his honorable name.



Isaac Shelby

State	County	Town
Alabama	Shelby	Shelby
Illinois	Shelby	Shelbyville
Indiana	Shelby	Shelby, Shelbyville
Iowa	Shelby	Shelby
Kentucky	Shelby	Shelbiana, Shelby Gap, Shelbyville
Michigan		Shelby
Mississippi		Shelby
Missouri	Shelby	Shelbina, Shelbyville
Nebraska		Shelby
New York		Shelby
North Carolina		Shelby
Ohio	Shelby	Shelby
Tennessee	Shelby	Shelbyville
Texas	Shelby	

The following text of Isaac Shelby's letter about the Battle of Point Pleasant is from Reuben Gold Thwaites and Louise Phelps Kellogg (eds.), Documentary History of Dunmore's War, 1774 (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1905). The original letter is in the Draper Manuscript Collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Letter from Isaac Shelby to John Shelby

Camp Opposite to the Mouth of Great Canaway
October 16th, 1774

DR. UNCLE — I Gladly imbrace this oppertunity to Acquaint You that we are all three yet alive th[r]o Gods Mercies & I Sincerely wish that this may find you & your Family in the Station of Health that we left you. I never had any thing Worth Notice to quaint you with since I left you till now, the Express seems be be Hurrying that I Cant write you with the same Coolness & Deliberation as I would; we arrived at the mouth [of] Canaway Thursday 6th Octr. and incamped on a fine piece of Ground with an intent to wait for the Governor & his party but hearing that he was going another way we Contented our selves to stay there a few days to rest the troops &c when we looked upon our selves to be in safety till Monday morning the 10th Instant when two of our Compys. went out before day to hunt. To wit Val. Sevier & Jas Robison & Discovered a party of indians; as I expect you will hear something of our Battle before you get this I have here stated this affair nearly to you.

For the Satisfaction of the people in your parts in this they have a true state of the Memorable Battle faught at the mouth of the great Canaway on the 10th. Instant; Monday morning about half an Hour before sunrise two of Capt Russels Compy. Discovered a large party of indians about a mile from Camp one of which men was killed the Other made his Escape & brought in his intilligence; in two or three minutes after two of Capt Shelbys. Compy. Came in and Confirmed the Account. Colo. Andrew Lewis being Informed thereof Immediately ordered Colo. Charles Lewis to take the Command of 150 men

from Augusta and with him went Capt. Dickison. Capt. Harrison. Capt. Willson. Capt. Jno. Lewis from Augusta and Capt. Lockridge which made the first division. Colo. Fleming was also ordered to take the Command of one hundred & fifty more Consisting of Botetourt Fincastle and Bedford Troops Viz. Capt. Buford of Bedford, Capt. Love of Botetourt, Capt. Shelby & Capt. Russell of Fincastle which made the second Division. Colo. Lewis marched with his Division to the Right some Distance up from the Ohio. Colo. Fleming with his Division up the banck of the Ohio to the left: Colo. Lewiss Division had not marchd. little more than a quarter of a mile from Camp; when about sunrise, an Attact was made on the front of his Division in a most Vigorous manner by the United tribes of Indians — Shawnees; Delewares, Mingoës, Taways, and of several Other Nations in Number not less than Eight Hundred and by many thought to be a thousand; in this Heavy Attact Colonel Charles Lewis received a wound which soon after Caused his Death and several of his men fell in the spott in fact the Augusta Division was forced to give way to the heavy fire of the Enemy In about a second of a minute after the Attact on Colo. Lewiss Division the Enemy Engaged the Front of Colo. Flemings Division on the Ohio; and in a short time Colo. Fleming recd. two balls thro his left Arm and one thro his breast; and after animating the Captains and soldiers in a Calm manner to the pursuit of Victory returned to Camp, the loss of the Brave Colonels was Sensibly felt by the Officers in perticular, But the Augusta troops being shortly Reinforced from Camp by Colonel Field with his Company together with Capt. M'Dowel, Capt. Mathews & Capt. Stuart from Augusta, Capt. John Lewis, Capt. Paulin Capt. Arbuckle & Capt. M'Clanahan from Botetourt, the Enemy no longer able to Maintain their Ground was forced to

give way till they were in a Line with the troops left in action on Bancks of Ohio, by Colo. Fleming in this precipitate retreat Colo. Field was killed, after which Capt. Shelby was ordered to take the Commd. During this time which was till after twelve of the Clock, the Action continued Extreemly Hott, the Close underwood many steep bancks & Loggs greatly favoured their retreat, and the Bravest of their men made the use of themselves, whilst others were throwing their dead into the Ohio, and Carrying of[f] their wounded, after twelve the Action in a small degree abated but Continued sharp Enough till after one oClock

Their Long retreat gave them a most advantages spot of ground; from whence it Appeared to the Officers so difficult to disloge them; that it was thought most adviseable to stand as the line then was formed which was about a mile and a quarter in length, and had till then sustained a Constant and Equal weight of fire from wing to wing. it was till half an Hour of Sun sett they Continued firing on us which we returned to their Disadvantage at length Night Coming on they found a safe retreat They had not the satisfaction of scalping any of our men save One or Two straglers whom they Killed before the ingagement many of their dead they scalped rather than we should have them but our troops scalped upwards of Twenty of those who were first killed; Its Beyond a Doubt their Loss in Number farr Exceeds ours, which is Considerable.

Field Officers killed Colo. Charles Lewis, and Colo. Jno. Fields, Field Officers wounded Colo. Willm Fleming; Capts. killed John Murray Capt. Saml. Willson Capt. Robt. McClanahan, Capt. Jas. Ward, Captains wounded Thos Buford, John Dickison & John Scidmore, Subbalterns Killed Lieutenant Hugh Allen, Ensign Mathew Brakin Ensign Cundiff, Subbalterns wounded, Lieut. Lard: Lieut. Vance Lieut.

