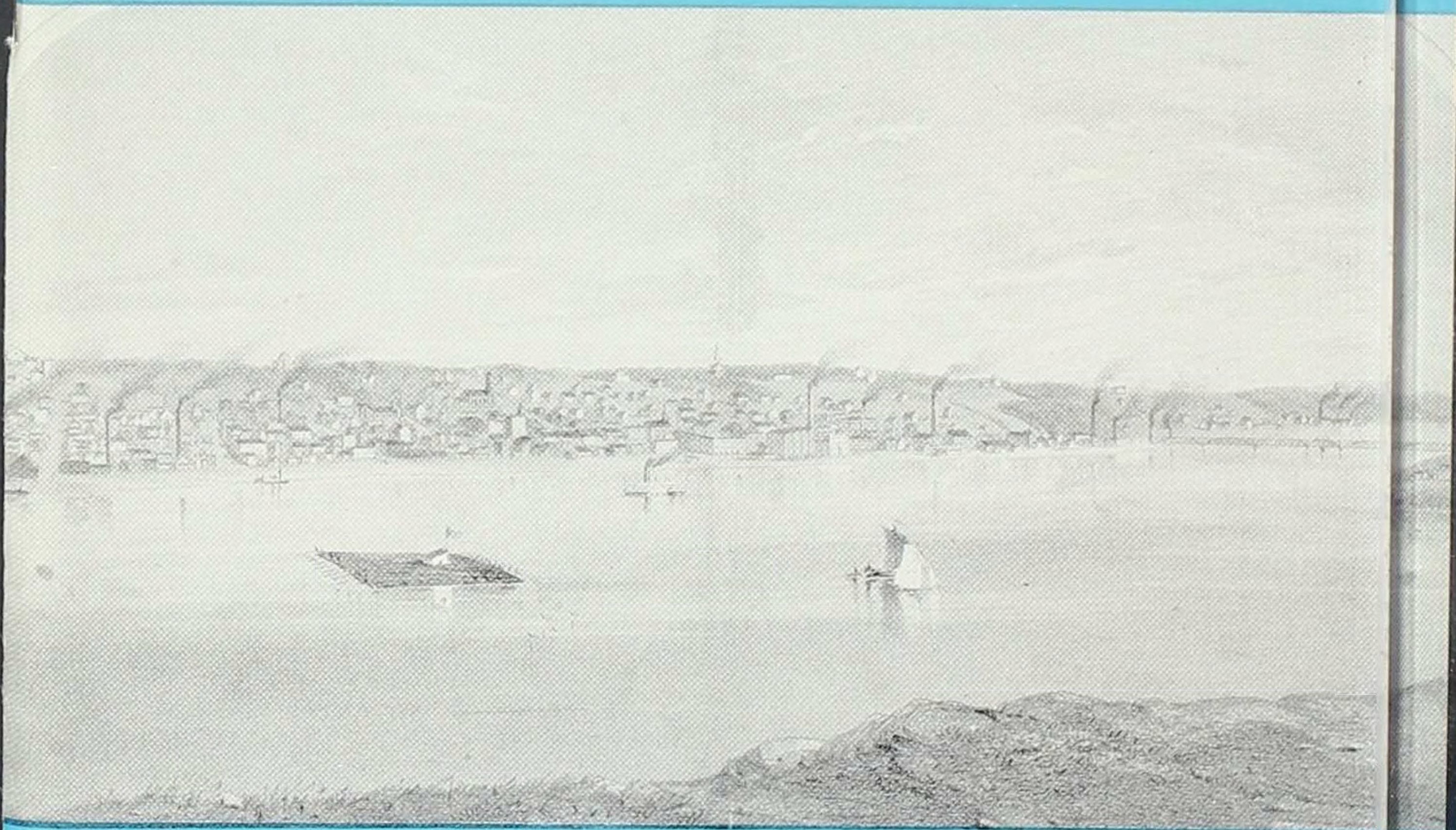


The
PALIMPSEST



View of Davenport in 1858

IOWA IN 1858

Published Monthly by

The State Historical Society of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

DECEMBER, 1958



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 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.

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WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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Illustrations

Illustrations are from various Iowa newspapers and city directories in the possession of the State Historical Society of Iowa. The front cover is from Franc B. Wilkie's *Davenport Past and Present*; the back cover and inside back cover from the *Commercial Advertiser Directory for the City of Dubuque* (1858-59).

Author

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THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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No. 12

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The Press in 1858

Iowa reached the peak of a tremendous population growth in 1858. This growth, coupled with the political turmoil in Iowa and the nation, led to the establishment of a score of frontier newspapers such as the Bloomfield *Democratic Clarion*, the Corning *Sentinel*, the Corydon *South Tier Democrat*, the Bedford *Iowa South-West*, the Simoda *New Idea* (Shelby County), the Onawa *Adventure*, the Harrison County *Flag*, the Sioux City *Register*, the Cerro Gordo *Press*, the Howard County *Sentinel* (New Oregon), the North Iowa *Gazette* (Vernon Springs), and the Butler *Transcript* (Clarksville). In addition, such towns as Dubuque, Davenport, and a sprinkling of smaller villages in eastern and central Iowa acquired one or more papers in 1858.

While over twenty newspapers were added in 1858, fully seventeen fell by the wayside, including some of the above. Moreover, several newspapers that were begun in 1857 were suspended in 1858, among them the Crescent City *Oracle*, Fayette *Journal*, the Muscatine *Zeitung*, and

Ward's Own of Bloomfield. The printing press and type of the *Zeitung* was moved to Keokuk, that of the *Harrison County Flag* from Calhoun to Magnolia, while the *Butler Transcript* press was trundled from Clarksville to Winterset.

There was plenty of evidence of hard times among editors in 1858. Waning emigration, the withering effect of the Panic of 1857, and a disastrous crop failure caused subscribers and advertisers alike to overlook their debts to newspapers. The need for local assistance was emphasized by all editors. On December 28, 1858, the Bloomfield *Democratic Clarion* noted:

Recollect, if a home weekly paper is to be supported, home influence is to do it. Every dollar sent to Eastern papers is at the expense of the local papers. The county acquires prominence through its paper more than any other way, and to every one who has county interests at stake, his home paper is a necessity. Never will such a man take a paper printed away from home until he is able to take a second paper.

That casualties were common is attested by the editor of the Webster City *Hamilton Freeman* of November 12, 1858:

We very much regret to learn that the St. Charles Intelligencer and Boonsboro Democrat have succumbed under the pressure of the times, and gone under. Indeed, we had the blues all day in consequence of this information. The coming winter will be a very hard one for the country press of this state, and we believe at least a score or more papers will be suspended before Spring. Those

that weather the storm, will only do so by the most rigid economy. We regret to part company with our esteemed contemporaries, and hope they will "turn up" ere long under more favorable auspices. Dennison, of the Democrat, is one of the best fellows in the world, but an awful loco-foco — one who gives and takes sledge-hammer blows, and meets his political enemies in the best humor.

In another column of the same issue the Webster City editor warned subscribers of the *Hamilton Freeman*:

We hope that those of our friends whose subscriptions are unpaid, will bear in mind the fact that it is with the utmost difficulty that a newspaper can be kept up in these hard times. Papers, with seemingly fairer prospects than ours, are being discontinued in all parts of the State; but we mean to go through, or "spile a-trying." But we base this intention upon the hope that our friends will stand by us in the effort. Every man, without exception, therefore, who owes us on subscription is earnestly requested to pay up. As Shakespeare pathetically remarks — "Help, Cash-us, or we sink!"

In addition to delinquent subscribers and advertisers, the difficulty of securing newsprint proved a costly problem to editors located in central Iowa. On October 14, the editor of the *Mitchell County Republican* apologized for reducing his paper to a half sheet, blaming his extra duties at the county fair and at the election for it. On December 12, 1858, the same editor declared:

There will be no paper issued from this office next week. We did hope, when we issued half sheet last week, that we should not be thrown back again, but we have been

unavoidably, and "lay over" with the hope of being able to issue regularly hereafter, during the winter.

The editor complained that he had been unable to get his newsprint from McGregor, where it had arrived by railroad expressman. In 1857 he had paid \$20 to bring his newsprint from McGregor but he could not afford to do so this time. On January 20, 1859, when publication finally was renewed, he explained something of the cost of printing.

The Paper upon which the Republican is now printed cost us here, \$7.25 per bundle. We purchased it of Bradner, Smith & Co., wholesale paper dealers, No. 12 LaSalle st., Chicago, Ill., at \$6 per bundle; freight to McGregor, and thence here, \$1.25 per bundle. The rates are the same for two or ten bundles. This we find to be much cheaper than to pay \$7.00 at Beloit, or \$8.50 at McGregor, or \$9.00 at Decorah. The paper speaks of its own quality.

As long as a newspaper was not a competitor the average Iowa editor was friendly. Thus, the Ottumwa *Courier* chronicled the sale of Bloomfield's *Ward's Own* to H. B. Horn, who promptly renamed it the *Davis County Index*. The *Courier* editor described *Ward's Own* as "one of the most spicy little papers in the State" and wished Mr. Horn every success with his new *Index*. The Dubuque *Times* wished "many days and great success" to the *Index* and congratulated Mr. Horn on having the "good sense" to change the paper's name.

Not so friendly was the *Mitchell County Re-*

publican toward a nearby Osage editor whose paper joined the steady procession of publications that fell by the wayside.