Goldman Lieut. Jas. Robison about 46 killed & about 80 wounded from this Sir you may Judge that we had a Very hard day its realy Impossible for me to Express or you to Concieve Acclamations that we were under, sometimes, the Hidious Cries of the Enemy and the groans of our wound[ed] men lying around was Enough to shuder the stoutest hart its the general Opinion of the Officers that we shall soon have another Ingagement as we have now got Over into the Enemys Country; we Expect to meet the Governor about forty or fifty miles from here nothing will save us from another Battle Unless they Attact the Governors Party, five men that Came in Dadys [daddy's] Company were killed, I dont know that you were Acquainted with any of them Except Marck Williams who lived with Roger Top. Acquaint Mr Carmack that his son was slightly wounded thro the shoulder and arm & that he is in a likely way of Recovery we leave him at mouth of Canaway & one Very Carefull hand to take Care of him; there is a garrison & three Hundred men left at that place with a surgeon to Heal the wounded we Expect to Return to the Garrison in about 16 days from the Shawny Towns.

I have nothing more Peticular to Acquaint you with Concerning the Battle. as to the Country I cant now say much in praise of any that I have yet seen. Dady intended writing to you but did not know of the Express till the time was too short I have wrote to Ma[m]my tho not so fully as to you as I then Expected the Express was Just going. we seem to be all in a Moving Posture Just going from this place so that I must Conclude wishing you health and prosperity till I see you & Your Family in the meantime I am yr. truly Effectionate Friend & Humble Servt

Isaac Shelby

To Mr. John Shelby Holstons River Fincastle County favr. by Mr. Benja. Gray

A Summer at Lake Okoboji Excerpts from a Vacation Diary, 1899

edited by Clifford M. Carson

In 1899, Carrie McKinley Carson, with her husband Clarence and their son (referred to as "The Boy"), spent a leisurely summer vacation at Iowa's famous Lake Okoboji resort area. The family was from Marengo, Iowa, where Mr. Carson was superintendent of schools. Carrie was a dedicated diary-keeper, and her account of the family's stay in a small cottage on the Lake provides a revealing glimpse of the relaxed summer activities at the resort area.

The Lakes region in the late 1890s had no automobiles, no paved roads, no radios or televisions, and no clusters of condominiums. The railroads were the main developers of the Lakes resorts, and most vacationers traveled to the area by train. The wealthiest summer residents had large, elaborate waterfront homes, others stayed in the grand resort hotels, but many vacationers lived in modest (almost primitive) cottages or camped out in tents on the lake shore.

The principal means of transport on the lakes were the steamers which plied the waters. The schedules of these boats were flexible, and the captains accommodating. A steamer could be casually "flagged" by displaying a white cloth on a fishing pole. The Manhattan, on which the Carsons often traveled, was a veteran steamer, soon to be retired.

Mrs. Carson's diary, now in the Manuscript Collection of the Division of the State Historical Society, demonstrates the sense of adventure associated with a trip to the resort area. The beauty of the natural surroundings and the change of atmosphere were perfect for rest, relaxation, and recreation.

At last our long-talked of trip to a summer resort in the north is being realized. True, it is not very far north, but sufficiently so to give us an altitude of one thousand feet, a

totally different atmosphere and scenery unlike that of our locality.

We started from home last Friday morning, bringing with us bedding, groceries, plenty of warm, as well as cool, clothing and whatever else seemed necessary for our comfort.

Our trip from Marengo to Des Moines was very pleasant, reaching there at noon, where we ate our lunch. From Des M. to Ruthven it was very hot and dusty, but at the last named place we ran into a violent rain storm, which effectively settled the dust and cooled off the air.

We were to have had supper there, but everything was so soaked, and it was still raining, so Clarence went out and got us some tea, and we lunched off the remains of our dinner, which proved ample and satisfying. I had put the sandwiches in a tin box, which kept them fresh. . . .

We reached Arnold's Park at seven o'clock in the evening, having been on the train since nine in the morning, except for the short stop in Des Moines. At Arnold's Park we embarked on the "Manhattan" and crossed the lake, to our cottage, which is on the east side of the lake. The storm had been quite severe during the afternoon. It had hailed, and the wind had blown a gale, so the lake was very rough, and it was also very cold. We felt keenly the change from the excessive heat of the railway trip. I nearly froze going across — we were some time on the water, as

several other stops were made before we reached our destination.

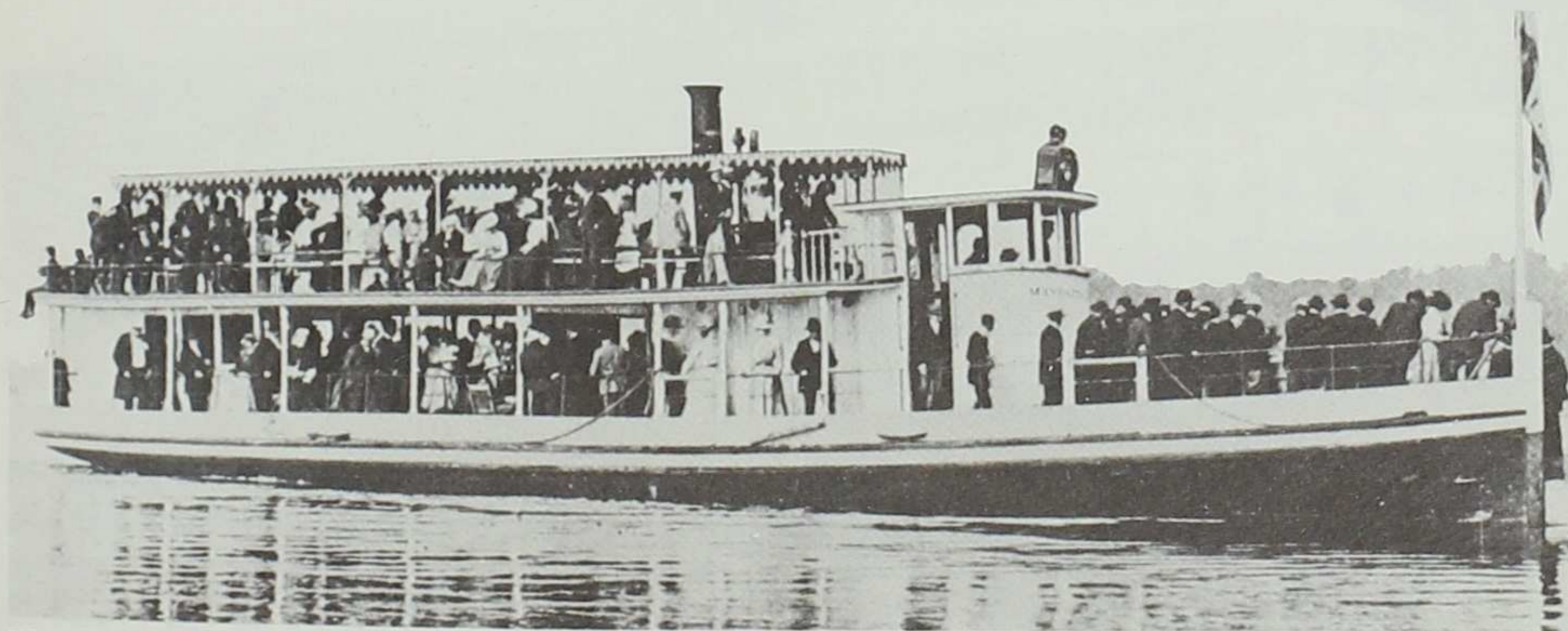
Just before we reached Hayward's Landing, our stopping-place, — the wind rose and it began to rain. . . . Clarence did not know whether he could find the key to the cottage, so the steamer waited at the landing while he reconnoitered, as it would have been necessary for us to return to Arnold's Park for the night, in case the key could not be located. Being successful in his hunt, the baggage was unloaded. The Boy [Carrie's son] and I had, in the meantime, gone up to the shelter of the cottage porch, as the air was raw, the rain cold, and we were becoming chilled through. . . . While we were waiting for the baggage to be unloaded, a lady from the cottage next door ran over and asked us in. We went gladly, as the rain drove in our faces, and our clothing was getting damp. She had a bright fire, which seemed very cheery, in view of the fact that we would not have anything but [a] gasoline [stove].

We found our cottage to be a very plain structure, painted a light gray,



Carrie McKinley Carson, about 1899.

and resembling, very much, our wood-house [at home], with the addition of a porch on its front. It is situated on the rising ground about eighty or one hundred steps from the lake, the space between being filled with a growth of oaks, — some fine large trees, others of the scrub variety. From the limb of one of the large trees hangs a fine large swing; there are hooks on the porch for our hammock, and under the porch I found a



The lake steamer Manhattan. (courtesy of the Spirit Lake Beacon)

hammock-chair, which needed only a little "doctoring" to make it as good as new.

The cottage is divided into two rooms, — the sleeping and sitting-room, 14 x 16 feet, and the kitchen and dining-room, 10 x 16 feet. It is just right for us, but if we should have friends come to stay with us, I don't know where I would put them To be sure it is rather primitive in the matter of furniture and house keeping facilities, but there is everything that we actually need.

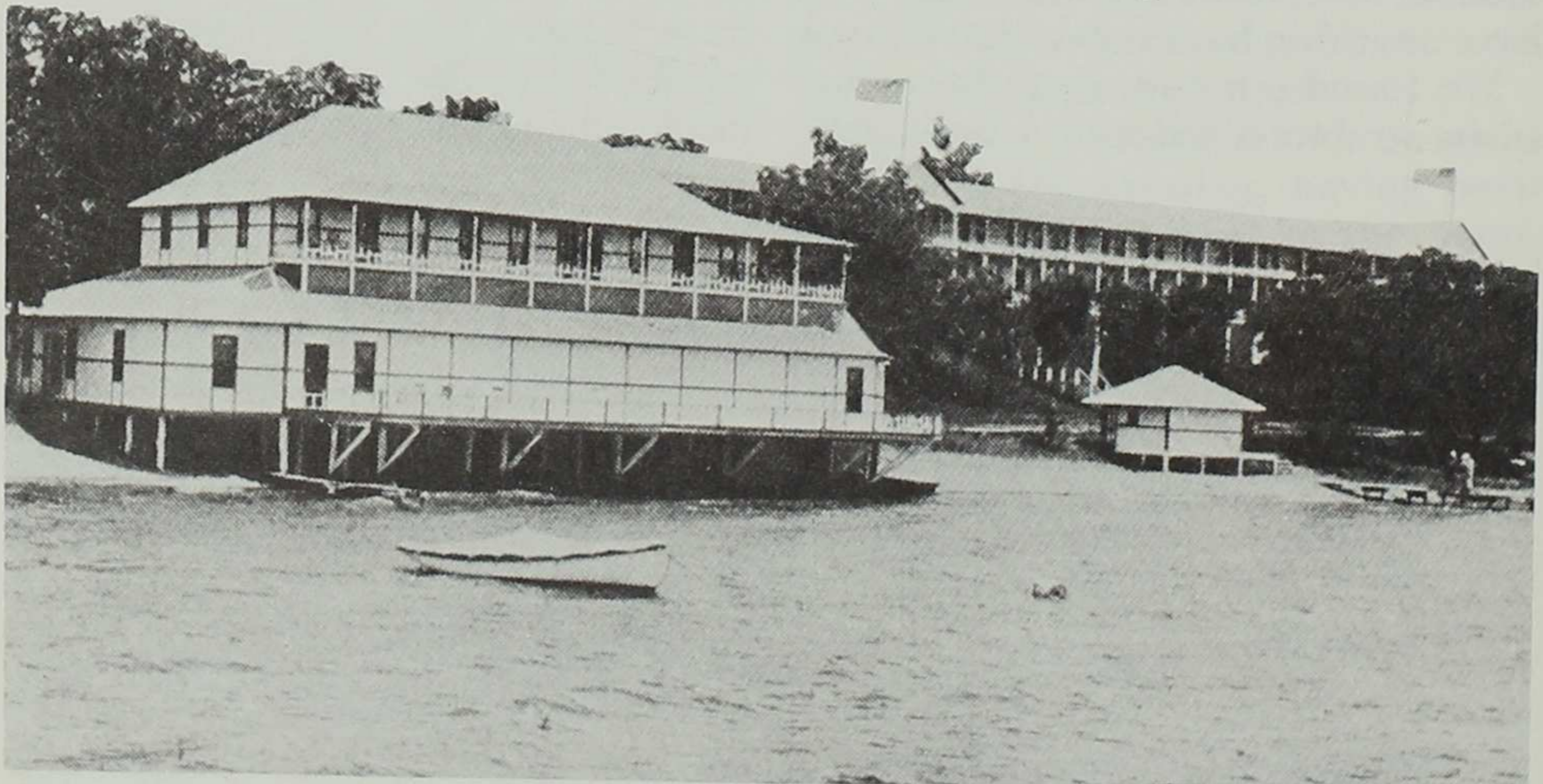
A bright rag carpet, considerably worn, covers the floor of the sitting-room, sash curtains, not very full, are at all the windows, and in the sitting-room there are shades; also, two beds and a cot, one rocker, four straight chairs and camp chair, an improvised ward-robe with a curtain in front, a small looking-glass which reflects a horribly distorted image of the person brave enough to look therein, and a shelf for books complete the

furnishings of the room. In the other room are a table, an ice-chest, two cupboards made of goods boxes, and a nice little gasoline stove, — two-hole, — with oven, another shelf for a water bucket, and a broken chair upon which to set the wash-pan.