The [North] Iowan came to us last week minus one of its original proprietors, and "shorn" of one column. This week its editor gives us his valedictory; thus after a brief and inglorious career he retires — he has speedily "run out." During his brief editorial career he has been "shown the door" in a state convention; organized another upon the sandy foundation of the Lecompton Swindle, been its champion till its putrid carcass was a stench in his nostrils, been kicked and cuffed about by the Douglasites, and finally sold out to them.

By his choice billingsgate and falsehoods he has won the contempt of the editorial fraternity, and soon departs to regions unknown to mend his broken fame and fortune.

The bitter exchange between rival political factions knew no bounds in 1858. Casting a malevolent look in the direction of the *Chariton Mail*, the *Des Moines Iowa Weekly Citizen* of January 27 sneeringly remarked:

This ferocious, diminutive, underdeveloped upstart, in attempting to make the Republican party responsible for the disunion convention, held some months since in Cleveland, thus relieves itself: "and we still assert that they are responsible, and what is more, we assert that *that convention was upheld by every republican paper in the State, the Citizen not excepted.*" . . . If outright falsehood do injury to him only who manufactures and circulates them, how much injury is inflicted upon the moon by the nocturnal yelping of a misshapen quadruped, of the canine species, in Lucas county.

Doubtless the very uncertainties of their profession caused Iowa editors to commence holding annual conventions — that of 1858 being held in Cedar Falls. The need for relatively uniform subscription, advertising, and printing rates, and the wages due printers and typesetters would naturally receive considerable attention. Since the clarion voice of the editor was the most articulate on the frontier it is not surprising that the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, early American printer, should be observed with parades and speeches in several Iowa communities.

A veritable thorn in the side of most editors was the efforts of county officers to cut down the cost of printing and advertising for county government in order to make an impressive economy record for the voters. This was followed even though the printer received nothing for his labors. According to the Dubuque *Express and Herald*:

A paper in a county does more to give it character abroad, to attract immigration; to increase the basis of taxation, and to protect the public interests than the efforts of any hundred of the citizens of the county. . . . County officers do not reflect upon the value of the county press; nor are they informed as to the expense of publishing a Newspaper, or they would never refuse to pay remuneration prices for county work. . . . If the subject was properly understood, county officers would agree with us in saying that *a county had better support a Good Newspaper by a direct appropriation* than to be without one, and they would not only pay regular prices for work but refuse to take a reduction.

Newspapers provide the best single source of information on life in Iowa in 1858. Local advertisements, the business cards of professional men, train schedules, steamboat arrivals and departures, stagecoach and hotel news items and advertisements, land sales, blacksmiths, livery stables, wagon manufacturers, gunsmiths, barbers, bakers, candlemakers, brewers and brickyards, schools, academies, and female seminaries, confectioners, ice cream parlors, nurseries, and bookstores, these are but a few of the scores of items that shed light on activities in the Hawkeye State a century ago.

The printing press, which rolled out newspapers, city di-

rectories, emigrant guides, medical reports, state documents, and fraternal and religious books and pamphlets, formed a busy section of community life.

The press in 1858 was responsible for several books and over sixty known imprints or pamphlets.

E. BAILEY,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
CONFECTIONER.
BRADY STREET,
West Side, between Third and Fourth,
DAVENPORT, IOWA.

Oranges, Lemons, Almonds, Filberts, Oysters, Ice
Cream, Brazil Nuts, Cocoa Nuts, Pecan Nuts,
Pea Nuts, Walnuts, Etc.

ALWAYS ON HAND AND FRESH IN SEASON.

J. METZGER'S
UNION BAKERY,
No. 18 EAST SECOND STREET,
NORTH SIDE BET. BRADY AND PERRY,
DAVENPORT, IOWA.

MANUFACTURER OF ALL KINDS OF
CRACKERS, PIES, CAKES & BREAD,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Butter, Soda, Water, Boston, Sugar and Pie Nic
Crackers, Pilot Bread, Cracknel Biscuit,
Pies, Cakes and Bread.

Orders executed with Dispatch, and delivered to Depots and
Steamboats and all parts of the City free of Charge.

4A*

Franc B. Wilkie's *Davenport Past and Present*, printed by Luse, Lane & Co. of Davenport, was probably the most ambitious volume. It was handsomely illustrated with lithographs made in New York City and contained 333 pages. Not so ambitious was *A Brief Description of Fort Dodge,*

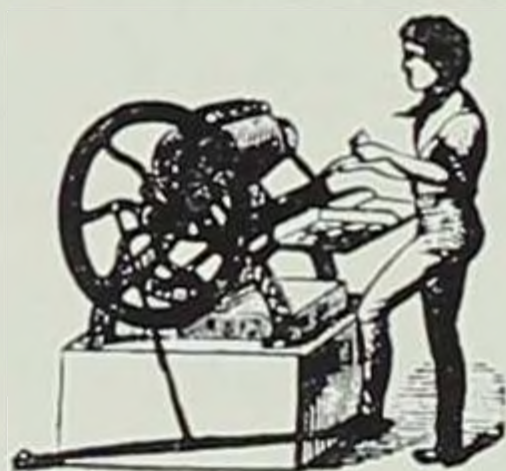
Iowa: Its Agricultural, Mineral, and Commercial Facilities and Character which was printed by A. S. White at the Sentinel Book & Job Printing Office in Fort Dodge. Lyons, Iowa, published a similar pamphlet.

IOWA STATE DEMOCRAT
STEAM PRESS PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT

POST OFFICE

BUILDING,

BRADY ST.,



DAVENPORT,

IOWA.

The *State Democrat* is one of the best Advertising Mediums in the West, having a large and rapidly increasing circulation.

PUBLISHED DAILY & WEEKLY

Daily, \$6; Weekly, \$2, per annum.

JOB PRINTING

Of every description executed with Neatness and Dispatch:

D. M. RICHARDSON, }
GEO. B. WEST. }

RICHARDSON & WEST, Prop'rs.

D.T.

Equally valuable were the ambitious city directories issued in such flourishing towns as Davenport, Dubuque, and Keokuk. These not

only listed all the citizens but included a classified section containing many unusual plates on the various industries and professions. The Dubuque Emigrant Association was particularly ambitious: witness its 52-page *First Catalogue of Land For Sale by the Dubuque Emigrant Association* and its two editions of *Northern Iowa*.

In 1958 Iowans find the "Committee of One Hundred" prepared to solve their problems on such subjects as agriculture and industry, educa-

tion, taxation, and reapportionment. A century ago a lone citizen who signed himself "Iowa" courageously offered his solution to similar problems in the Davenport *Weekly Gazette* of January 14:

There is one thing that Davenport must do, to retain its great vitality and healthy growth; she must adopt every species of manufacturing that lays within her grasp; for every new manufacturing establishment located here gives character and permanency to the place. Persons who own real estate certainly depend upon the growth of the city to find sale for their realty. . . . With all her natural advantages, will the property holders stand and see manufacturing interests languish and die? If such a thing is tolerated, not many years hence, many of your platted city lots will be potato fields. If any man in the city, who owns real estate, would make out an annual statement of his wealth, and tax himself 5 per cent and invest the same in some kind of a manufacturing establishment here, the real property would enhance in value more than 20 per cent annually; and still realize a handsome profit out of his manufacturing investment.

In 1858 there was no Ezra Taft Benson but, despite a calamitous crop failure due to wet weather, the Davenport *Weekly Gazette* of April 29 had a solution for disheartened farmers:

Editors, who for so many years have been advising everybody to go to farming, must endeavor to find some other business for the unemployed, as the world . . . now that a general peace seems to have possessed it, is overstocked with provisions. Hard times caused by too much to eat! . . .

Instead of a war to make prices of produce higher and times better, let us encourage home production and convert our iron ore into rails instead of depending upon England, and manufacture within ourselves all of the gewgaws to which we are indebted to France. Our manufactories are idle and our importations do not increase. Until a change is effected in our policy, times will continue hard and men find life a continuous struggle. Society is badly constituted when men have to look for their own prosperity to war among other nations. In proportion as a country is self-reliant is it independent. The same may be said of a city with respect to other cities. . . . Every manufactory established in Davenport contributes to make our city self-reliant and consequently independent.

With Iowa newspapers serving as a barometer, it would seem that Iowa prosperity, then and now, was influenced by wars, the weather, and economic recessions.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Doctors, Drugs, Dentists

Despite the claim that Iowa was one of the healthiest states in the Union, the medical profession was well represented in Iowa. Most of these doctors were well compensated for their services. Some, however, found it difficult to make a living, and at least one Shell Rock physician committed suicide by taking morphine rather than face another hard year in 1858. At any rate, this twenty-four-year-old doctor is said to have departed this world because of "pecuniary embarrassment," a cause that was not entirely without precedent on the American frontier any more than it was on the more thinly settled Iowa agricultural frontier a century ago.

Ten county medical societies had been established before 1858, and the Keokuk County Medical Association was organized that year. The Iowa State Medical Society, which had been founded in 1850, held its ninth annual meeting in Mount Pleasant on June 9, 10, 1858. Because of incessant rains and swollen streams a scant score were present when President Thomas Siveter of Salem called the meeting to order. Dr. D. L. McGugin of Keokuk gave the evening address in the Universalist Church, describing medicine as an

“inspired science” and severely castigating all quacks. Governor Ralph P. Lowe was the honored guest at a “sumptuous repast at the Brazelton House.”

CONSTITUTION,
 BY-LAWS
 AND
 CODE OF ETHICS
 OF THE
Iowa State Medical Society,
 TOGETHER WITH THE
 TRANSACTIONS
 OF THE
 EIGHTH AND NINTH ANNUAL MEETINGS,
 HELD AT
 IOWA CITY AND MOUNT PLEASANT,
 1857—1858.

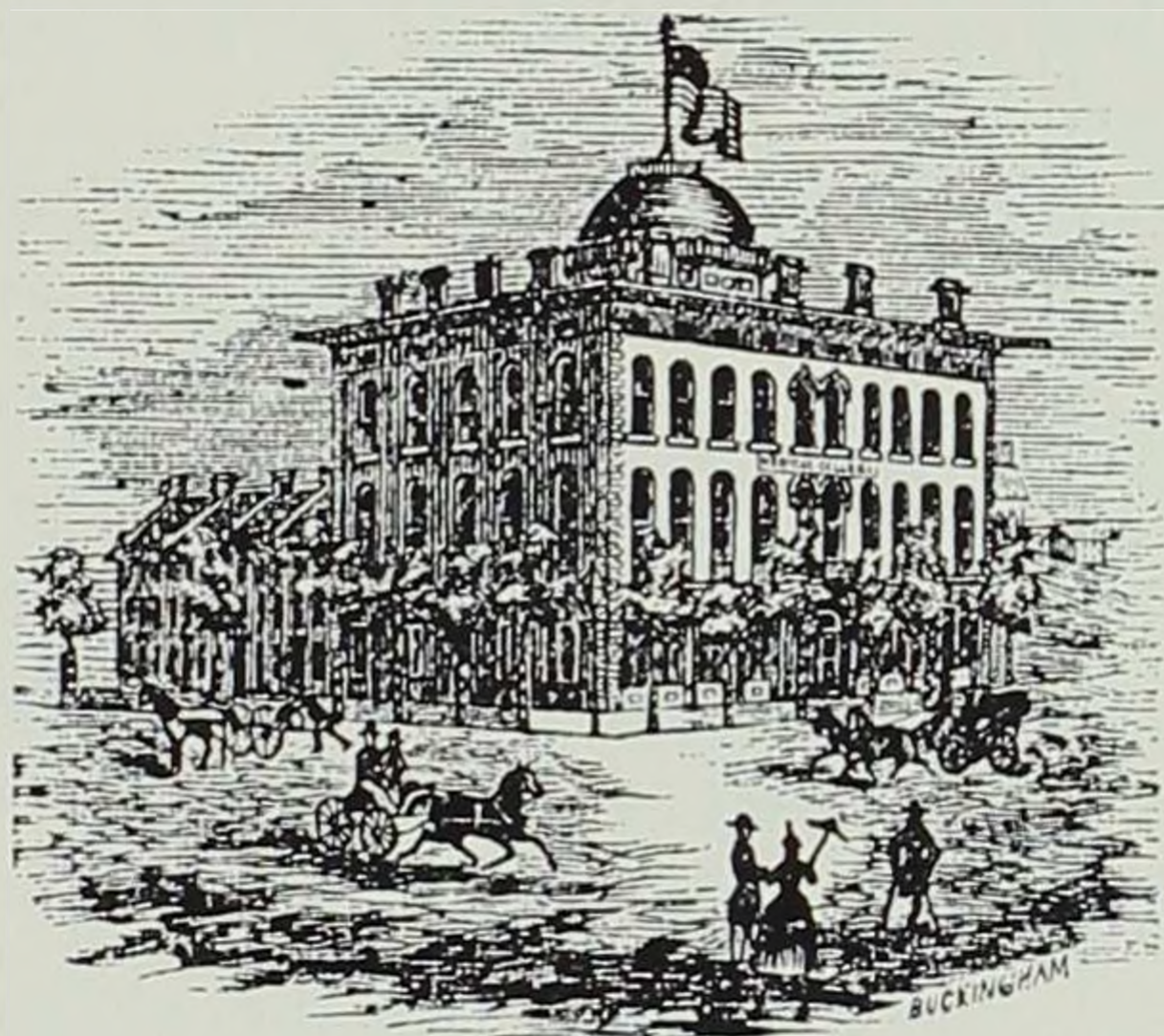
DAVENPORT:
 PUBLISHING HOUSE OF LUSE, LANE & CO.
 1858.

During the summer of 1850 the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Upper Mississippi had been moved from Davenport to Keokuk, where it became the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, the Medical Department of the State University of Iowa. In October, 1858, a new medical building, constructed through a loan of \$15,000 from state funds, was dedicated. It was located at Seventh and Blondeau streets.

Between 1840 and 1860 fully fifty medical schools were established in the United States, mostly in such states as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa. The Iowa State Medical Society had been established “for the purpose of harmonizing the profession of medicine, and of promoting its usefulness and respectability.” Better

trained doctors and improved medical schools were two objectives of the state society.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.



Located in the city of KEOKUK, IOWA.

The annual sessions of this Institution is open about the last of October or first of November in each year, and continues in session four months. Six Lectures daily. The cost to the student is less than at any other regular Institution in the country.

HUGHES' MEDICAL AND SURGICAL INFIRMARY AND EYE AND EAR INSTITUTE.

This INSTITUTION is open AT ALL SEASONS for the reception of Patients—a competent Steward and Matron in charge. Boarding, Lodging and Ordinary Attendance, \$6.00 to \$8.00 per week. Reasonable charges for Medical Attention or Surgical Operations.

A study of newspaper advertisements in 1858 reveals a tremendous competition between doctors, skilled and unskilled, legitimate and quack. Many of these early doctors placed more than a simple business card in their newspaper advertisements. Thus, Dr. George W. Scott, a graduate of the Physio Medical College of Ohio, informed readers of the *Dubuque Express and Herald* on Jan-

uary 1, 1858, that he was "opposed to the use of Calomel, Opium, Antomny, Blistering and kindred agencies." He offered his service as "physician, surgeon, and Accoucheur" in his office and residence at 6th and Iowa streets where he had "Pure Botanic medicines" for sale.

Doctor J. C. Lay, who practiced medicine and surgery in Dubuque, had been a student of Dr. Valentine Mott, a graduate of the University Medical College in New York, and subsequently a "Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, England." Before coming to Dubuque, Dr. Lay had practiced two years in Buffalo, New York.

Another Dubuque physician, Dr. Baker, boasted he was a "Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of London and a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries." Such impressive cards, when supported by the names of as many as a dozen prominent citizens who were still living after the doctors had "practiced" on them, no doubt attracted many ailing patients to a doctor's office.

In addition to being called upon for the usual ailments common to man — coughs, colds, consumption, fever and ague, malaria, the prairie itch, and the diseases women and children fell heir to, frontier practitioners were confronted with a host of emergency ailments and operations.

Thus, late in the fall of 1858 several men entered a Webster City store to make some purchases. They were returning from Nebraska to

their homes in Fayette County. Suddenly one man clutched his breast, gasped, and fell to the floor dead. Physicians were called who pronounced him the victim of "rupture of the heart." The deceased man left a wife and five children. "God help and protect his stricken wife and helpless babes!" exclaimed the editor of the *Hamilton Freeman* fervently.

On the same day, October 1, 1858, this same editor chronicled another tragedy:

A few days since a family consisting of a husband, wife and two small children arrived here on their return from the western part of the state, to their old home near the Mississippi. For several days previous one of the children had been gradually declining, but they believed the journey would not prove injurious, and they were pushing along as rapidly as their circumstances would admit. But after arriving here, the child grew worse and in a few hours expired in their emigrant wagon, in the grove on the east side of the town. The family had been unfortunate, another child had died but a short time since, and no crops had rewarded their labors this season, and their means were well nigh exhausted. Their experiences of the west have indeed been of the most gloomy character.

During the summer of 1858 the Maquoketa *Excelsior* told the story of a twelve-year-old lad who was bitten by a rattlesnake while gathering blackberries. He felt the "shock" of the rattler's stroke through his entire body. Despite every effort of doctor and parents the lad died in "great pain." The *Excelsior* cautioned parents not to allow their

in contact with the saw while in motion, on Tuesday last, and had one arm severed from his body and was also severely cut in other portions of the body. His recovery is doubtful."

The Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* recorded the following "singular" threshing accident on January 9, 1858:

The Muscatine *Journal* says that a Mr. Curtis, residing near that city, was shockingly injured by the explosion of a cylinder of a threshing machine. His skull was fractured at the forehead, and his face horribly mutilated. Dr. John B. Coover, of this city, rendered all the surgical aid possible in the case, but the unfortunate man died on Sunday night. We learn that the accident was occasioned by running the machine too fast without feeding it. The cylinder burst into a thousand atoms.

Considering their lack of experience, the operating instruments available, and their ignorance of antiseptics, doctors sometimes effected near miracles. On June 12, 1858, the *Sioux City Eagle* declared:

Drs. Hunt and Saville, of this, removed the right leg of a girl aged about thirteen years, living near St. Johns, Nebraska, a few days since. The limb had been diseased for many months with White Swelling, and threatened to cause death. The limb was taken off about three inches above the knee, and the patient is now convalescing.

Doctors themselves sometimes fell ill, as the following from the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* of January 9, 1858, readily attests:

Dr. W. C. Grimes, has removed his office from Upper

Broadway, to Second door west of the Post office, upstairs. The Dr. has been ill for some time past, but is now again "upon his pegs," and prepared to attend to professional calls.