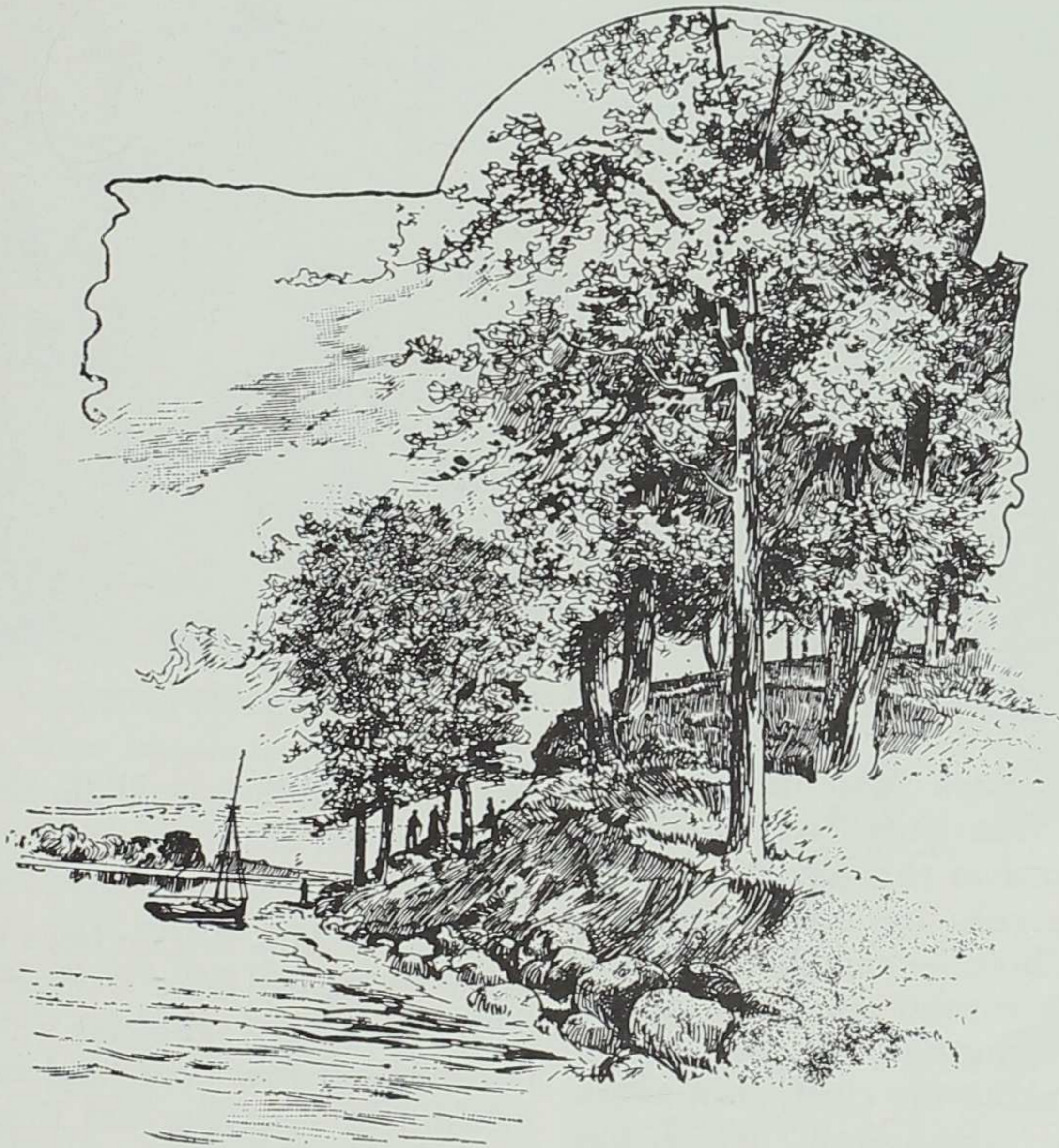
JULY 29. SAT. The first thing I did when I arose this morning was to rush to the windows for a view of the lake. I wished to be sure that it was still there. There it lay, — dark blue, with the morning sun touching its waves with golden light, — a beautiful sheet of water, truly.

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SUNDAY. JULY 31. Yesterday morning when it was too late for me to get ready, we learned that religious services are held every Sunday morning at "The Inn" — the finest hotel on the lake. The two C's [Carrie's husband and son] grabbed their hats, flagged a steamer, and went "just as they were." It was an ideally beautiful morning. The air so fresh



The Inn, West Lake Okoboji. (from Spirit Lake and the Okobojs, 1907)



An idyllic view of the lake front from a railroad promotional pamphlet entitled Mid-Summer Paradise. The rail lines published several such brochures extolling the virtues of the Lakes and illustrated with romanticized drawings of the resort area.

and pure, and I could not help wishing, as I watched the steamer round the curve of the shore, that I were a man, and could go wherever I wished all in the same pair of trousers. Men don't half appreciate their privileges.

"The Inn" is said to be one of the most picturesque summer hotels in the country. It is enlarged each year, as its patronage increases. It is built on the side of a bluff with a beautiful outlook over the lake. The dancing

pavilion is built on piles, rising high above the water. The wash of the waves mingling with the music of the orchestra. Here all public gatherings are held, — including the Sunday service; and always through the music, the sermon, [and] the conversation, runs the murmur of the waves, — a soothing, musical sound, of which one never tires. It makes one think of Venice, and the descriptions of her wave-washed structures, as painted by poet and artist.



Pillsbury Point, from a late nineteenth century hand-colored post card.