DRUGGISTS

Doctors could probably blame the good health of pioneer Iowans on the amazing patent medicines advertised in newspapers. Some of these medicines claimed to cure all human ailments. Thus, *Ayer's Cathartic Pills* were good for costiveness, Dyspepsia, Sour Stomach, Nervousness, Sick Head Aches, Nausea, Rheumatism, Gout, Inflammatory Fevers, Scrofula, Erysipelas, Liver Complaint, Jaundice, and Bilious Affections. As a "dinner pill" these wonder drugs were "both agreeable and useful" in purifying the blood.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral advertised itself as good for the rapid cure of coughs, colds, hoarseness, bronchitis, whooping cough, croup, asthma, and incipient consumption. The same firm's *Compound Extract of Sarsaparilla* was the most effective remedy for Scrofula, or King's Evil and in addition cured such diseases as "Eruptive and Skin Diseases, St. Anthony's Fire, Rose, or Erysipelas, Pimples, Postules, Blotches, Blains and Boils, Tumors, Tetter and Salt Rheum, Scald Head, Ringworm, Rheumatism, Syphilitic and Mercurial diseases, Dropsy, Dyspepsia, Debility, and, indeed, All Complaints Arising From Vitiated or Impure Blood."

If Ayer's pills did not effect a cure, *Herrick's Sugar Coated Pills* and *Kid Strengthening Plasters* were sure to "Let the Sick Rejoice." *Doctor Morse's Indian Root Pills* were equally miraculous as was *Osgood's India Cholagogue*, *Hos-tetter's Bitters*, or *Dr. Foord's Pectoral Syrup*, and *Sanford's Liver Invigorator*.

DUBUQUE ADVERTISEMENTS.

201

JOHN P. QUIGLEY,

Wholesale & Retail Dealer in

DRUGS AND



MEDICINES.

Paints, Oils, Glass, Dye Stuffs, &c.

56 MAIN STREET, DUBUQUE, IOWA.



GLENN has on hand the largest and best selected stock of Drugs, Medicines, Paint, Oil, &c., ever brought west of the Mississippi river, and knows how to put them up *just right*, and *no mistake*! He is receiving a large stock of sugar, molasses, coffee, soda, tobacco, cigars, &c.;

and in fact everything usually kept in a first class Drug Store. Also, a fine assortment of Jewelry, which he is selling **AT COST.** July 24, 1858—10

Some of these patent medicines were strongly recommended by medics. Dr. A. G. Doom of Bloomfield, in speaking of Dr. Hall's *Balsam for the Lungs*, declared in the *Democratic Clarion* of December 29th:

I have been practising medicine upward of twenty years in Iowa, and the climate is very productive of coughs, colds, and bronchial affections of the lungs, in connection with bilious derangement. I have sought for a remedy, but have often failed in my investigations. Now, by prescribing Dr. Hall's Balsam, I can exclaim Eureka (I have found it). I unhesitatingly say it is the best medicine ever introduced.

For sale by Sloan & Gibbons, J. B. Glenn, Bloomfield; I. J. Earhard, Troy; Drake & Sons, Drakeville.

Not all doctors were so complimentary of patent medicines. Thus, *Old Sands of Life*, one of the most widely advertised patent medicines, had been compounded by an unsuccessful newspaper man who subsequently built up a fortune approaching \$100,000 on "Old Sands." Dr. Hall, of the *Journal of Health*, analyzed the drug and was quoted as follows in the *Davenport Gazette* of May 21:

"Old Sands of life" charges two dollars, when made from the very purest and most expensive materials used, costs exactly sixteen cents, bottle and all. And he further charges, as do many others, that it is a deleterious article at best. The following, from the *Gleaner*, is a very severe rap: "Messrs. Editors: — Permit me, through your columns, to bear testimony to a valuable medicine. My great aunt has been striving to reach heaven for twenty years. Having a cough, she finally fell into the hands of the 'retired clergyman,' whose 'sands of life have nearly run out.'

She purchased a bottle of the *Cannabis Indica*, from which she gained strength, judging from the violence of her cough. On taking the second bottle her strength so increased, that she was able to cough all day and night without interruption. The third bottle landed her in heaven. Thus in a brief space of time, the fond hopes and anticipations of more than a quarter of a century are realized for the sum of seven dollars, twelve and a half cents. To those persons who are desirous of changing worlds, changing husbands and wives, this medicine is confidently recommended."

DENTISTS

The dental profession was well-represented, particularly in the larger Iowa towns. Dr. R. S. Barber and Dr. M. W. Hicks were listed in the Keokuk *Business Directory* for 1857. Dubuque listed the following six dentists in the 1858 *City Directory*: V. J. David, Charles J. Ford, C. Poor, J. P. Porter, Henry Smith, and T. A. Spottswood. In Davenport, Dr. R. D. Myers carried an advertisement noting his change of address from Forrest's Block to Third and Perry. Dr. Julius Chesebrough advertised himself as a "Dental Surgeon" who had been trained in "Mechanical and Operative" dentistry in all its branches. Few men carried a larger advertisement than that of Dr. James Morros in the Davenport *Daily Gazette* of May 27, 1858:

JAMES MORROS,
SURGEON & MECHANICAL DENTIST — Offers his services as such to his friends and the public in general, believing that he can and will give entire satisfaction in all work done in the Dental line. He has been engaged in Dr. Goodrich's office for the last fifteen months, and believing



JULIUS CHESEBROUGH,



Dental Surgeon!

DAVENPORT, IOWA.

Office 83 Perry St., over the Davenport Gas Co.'s, in Merwin's Block.

DR. CHESEBROUGH will endeavor to maintain the reputation which he had at the East, for superior workmanship in the manufacture of the most approved styles of PORCELAIN TEETH. He invites the most critical examination.

Particular attention given to all DENTAL OPERATIONS, which are registered and warranted.

He would respectfully solicit favors from those needing such service, and takes pleasure in referring, by permission, to

Dr. Barrows,	Chas. Powers, Esq.,	Jos. Lambrite, Esq.,	D. S. True, Esq.
" Baker,	B. B. Woodward, "	A. F. Mast, "	Jno N. Rogers, Esq.
" Witherwax,	Rev. J. D. Mason,	H. Y. Slaymaker, "	W. A. Remington, "
A. W. Bailey, Esq.,	" D. T. Packard,	P. Merwin, "	G. W. Smith, "
A. H. Barrow, "	" G. F. Magoun,	Hon. J. M. Cannon,	W. H. F. Gurley, "
	Messrs. Cook & Sargent,	J. M. D. Burrows, Esq	

that he has sustained his former reputation as a Dentist, he asks for a portion of the patronage of his friends and the public. His acquirements in the knowledge of Dentistry, and arrangements in his office and laboratory are such that he is prepared to do any work in the Dental line. His mode of work is different from all others in this section of the country, being more cleanly and durable, and worn with more comfort and satisfaction to the wearer. He will put in artificial indentures from one to an entire set, and do all other work appertaining to Dentistry.

Office and residence connected, on Fourth street, second House West of Main, adjoining Dr. Fountain's residence. Any number of references given if required.

Further out on the frontier, in the less populous towns, dentists who could not find enough work in their home town apparently traveled to other smaller communities as did circuit riding preachers. On August 27, 1858, the Webster City *Hamilton Freeman* carried the following notice of a Des Moines dentist.

Some time during the month of August, I shall visit Webster City for the purpose of attending to my business in the line of my profession. Every kind of Dental Operations performed, and warranted to give satisfaction.

S. C. BROWNELL,

Des Moines, July 1, 1858.

Surgeon Dentist.

Sometimes complaints were raised over the exorbitant professional fees charged by dentists. The *Mitchell County Republican* contains the following item which may or may not have occurred in Iowa.

"Well, Doctor," said a chap, suffering with the tooth-

ache, "how much do you ax for the job? Guy! but you did it quick though!" "My terms," replied the dentist, "are one dollar." "A dollar for one minute's work! One dollar — thunder! Why, a doctor down t'our place drewed a tooth for me two years ago, and it took him two hours. He dragged me all around the room, and lost his grip half a dozen times. I never seed such hard work — and he charged me only twenty-five cents. A dollar for a minute's work! O, git out! you must be jokin!"

A number of notable deaths occurred during 1858. Nationally, one might record the departure of Dred Scott, who had squatted on Dr. John Emerson's claim in Scott County during the 1830's while his owner was stationed at Fort Armstrong. Dr. Isaac Galland, who pioneered in the Half-Breed Tract in Lee County, also died in 1858. Bishop Mathias Loras, the first Roman Catholic Bishop of the Territory of Iowa and a resident of Dubuque since his arrival in 1839, died from a "stroke of paralysis, with which he was struck down some months ago, and from the effects of which he never recovered." Dred Scott, Isaac Galland, and Mathias Loras, each in his own particular way, made unusual contributions to the history of Iowa.

Doctors, druggists, dentists, these professional men had assumed an ever-increasing role in Iowa by 1858. Doctors particularly were already becoming a more professional group and were gaining recognition beyond the borders of Iowa. The Davenport *Weekly Gazette* of February 25, 1858,

was proud to point out that Dr. J. H. Rauch of Burlington had become a visiting professor on the Rush Medical College staff in Chicago. And a Des Moines editor called the attention of readers of the *Iowa Weekly Citizen* to the fact that Dr. J. C. Hughes of the College of Physicians and Surgeons had for the third time operated successfully "for the removal of stone from the bladder" of a seventy-year-old patient. The distinguished professor of surgery of the Medical Department of the University of Iowa at Keokuk had removed "four calculi" in the third operation. Few cases were on record where patients this old had undergone three successful operations. Truly, Iowa was forging ahead in the professions.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

From Steamboat To Iron Horse

Iowa was in the throes of a revolution in transportation and communication in 1858. Prior to the Civil War the Mississippi was still the main highway for freight and passenger service between Iowa and such towns as St. Louis, New Orleans, Louisville, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh. The completion of the telegraph to the Mississippi in 1848 and the laying of the Atlantic Cable in 1858 were epochal feats in the annihilation of time and space. And nowhere in the world was the conquest of space taking place more rapidly than in the American Middle West.

Steamboating was in its heyday between 1855 and 1860. There were more steamboat arrivals at various Mississippi ports during these years than in any other period. Furthermore, most of these boats were larger and faster packets than had plied the Upper Mississippi in earlier times. Increasing steam traffic on both the Des Moines and the Missouri was recorded. Enterprising citizens of Des Moines were actually building a steamboat in 1858 that would run from Des Moines to Fort Dodge the following year.

The heaviest traffic, of course, was along the Upper Mississippi where navigation opened early

in 1858. On March 16 the *Dubuque Daily Express and Herald* recorded the arrival of the *Alhambra* as the first boat of the season. The *Grey Eagle*, commanded by Daniel Smith Harris, was the first boat to reach St. Paul, setting a record when she churned into that port on March 25.

Some idea of the tremendous steamboat traffic along the eastern border of Iowa can be gained from the number of boats docking at various Iowa ports. In the two weeks following the arrival of the *Alhambra* at the Key City, the Dubuque editor recorded the *Audubon*, the *Badger State*, the *Brazil*, the *Chippewa*, the *Envoy*, the *Eolian*, the *Excelsior*, the *Fanny Harris*, the *Fire Canoe*, the *Flora*, the *G. H. Wilson*, the *Granite State*, the *Grey Eagle*, the *Henry Clay*, the *Itasca*, the *Kate Cassel*, the *Key City*, the *Lake City*, the *Metropolitan*, the *Milwaukee*, the *Oakland*, and the *War Eagle*. In addition to these twenty-two craft, the *Belfast*, *Dew Drop*, *James Lyon*, *Laclede*, and *Lucy May* were advertised as on their way up from St. Louis.

These boats carried an immense amount of freight both upstream and downstream. Two thousand pigs of lead and eighty barrels of flour formed a part of the *Alhambra's* cargo downstream from Dubuque. Under the caption "A Good Sign!" the *Express and Herald* of March 17 declared:

Our levee begins already to assume a bustling appearance, and as the season advances so favorably, business

will speedily infuse a new life into our veins. The migratory habits of our people are shown by the number of strangers who will commence pouring in by rails and boats, until our hotels are filled to overflowing.

We notice, in connection with our levee, that the Alhambra, owing to the inclemency of the weather and the great amount of freight to be shipped, will not leave until this evening.

The *Express and Herald* was not slow to note the various cargoes arriving at or departing from Dubuque. The firm of West & Hopkins had already shipped 7,000 pigs of lead. Six hundred bags of wheat were loaded on the *Granite State*. The *Conewago* left the following day with 740 barrels of flour. When the *Chippewa Falls* passed upstream with a large shipment of plows from Moline, the editor queried, "Why cannot our dealers have this trade?" Such activity as well as rivalry existed in all the river towns between Keokuk and Dubuque.

Meanwhile, the decade prior to 1858 had witnessed some historic railroad events culminating in the linking of the Atlantic with the Mississippi by rail. The first railroad constructed west of Chicago was the Galena & Chicago Union [North Western] in 1848. The Rock Island was the first to reach the Mississippi — arriving at Rock Island opposite Davenport on February 22, 1854. Three other Iowa river towns were linked with the Atlantic Ocean in 1855. The Burlington was opened for traffic to the Mississippi opposite

Burlington on March 17; the Illinois Central and the Galena & Chicago Union opened their joint track to Dunleith opposite Dubuque on June 12; and the Galena & Chicago Union completed a second track from West Chicago to the Mississippi opposite Clinton on December 16. Two years later, in 1857, the Milwaukee was completed between Milwaukee and Prairie du Chien.

By 1858 the race across Iowa was proceeding from a half-dozen points on the Mississippi. Orion Clemens seems to have caught the spirit of the changing times in his *Keokuk Directory and Business Mirror* for 1857. According to Clemens:

In the grand westward march, the hunter follows the buffalo's track; is himself followed by the emigrant's wagon; it by the stage coach; succeeding that is the railroad, and after that manufactures and trade in their most expanded form. Already seven projected railroads hold a menacing attitude towards the coach; and the latter, as if frightened by the prospect, but more probably encouraged by the large amount of travel, commences this summer to pursue its devious, toilsome, weary, winding way three hundred miles further westward, to-wit: a daily line between Keokuk and Nebraska City. In the meantime the iron horse is already galloping up the Des Moines Valley; will be making regular trips around the Lower Mississippi Rapids the coming summer, and will be harnessed to the cars on the road from Keokuk to connect with the Chicago and Quincy Railroad some time this year.

Iowa newspapers were filled with railroad schedules, not only of those under construction in Iowa, but also for those linking Iowa with Chi-

Dubuque & Pacific Railroad.



On and after January 25, 1858, trains will run by DUBUQUE CITY TIME, as follows:

Passenger Train will leave Dubuque at 8 45 A. M.
 Arrive at Julien 9 20 Arrive at Farley 10 15
 " Caledonia, 9 40 " Dyersville 10 35
 " Epworth, 10 " Nottingham 11 15
 Passenger Train will leave Nottingham at 12 30 P. M.
 Arrive at Dyersville 1 05 Arrive at Caledonia 2 00
 " Farley 1 25 " Julien 2 20
 " Epworth 1 40 " Dubuque 3 00

A Freight Train with Passenger Car attached will leave Nottingham at 6 30 A. M.
 Arrive at Dyersville 7 20 Arrive at Caledonia 8 50
 " Farley 7 55 " Julien 9 20
 " Epworth 8 25 " Dubuque 10 15

A Freight Train with Passenger car attached will leave Dubuque at 3 10 P. M.
 Arrive at Julien 4 00 Arrive at Farley 5 20
 " Caledonia 4 30 " Dyersville 5 45
 " Epworth 4 55 " Nottingham 6 35
 D. H. DOTTERER, Sup't,
 C. B. STOW, Gen'l Ticket Ag't,
 J. A. PINTO, Gen'l Freight Ag't
 Jan. 27, 1858. d&wly(73

Keokuk, Fort Des Moines, and Minnesota
RAILROAD.



Change of Time.

New Arrangement!

Through tickets to St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, &c. &c.

Two trains each way Daily—Sundays excepted.

LEAVING Keokuk at 7 a. m.
 " " 2.40 p. m.
 " Bentonsport 7.00 a. m.
 " " 6.30 p. m.

Connecting at the latter place with the Post coaches of the Western Stage Company for all points in the Des Moines Valley, and throughout Middle, Western and South-western Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, &c!!

Passengers for Cincinnati, Louisville and the South-eastern and Eastern cities, will find this the cheapest, most expeditious, and the most comfortable route to these points.

THROUGH TICKETS!

at reduced cost, to all points south and east of Keokuk may be had at the Railroad office at Bentonsport.

Passengers for the East should be sure to purchase tickets via Bentonsport.

S. DWIGHT EATON,
 Engineer and Superintendent.
SAM. A. BLACK,
 Assistant Superintendent, and General Passenger Agent.
 Ticket Office at Rail Road Depot.
 June 26th, 1858.

MISSISSIPPI & MISSOURI



RAILROAD!

On and after Monday, April 12, 1858, and until further notice, trains will leave Iowa City daily, (Sundays excepted,) as follows

FOR DAVENPORT.

1st Passenger (mail) train..... 8:35 a. m.
 2d Freight train, with passenger car attached, 12:30 p. m.
 3d Express train..... 2:30 p. m.
 Trains arrive at Iowa City, daily, (Sundays excepted) as follows:

1st Freight train, with passenger car attached, 10:30 a. m.
 2d Passenger (mail) train..... 12:10 p. m.
 3d Mail train..... 4:45 p. m.

Passenger trains over this Road run through from Iowa City to Chicago without change of cars or baggage, connecting there with trains over both the Michigan Southern and Michigan Central Railroads for all points East and South. Also at LaSalle with Illinois Central Railroad North to Galena and Dunlap, and South to St. Louis to Cairo.

Through tickets for all the principal points East and South can be procured at the ticket office in Iowa City. Passengers are reminded of the necessity of giving direct directions as to the destination of their baggage.

cago and the Atlantic seaboard. By 1858 tracks had been laid westward from Keokuk to Bentonsport, from Burlington to Fairfield, from Davenport to Washington and Iowa City, from Lyons-Clinton to DeWitt, and from Dubuque to Nottingham [Earlville].

New Arrangement!



THE traveling public are hereby notified that the Western Stage Company are now prepared to convey passengers to and from Bloomfield with comfort and dispatch, making close connections with the cars for Keokuk at Bentonsport, daily, by a **FOUR HORSE** line of

NEW & COMMODIOUS COACHES.

Also, daily connections made with the cars at Rome, for Burlington.

Also, a daily line of Hacks west, running through all the county seats in the southern tier of counties, to the

MISSOURI RIVER.

Passengers for northern Missouri, southern Nebraska and Kansas, will find it to their advantage to take this route west, as they will be carried through with dispatch and comfort.

Stages start for this point daily from Bentonsport and Rome, immediately upon the arrival of the cars at those places, and leave daily for north east, east and west, at half past 6 o'clock, A. M.

Stage office at the "American House,"

WM. J. LAW,

Agent Western Stage Company.

Bloomfield, April 1st, 1858—4-11.