When the boys came home, they announced that there was to be a sacred concert at the pavilion in the evening, given by the Waterloo Episcopal Choir, — and that we were all going. It turned cool and cloudy during the afternoon, and by starting time it seemed quite chilly; but as we went in the “Manhattan,” which has a cabin, we did not suffer. The concert was very good, and we enjoyed it greatly. On the way to “The Inn” we ran across the “Hiawatha” a smaller vessel than the “Manhattan,” and a race ensued for first place at the landing. We seemed fairly to fly, and I fancied from the sounds issuing from the engine-room, that the man who shoveled coal had no occasion to shiver. The smaller craft, however, proved the swifter, and we were obliged to pull in behind. Never having lived near the water, I have such a terror of it that I cannot enjoy it as I should. I fairly hold my breath when we are in the row boat, if we go out

where the water is more than knee deep. . . .

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MONDAY. AUG. 1. The boys went “to town” — Spirit Lake — this morning with a neighbor who has a team, (he borrows our row boat, and takes this method of repaying us) thus saving hack-fare. It was necessary to purchase bathing suits for the family. I did not like the idea of a ready made suit for myself, but I could not know whether we were going in time to get a suit made. . . . We took our first plunge this afternoon; it was rather a cool day to initiate ourselves, but the boy was so anxious to go, and as the sun shone warmly, we were soon very comfortable.

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TUES. AUG. 2. By putting cushions on the seats of the rowboat we can stay out a long while without getting tired.

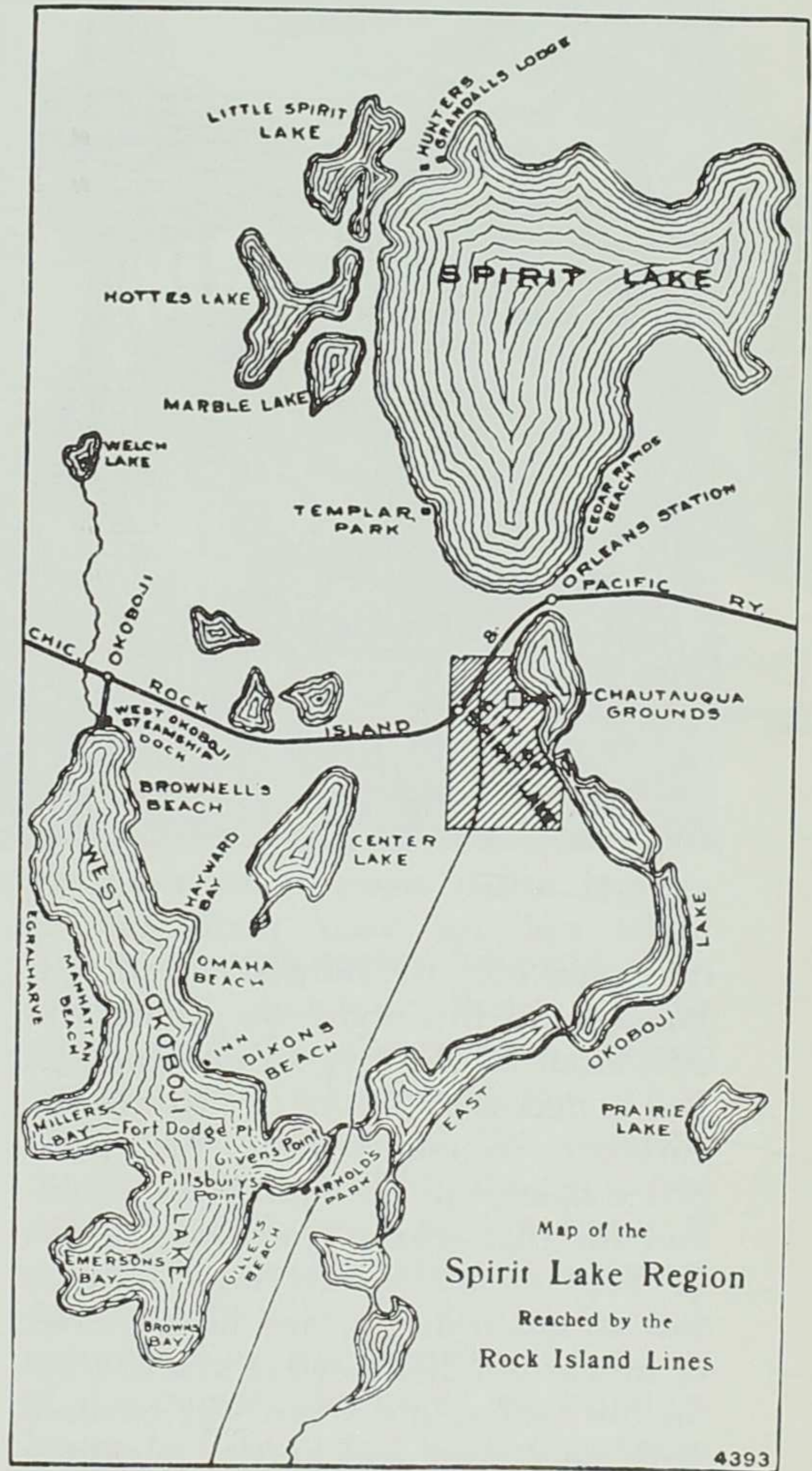
The boy . . . and his papa and Mr.

Straight went trolling for pike, the evening being the best time for that kind of fishing. After about half-an-hour, the Boy surprised them by hauling in his first fish, — a “bull-head.”