The need for stage coaches as depicted by Orion Clemens was still very great in 1858. The Western Stage Company inserted advertisements in most papers and generally received warm plaudits for carrying passengers and mail through under the most adverse conditions. The *Iowa Farmer* of February 18, 1858, declared:

We have a word for the traveler. If you wish to make good time, receive kind treatment, and go about as comfortable as the nature of things will permit this cold weather, we commend to you the Western Stage Company's Coaches; and if you wish those other comforts which enter so largely into the affec-

the Western Stage Company's Coaches; and if you wish those other comforts which enter so largely into the affec-

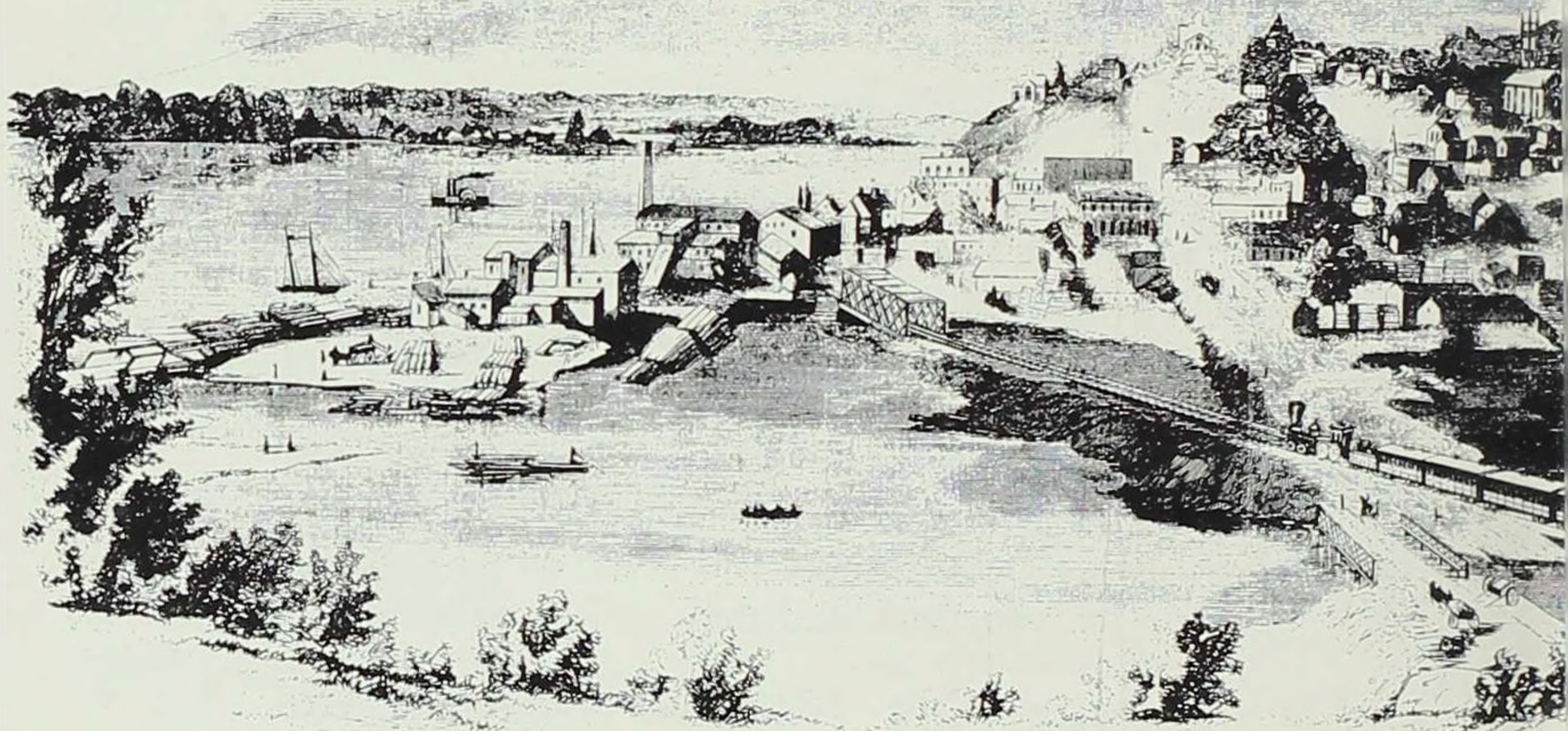
tions of travelers as well as those who do not travel, a sojourn at Downing's at Oskaloosa, Amos' at Eddyville, Bacon's at Fairfield, Eichelberger's at Mt. Pleasant, and the Wightman House at Burlington, will secure all you desire. All are more known to fame than the National, Bacon's at Fairfield, but when John S. has been as long in the field as the others he will be as extensively and as favorably known. Try them and if it is not as we tell you, draw upon us for your bills and they will be honored.

The Webster City *Hamilton Freeman* expressed warm satisfaction with the performance of the Western Stage Company in its issue of July 8.

Thus far during the season the roads have been very bad, and travel has been greatly interrupted. But our mail services have suffered no hindrance. On the contrary, they are constantly improving. When Col. Heath's Deputies do their duty, our Dubuque dailies reach us three days after they are issued. The traveler now reaches Dubuque in three days from this point. — For this good management and speed, the public are indebted to MCCHESENEY, the popular and well-known western agent of the Company. During all the wet season he has been very active, and the present efficiency of the route is owing to his efforts. His star, as Stage Agent, will one of these days set in the smoke of the locomotive — but till then, the Company cannot find a more prudent and energetic manager.

Equally delighted was the editor of the Dubuque *Times* who wrote on December 10:

On two occasions, during the last three or four months, we have had an opportunity to witness the metal of horses

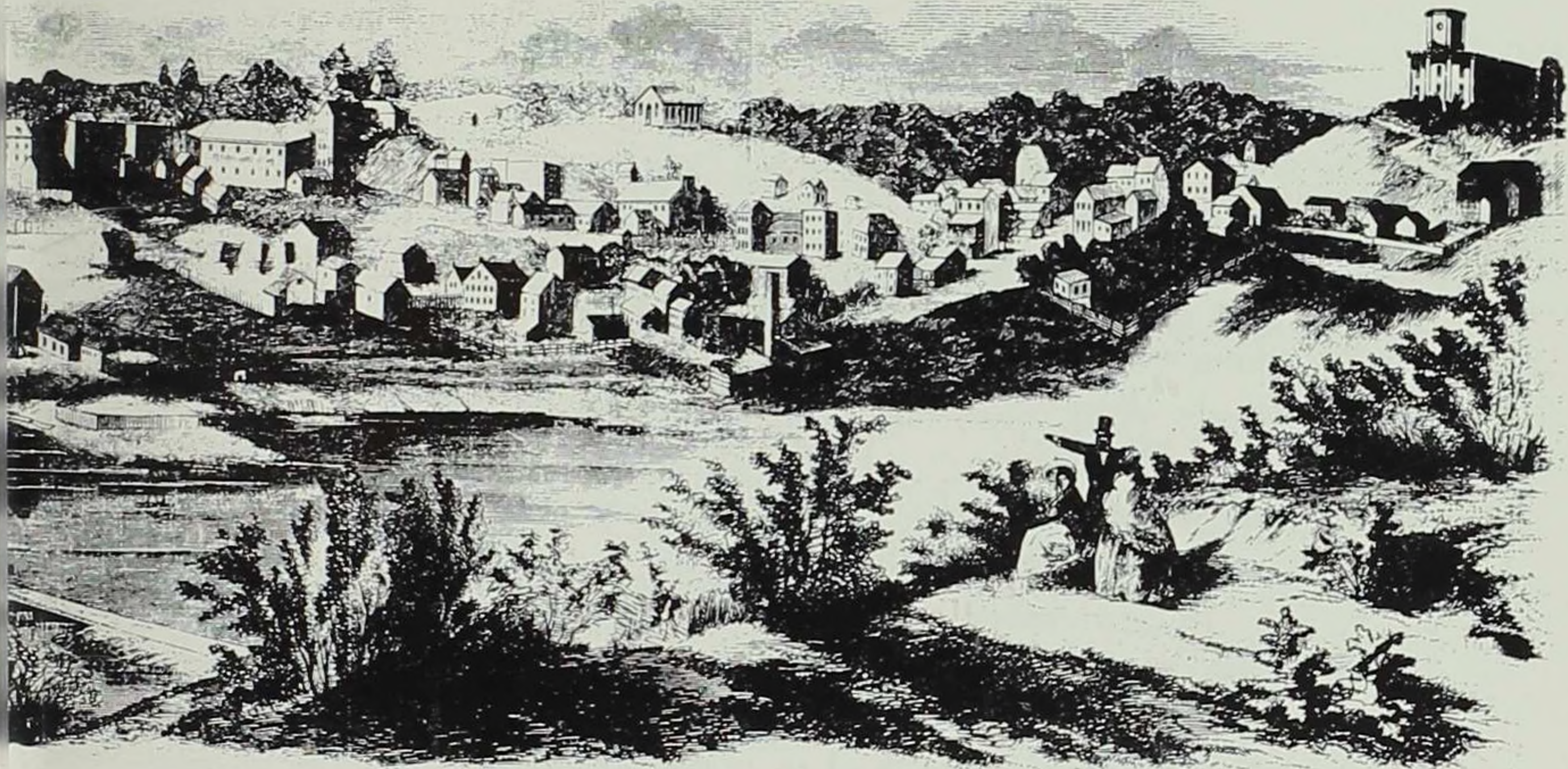


VIEW OF MUSCATINE, IOWA.—FROM A

Washington, Iowa, celebrated the arrival of the Southwestern Division of the Rock Island [M & M] on September 1, 1858. Thirteen cars brought guests from such towns as Iowa City, Davenport, Muscatine, Columbus Junction, Oskaloosa, and Sigourney. Five thousand people attended the celebration and three thousand feet of tables were set with the finest foods. Toasts were made to railroads, the Atlantic Cable, Chicago and ten other towns, newspapers, laborers, and the ladies. Among the notable Iowans present were Hiram Price, J. B. Grinnell, J. Scott Richman, J. R. Needham, J. Thorington, Francis Springer, Fitz Henry Warren, Dr. J. Bowen, and Judge Thayer. Bands blared martial music and ladies in hoop skirts added color to the occasion. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* of November 13, 1858, carried the story with drawings of Muscatine and the Washington celebration by Mr. Ronde, Dutch Creek artist.



THE GREAT RAILROAD CELEBRATION



BY P. RONDE, OF WASHINGTON, IOWA

The arrival of a railroad at any Iowa town was followed by a gala celebration. Special trains carried the invited guests to the colorful affair and speeches, toasts, dinners, band music, and parades were common features. In 1854 the arrival of the Rock Island at the Mississippi was the occasion for a steamboat excursion from Rock Island and Davenport to St. Paul. Seven boats were chartered to carry more than 1300 guests.

In 1858 the Dubuque & Pacific ran an excursion to Nottingham, the Burlington celebrated the completion of its track to Fairfield, and the Keokuk & Des Moines Valley ran one to Birmingham.

Prominent state officials, newspaper editors, railroad executives, and citizens from towns along the way, or farther west, who hoped soon to share a similar experience, were among the invited guests. The arrival of the railroad was one of the most memorable events in the life of any Iowa community.



ON OF 1858 AT WASHINGTON

belonging to the Western Stage Company, and, although, we have ridden a great many thousand miles in a stage coach we have no recollection of having seen better animals than some of those that run between Nottingham and West Union. They are, with few exceptions, as fat as woodchucks that have been pastured in a field of clover, and almost as supple as antelopes.

In September, we came down one morning, from Waterloo to Independence, and the last ten miles were made inside of one hour. At times the horses seemed to fly over the prairies. We had a taste of what De Quincy calls "the glory of motion;" and were half inclined, with the "Opium Eater," to give the preference to the stage coach, over every other vehicle of conveyance. This is taking it for granted that we can choose a good road, and be driven by one of the Jehus in the service of the Western Stage Company.

The *Hamilton Freeman* wholeheartedly agreed with these words:

The above compliment is well deserved. On this end of the route the Company have as fine a lot of nags as ever whirled a coach over the turnpike. The drivers are sober and civil, and as good fellows every way as we have ever met. And to keep all this machinery in motion, requires just such a tireless ubiquitous, wide-awake and enterprising General Agent as "Tom McChesney," who has held forth in that capacity for some time past. We wish Tom every success till his sun is eclipsed by the Iron Horse — hoping he will be rich enough to retire by that time.

The *Mitchell County Republican* of January 21, 1858, endorsed a Minnesotian's estimate of the "Lacy's Line of Stages."

The above line connects this place with Mankato on the St. Peters river. The following item from the Southern Minnesota *Star* shows its popularity.

Lacy's mail coaches are up to time every week, and never fail in bringing us our regular Eastern mail. They leave Albert Lea for Mitchell on Every Saturday, and for Mankato and St. Peter every Wednesday.

Many small towns advertised their own "mail, express, and passenger hacks." On November 4, 1858, the *Mitchell County Republican* noted:

McFARLAND & CO., PROPRIETORS

Leave Mitchell every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, for Floyd, St. Charles, North Washington, Ft. Atkinson, Calmar, Ossian, Postville, Springfield, Monona and McGregor.

Office at the American House.

The same editor was distressed with the uncertain mail deliveries, particularly during the legislative session:

We need a tri-weekly mail connecting us with Waterloo, or Cedar Falls. Now we have but a weekly mail, and even that is quite irregular. Nearly all the letters we receive from the Capital are from three to four weeks on the way, whereas with proper mail facilities they would reach us in one week. — We see by the advertisements for proposals that bids are invited for a tri-weekly service upon this route and hope it will be secured.

It is worth noting that the Governor of Iowa chose a Des Moines River steamboat as an easier mode of transportation back home. On March 25, the *Iowa Farmer* laconically reported:

Governor Lowe, who has been here during the whole of the session of the Legislature, left for his home at Keokuk, on the steamer EDWIN MANNING


Hotels and Livery stables were in great demand in 1858. Dubuque, the metropolis, had twenty-eight hotels and other towns had hotels commensurate with their size. Salesmen and prospective land-buyers hired a horse and buggy to accomplish

KEYSTONE HOUSE,

HARRISON ST., BET. FRONT AND SECOND,

One Square Below Steam Packet and Ferry Landing,
DAVENPORT, IOWA.

J. K. RHODES, - - - - Proprietor.

 This House is one of the most pleasant locations, commanding a fine view of the Mississippi River and Rock Island.

BOARD \$1.00 PER DAY.

PARKER & SPEARING,

Livery and Sale Stables,

Opposite the Le Claire House,

DAVENPORT, IOWA.

Horses and Carriages always on hand. Extras fitted out at short notice.
Horses bought and sold.

their work. The livery stable, the blacksmith, and the wagon and buggy maker continued to form an important part of the Iowa scene until the horseless carriage gradually shunted them aside after the turn of the century.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Immigrants From Near and Far

The westward trek of emigration across the Mississippi, which reached torrential proportions in Iowa between 1854 and 1856, was still flowing into the Hawkeye State in 1858. Early that spring Horace Greeley observed through the columns of his *New York Tribune* that "at this time no State nor Territory can hold out inducements to settlers equal to Iowa; and it is the opinion of discerning men that the year 1858 will witness a larger immigration to this State, than any preceding one."

It was this same Greeley who is reputed to have said to Josiah B. Grinnell in 1854 — "Go West, young man, go West, and grow up with the country." Four years later, Greeley could still find much in favor of Iowa.

Iowa is probably not quite so fertile as Illinois, but its prairies are smaller, its timber better distributed, if not more abundant, and its plains more frequently cut by the ravines of swiftly running streams. We consider it more healthful in the average than Illinois, while its population, mainly emigrants from New England and New York, are decidedly intelligent, moral and thrifty. We have traveled far less in Iowa than in other Western States, but have seen none, on the whole, to be preferred to this for a home.

Most Iowans would have been pleased by these

highly complimentary remarks but not the editor of the Davenport *Weekly Gazette*. Illinois, that editor pointed out on April 15, 1858, was not in as good a "financial condition" as Iowa with the result that taxes were higher. Furthermore, comparable Iowa land sold for half the price of similarly located land in Illinois.

Speculation has run wild in that and many other new Western States, and fixed an over-evaluation on lands not justified by the circumstances. In Iowa, the large portion of the land has been purchased by actual settlers, and are now occupied by them, and the increased value of these lands has only been in proportion to improvements and to the steady progress of the State. When emigrants can purchase lands in Iowa at less than half what they have to pay in Illinois, for instance, similarly located as to centrality, markets, &c., they must certainly give this State the preference.

The Eastern emigration of this spring will scarcely stop East of the Mississippi. West of it, what other State or what territory, offers greater inducements of cheapness of land, fertility of soil, rich abundance of mineral wealth, healthiness of climate, greater freedom from financial burdens and heavy taxes, a more moral tone of society, better schools, more churches, greater freedom of opinion and action, than our own glorious State of Iowa? We ask Mr. Greely while he is examining the *physical* advantages of Western States, in connection with Eastern emigration, to extend his researches to things which in this article we merely just touched.

Mindful of the values accruing from an ever-expanding population, a number of Iowans went east to encourage immigration to the Hawkeye

State. Such a promoter was General George B. Sargent, of the firm of Cook and Sargent of Davenport, whose "masterly" speech in Boston on the "wealth and resources of the West" was recorded in the *Boston Traveler*. The *Davenport Weekly Gazette* of March 4, 1858, was delighted with Sargent's effort:

We are glad that a voice from Iowa, and so hearty and manly a voice, has been raised in Boston, to tell them what we are doing here. We hope the same voice will be raised in New York and other Eastern cities. An old citizen who had received a copy of this abstract from Gen. Sargent, says that after reading it, he considered himself worth one thousand dollars more than before! The lecturer was paid the compliment of a tremendous audience. The hall at which he was to have lectured, was found utterly inadequate to accommodate the multitude, and they were compelled to adjourn to a larger hall. We are glad to see our fellow-citizen appreciated abroad as well as at home, and more especially to notice so much interest in the West being manifested at the "Athens of America."

In addition to speeches such as Sargent's, prospective emigrants were lured westward to Iowa by such guides as *Northern Iowa // By a Pioneer // Containing Valuable Information for Emigrants*. Published by the Dubuque Emigrant Association, this forty-page pamphlet went into at least two editions and was widely heralded throughout Iowa and the nation. While some northern editors felt the title "Northern Iowa" was gratuitous and that the book actually was pin-

pointed on Dubuque, there was plenty of information on other sections of Iowa. The opening paragraph must have caused many a prospective emigrant to prick up his ears.

NORTHERN IOWA.

BY A PIONEER.

CONTAINING

VALUABLE INFORMATION

FOR EMIGRANTS.

DUBUQUE:
NONPAREIL JOB PRINTING AND PUBLISHING HOUSE, 64 MAIN STREET.
1858.

The United States Government will dispose of large quantities of lands lying in the Fort Dodge and Sioux City Districts, early in the spring. Most of these lands can be pre-empted at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, by actual settlers. Payment can be made at any time within a year of the settlement. The sections alternate to the sections granted to the Dubuque and Pacific Railroad Company, may also be pre-empted. . . .