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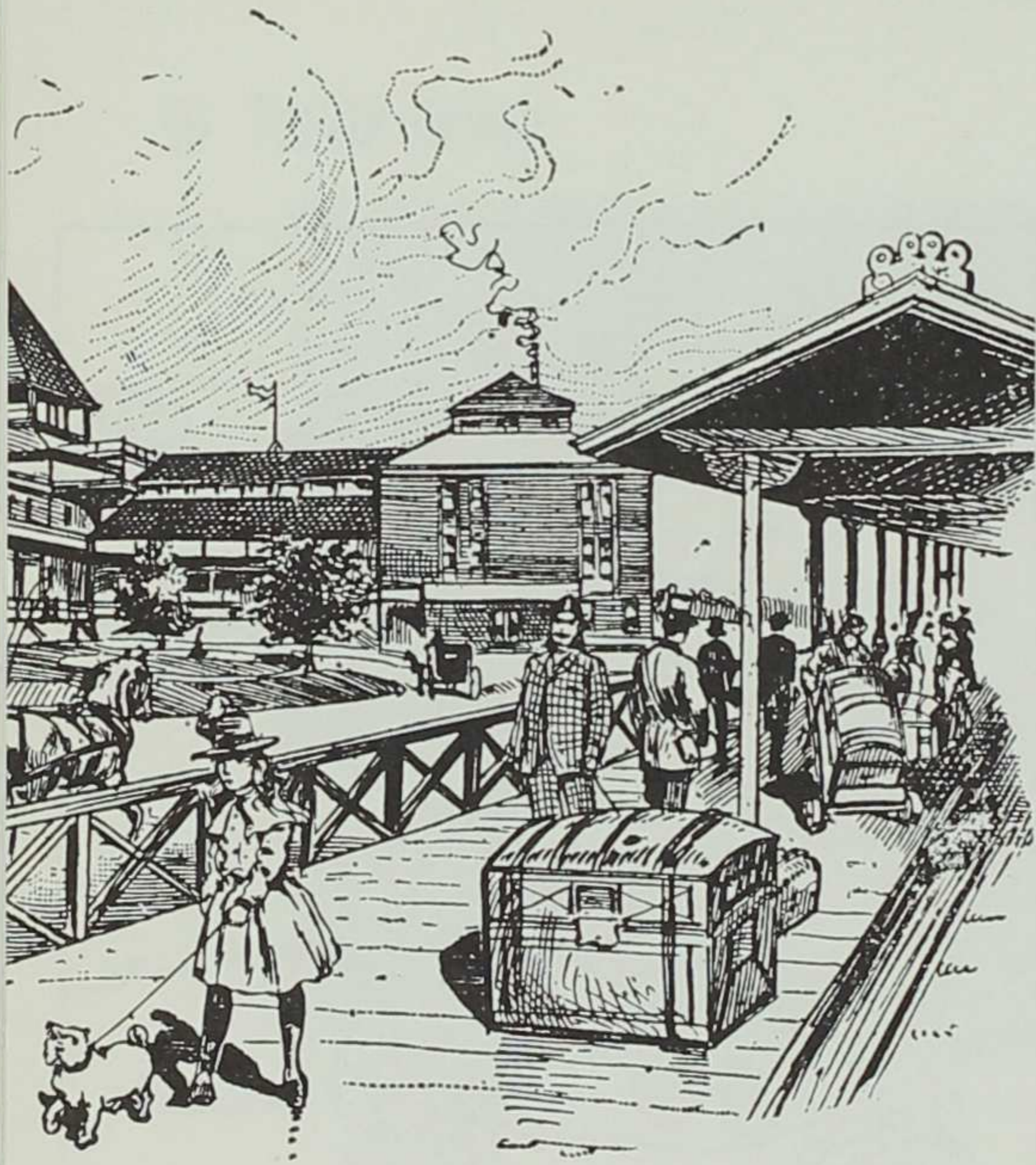
THURS. AUG. 3. The boys went to town again, with Mr. Straight, — for the ride. It rained last night and the roads are probably muddy, but the morning is lovely. The boys were home by dinner-time, after which we rowed down to Omaha Beach, a beautiful place south of us, — perhaps a mile. The cottages at this place are beautiful ones, built by men of means. The beach is narrow here, but the bank, probably fifteen feet high, is sodded down the sides to the beach, and ornamented with flowers. The lawns are nicely kept, and the settlement shows the thrift and neatness of city homes. Omaha is near “The Inn,” only a short distance across the lake from Manhattan Beach Hotel, and not far from Arnold’s Park, — the social centers on the lake.

After our return, C. went fishing while the Boy and I went in bathing; the water was rather cold, so did not stay in long. A party who live in the second cottage from ours, — two men and two girls, go in in all kinds of weather, — and the shrieking and screaming that go on, as well as the other antics in which they indulge, keep Hayward’s Bay entertained in a very lively way. The men throw water on the girls, or throw them down in the water, or do any and everything to make them shriek. Yesterday, after they had been in the



water long enough to give a fish cramps, one of the girls, all wet and soaked as she was, got into a rowboat with one of the men, and went for a row.

We go to the *Post Office* here for everything we want, — even for sour milk, sweet milk (!), cream, ice, sweet-corn and other vegetables and letters! The post-master is a sort of



*One of the busy train platforms at the resort area.
(Mid-Summer Paradise)*

general utility man, — he not only looks out for your mail, but is drayman, etc. He helped C. get our luggage up the night we came, was custodian of the key to our cottage, and is necessary to the comfort of the cottagers in many ways. The post-office is kept in the family residence, and for that reason, perhaps, cannot be kept clean. At any rate, I never saw so much dirt in one house. Piles of unwashed dishes were stacked upon the tables, the stove was covered with pots, pans and kettles, awaiting the ministrations of dish-cloth and water, while the floor was sticky with all kinds of dirt. And the flies! They seemed to be holding a world-convention and not a delegate was absent. The idea of using milk from such surroundings rather staggered me, and I confess to a desire to run away . . . [but] I stated my errand and was supplied with a generous bucket

of good, thick sour milk. There were no flies, either in it nor on it, tho' how they managed to be kept out, was a miracle. The cottage-cheese and griddle-cakes made from it were fine, and as long as we kept out of mind where the milk from which they were made came, we enjoyed them.

MON. AUG. 7. . . . Yesterday was excursion day to Arnold's Park. Mr. Straight and his family went, and on his return he said that it was estimated there were over seven thousand people present at one time. There were thirteen trains, of from ten to thirteen coaches each, standing on the tracks, in addition to all the passengers who arrived on steamers. This serves to show how popular Okoboji is becoming as a resort. Also it shows how the Sabbath is kept, or broken, rather, at such places.

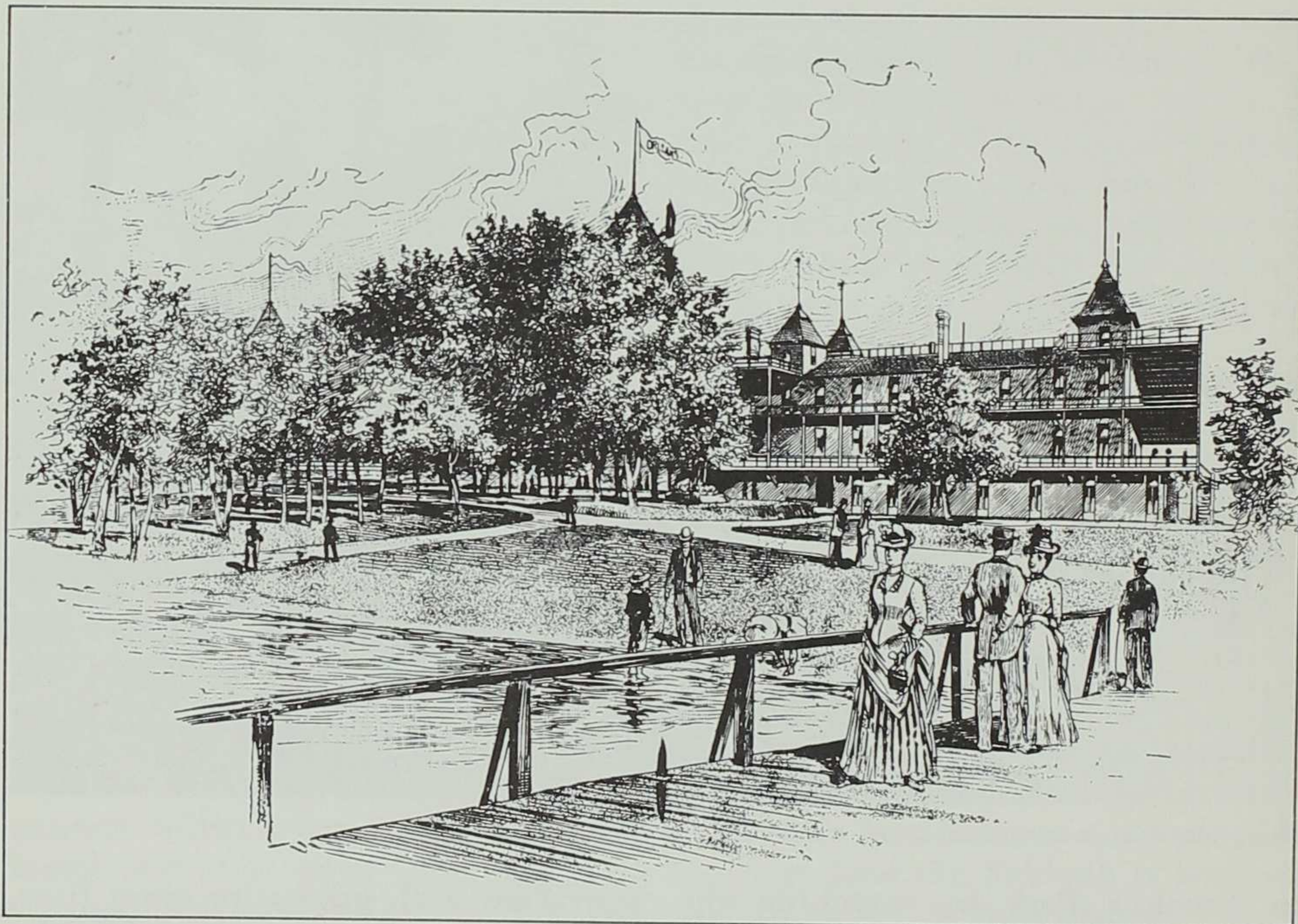
FRI. AUG. 11. Wed. afternoon we planned to spend Thursday in making the trip around the lakes, thru the two Okobojis and Spirit Lake. . . . Thursday morning was bright, clear and cool, with a strong south wind blowing, and the lake very rough. The "Iowa," the steamer on which we were to make the trip, came for us about eight o'clock. We were the only passengers, and as the steamer plowed through the waves, we received all the benefits of a strong lake breeze, and the spray which dashed over the steamer rail. The forward part of the deck was soon covered with water, as was my right sleeve. One might bear considerable discomfort, tho' for the sake of such a ride, and such a breeze in August. The Boy amused himself all the way



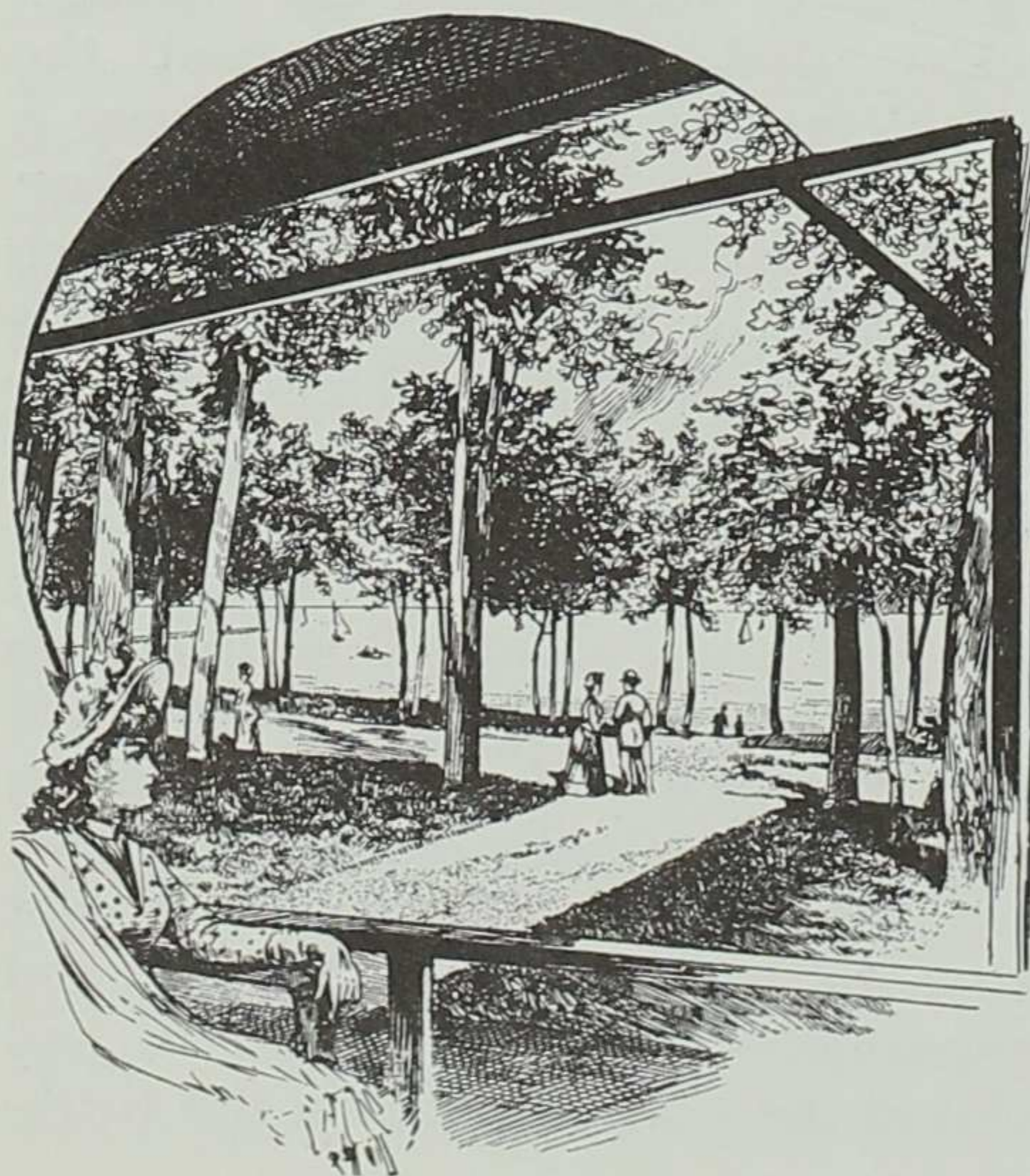
This group— apparently a family — posed for the camera in the late 1890s.

to Arnold's Park by watching the "rainbow in the spray," — it was very distinct. After making the usual stops, we passed through two drawbridges into East Okoboji Lake. We traversed the entire length of this lake. It is not so interesting as West Lake, the water not so clear nor the shore so picturesque. At half-past ten o'clock, after a two hours' ride we landed at the pier of Hotel Orleans. This structure was erected by the B. C. R. & N. Ry. Co. [Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern Railway], in the hope of making it a famous summer resort. It was a fine building, with accommodations for hundreds of guests, requiring a force of one hundred persons to operate it. The furnishings were lavish; the silver for the dining room cost more than a thousand dollars. The rooms were

furnished with grates for open fires, electricity, and everything for the comfort of the guests. The colored waiters were all in caps and white aprons. It seemed to the management, that in order to put the establishment on a paying basis, it would be necessary to sell whiskey. Accordingly it was dealt out in such quantities as would meet the needs of the patron; the hotel immediately began to fill up, and for two or three summers crowds of wealthy guests filled its rooms. The reputation which it soon acquired, of being no better than an ordinary saloon, gave rise to much unfavorable criticism; matters were finally carried to such a point that respectable people did not wish to patronize the Orleans; and eventually the law stepped in and closed the place. Realizing the futi-



The Hotel Orleans, looking placid, graceful, and appealing in a drawing from a B.C.R. & N. Ry. promotional brochure — not at all like the sin center Carrie described.



Note on Sources

Several of Carrie McKinley Carson's diaries, dating from the 1870s through the 1930s, are in the Manuscript Collection of the Division of the State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa. This portion of the 1899 summer diary has been shortened where indicated, and minor punctuation errors have been corrected. Mrs. Carson's diaries also cover lake vacations in later years.

Readers interested in the Iowa Lakes might wish to consult Donovan Hofsommer's *Prairie Oasis* (Des Moines: Waukon & Mississippi Press, 1975).

A view from the veranda of the Orleans. (Mid-Summer Paradise)

ty of attempting to carry on so extensive a business, and one requiring such a large working force, in a part of the country no more widely known than is this section of Iowa, it has been decided by the company to tear it down. The work was commenced a few weeks ago, so that we saw only a portion of the building; enough, however, to realize what a delightful place it must have been, and what happy times somebody might have had there, if only the demon drink could have been kept out.

It was located on a beautiful spot, on the neck of land between Spirit Lake on the north and East Okoboji on the south. A fine terraced lawn extended toward Spirit Lake, on which stood fine trees with rustic seats in their shade. In addition to these, picnic-tables, fountains, etc. A pavilion and boathouse down on the lake shore gave opportunity for bathing and a fine place to rest and watch the lake with its unending beauty. . . .

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THURS. AUG. 17. The lake has been too rough for successful fishing today: consequently, we are without fish for dinner. C. and Boy went out, but the boat rocked so it made them sick. . . . The lake is lovely in any weather. When rough, as it has been today, the waves are rich green, white-crested. On still, cloudy days, the colors are beautiful; one evening lately, one portion of the water was gold while the rest was steel-blue

(after sunset). I have seen it assume all aspects and colors. The romping waves, when they run up on the shore, make me think of a troop of children at play; they seem the embodiment of frolicsomeness.

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MON. AUG. 21. We had hoped, yesterday, to repeat our trip of the Sunday before, — walk to the Inn and return by steamer; but Saturday evening at ten-thirty o'clock a severe electrical storm transpired, lasting for several hours. When we got up yesterday morning we found the lake rougher than we had ever seen it. The white caps were all over the lake, and the waves rushing up on the beach and breaking into foam, made such a noise that it was impossible to make one's self heard, or for a steamer to venture out. It was clear, cool and bright, but too wet to walk. . . .

WED. AUG. 23. Our fun will soon end. We expect to go home tomorrow and leave the fish and frogs in peace for a year. It has been a fine vacation and we have enjoyed it very much. If we could only take the lake home with us! We shall miss it! □

CONTRIBUTORS:

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Neither the Division of the State Historical Society nor the editor assume any responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors.



A group of young Iowans, decked out in patriotic splendor for an Independence Day celebration.

The State Historical Society encourages submission of articles on the history of Iowa and the surrounding region which may be of interest to the general reading public. The originality and significance of an article, as well as the quality of an author's research and writing, will determine acceptance for publication. A brief biographical sketch should be submitted. All manuscripts must be double-spaced on at least medium weight paper. Ordinarily, the text of an article should not exceed twenty-five to thirty pages. As far as possible, citations should be worked into the body of the text. In this and other matters of form THE MLA STYLE SHEET is the standard guide. Black and white and colored illustrations are an integral part of THE PALIMPSEST. Any photographic illustrations should accompany the manuscript, preferably five-by-seven or eight-by-ten glossy prints (unmarked on either side) or color slides. Inquiries and correspondence should be sent to: Editor, State Historical Society, 402 Iowa Ave., Iowa City, Iowa 52240.



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