The booklet described the abundant supply of wood, coal, lumber, lime, brick, building stone, water, and the value of gypsum in the Fort Dodge area. It described the homestead law and Iowa's prowess in the livestock industry. It pointed out that Iowa's farmers already produced more corn than New York and the six New England states combined. The healthful climate of the Hawkeye State as well as its freedom from criminals and paupers was emphasized.

The Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* was impressed with *Northern Iowa* and urged its citizens to prepare a similar booklet on Council Bluffs and southwestern Iowa. Omaha, the editor pointed out, had already published such a pamphlet setting forth the advantages of that town, and the results were "plainly traceable in the progress of that city." He hoped Council Bluffs citizens would act upon his suggestion.

The editor of the *Chicago Press* could not refrain from calling attention to the "vigorous measures" employed by the Dubuque Emigrant Association in engaging the services of a German Agent to obtain subscriptions of a sufficient amount to publish an edition of 10,000 copies of *Northern Iowa* in the German language setting forth the advantages offered immigrants. This edition was for gratuitous distribution in the Eastern States, and in Europe. When work began on the German edition the *Independence Guardian* declared:

We received last week a call from Mr. C. J. Wittenberg, agent for the Dubuque Emigrant Association, who is traveling through Northern Iowa, collecting information for the purpose of setting forth the superior advantage which this part of the State offers to settlers, which will be published and distributed to those coming West. Mr. M. is a correspondent of German papers published both in this country and the "fatherland," so that a double object and a double good is attained. We hope our brother editors give him all the information in their

power, recollecting that by so doing they will not only benefit Mr. W. but themselves, and those whose interests they, in a great degree hold in their hands as well.

The various economic, social, religious and political forces at work caused an ever increasing number of emigrants to seek out Iowa. According to the *Davenport Weekly Gazette* of April 22:

The tide of travel is westward. In our homeward trip from New York we took the indirect route via Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne, and yet in the whole course, so thronged were the cars, that only once and then but for a few miles, did we have an entire car seat. At the same time we observed that those cars going eastward were comparatively empty. — But not until reaching Chicago did the real jam commence, and then extra cars had to be added to the train, showing that the emigration is towards our own favored State. It is yet early in the season, so that we anticipate a heavy addition to our population this spring.

While thousands came by steamboat, both to the Upper Mississippi and the Missouri, the covered wagon as well as the railroad brought countless numbers. The *Weekly Gazette* observed:

All the emigration is not to be found along the Missouri river towards Kansas, nor up the Mississippi towards St. Paul. Some of it comes this way. A few days ago we saw a team drawn by eight, perhaps ten cattle, and heading for the West. The wagon was full of household and farming implements, as well as a goodly quantity of human bipeds. A man was walking along side with a rifle in the hollow of his arm, and a stripling was directing the animals. The father will become a sturdy farmer, the boy may go

to Congress *after a while*, and Iowa will be benefitted. Come along, all such, for there is a plenty of land left . . .

Halfway across the state the Webster City *Hamilton Freeman* of July 8 chronicled immigration under the caption "Westward, Ho!"

A large number of teams are daily passing through this place, carrying merchandise, emigrants and their families, implements of husbandry, &c. Since the roads became passable there has been a perfect rush. This is a wise movement, for there is not a better region of country under the sun than north-western Iowa.

The *Sioux City Eagle* of June 8, 1858, was delighted by the movement of immigrants westward to the Missouri slope.

Daily are we reminded that emigration westward has fairly commenced. Teams drawn by three, four or five yokes of cattle, wagons full of farming implements and household goods, with chicken coops behind, and generally a sprinkling of little human bipeds inside, the head of the family with his trusty gun across his shoulder close by, a little in advance of all trotting a faithful canine, which now and then turns his head to see that all is right, is not an uncommon sight now-a-days. Notwithstanding the Missouri river steamers are crowded with passengers, "bleeding Kansas" does not get all the new comers. Early as it is, little parties and individuals are making their entrance into this and adjoining counties, and a little later in the season we shall see them coming by the hundred.

DUBUQUE, WISCONSIN & MINNESOTA
PACKET CO.



Incorporated the 22d day of January, 1856.
CAPITAL STOCK \$200,000.

J. P. FARLEY, Pres. JOHN BRENEMAN, Sec.

DIRECTORS.
J. P. FARLEY, JOHN BELL, HENRY ANDERSON, P. H. CONGER,
E. A. LULL.

Office, Iowa Street, bet. 3d and 4th, up stairs.

Over Farley & Christman's Iron Store.

DUBUQUE, IOWA.

There is every indication that there will be a large emigration this season — the country will fill up with sturdy, well-to-do farmers, who come to stay — not mere speculators who come for a few months and not realizing what they expected in a day, returned disgusted with the West. To the first named class, we say come on, for there is plenty of as good land as the sun shines upon, which can be had on most advantageous terms.

What of the general character of the pioneers of 1858? Most of these new-comers were interested in land and the vast majority took up farming. A goodly number, however, were professional men — lawyers, doctors, dentists, druggists, ministers. The following from the Council Bluffs *Nonpareil* of January 9 is illustrative:

We learn that, late as the season is, some new and valuable additions have been made to our farming population. R. D. Jones, Esq., of Rochester, N. Y., where, for the last six years he filled the post of Superintendent of the Public Schools, has purchased a fine tract of land on Keg Creek, twelve miles east of town, and is now engaged in preparing it for his permanent home. In 1855, Mr. Jones delivered the opening address before the N. Y. State Teacher's Association at Utica, and we have no doubt that our citizens would be very glad to hear a lecture from him in regard to the system of Public Schools as now established in New York.

The high quality of immigration that crossed the Mississippi into Iowa during the 1850's was an important factor in laying the foundations for the future greatness of the Hawkeye State.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Education For All

Iowans could not boast of their educational facilities at the common school level in 1858. Maturin L. Fisher, who served as Superintendent of Public Instruction, expressed genuine concern over the statistics contained in the seventy-six reports from the eighty-four organized counties in the State. No response had been received from eight counties — Chickasaw, Mitchell, Monona, Story, Sac, Tama, Woodbury or Worth. Of the seventy-six counties reporting, it appeared that only 79,670 of the 195,285 persons between the ages of five and twenty-one were attending school in Iowa. According to Superintendent Fisher:

It must be remembered that this is not the number of those who constantly attended school, but it includes every scholar who attended school at all; barely two-fifths of the whole number. Three-fifths of the children of the State, of the proper age to attend school, did not enter into the school room during the past year. More than one-half of the youth of the State are growing up in ignorance, notwithstanding the provision made for the support of schools. In the State of Ohio, from which more people have emigrated to this, than from any other State, four-fifths of the youth between five and twenty-one years of age attend school; yet there, the absence from school of barely one-fifth of the children, of a suitable age, is considered a serious evil, demanding an effectual remedy.

The Superintendent was further disturbed by the fact that schools were being maintained in only 2,708 of the 3,265 school districts that had been organized. While some counties had made great progress and exhibited commendable zeal in the subject of education, other schools were in a "very unsatisfactory" state. "There is usually no examination of teachers, and frequently most unsuitable persons are employed as instructors, and there is seldom any visitation of schools, to insure fidelity on the part of teachers, and to inspire emulation on the part of pupils." Finally, the Superintendent attributed the deplorable condition of Iowa schools to the want of an efficient school law, the system in 1858 being a "patchwork" of laws enacted at different times in the past.

A school law to regulate the erection of buildings was also needed in 1858. Superintendent Fisher reported 1,686 school houses in Iowa, of which 168 were brick, 47 stone, 936 frame, and 535 log. According to Fisher:

Probably many of the log houses, and some of the frame houses are of little value; yet the expense of building them was doubtless heavily felt by the districts by which they were erected. In most districts a school cannot be kept until a school house is erected, and they are usually obliged to impose a tax for the whole cost in a single year; a tax which in many cases must be oppressive, especially if a commodious house is erected.

There were 1,572 male teachers and 1,424 fe-

male teachers in Iowa in 1858. The aggregate amount paid teachers was \$126,357.77 from the teachers fund and \$71,784.58 from voluntary subscriptions. Generally speaking, male teachers received twice the salary of females. Female salaries ranged from \$8 to \$20.68 per month whereas male salaries ranged from \$16 to \$31. A century ago some school boards endeavored to regulate the apparel of female students, as well as their intellectual attainments and moral character. According to the Bloomfield *Democratic Clarion* of December 29, 1858:

The Board of Trustee of Marietta, Marshall County, have issued an edict, prohibiting from the common school of that District, any girl who shall venture to WEAR HOOPS!

The next thing will probably be a requirement that all schoolmasters in the District must wear loose petticoats; and the "school marms" short breeches.

Education in Iowa contemplated a system of (1) common schools; (2) high schools; and (3) a state university of Iowa. Public high schools were just getting started in 1858 but private academies, seminaries, female academies, and commercial colleges flourished. The definition of a college at this time was rather nebulous. The State University of Iowa in 1858 would be eclipsed by a good Iowa high school a century later. In 1858 Maturin L. Fisher served both as Superintendent of Public Instruction and as President of the Board of

Trustees of the State University of Iowa. In his report, President Fisher observes:

The Chancellor, the Professor of Natural History, and the Professor of Chemistry, have not yet entered upon the discharge of the duties of their Professorships, and it will be seen that Professors have not been appointed in the departments of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy. It appears, from this catalogue, that the whole number of students, male and female, in the University, is one hundred and twenty-four. Of this number, sixty-five are in the Preparatory and forty in the Normal Department. Some students are in both the Preparatory and Normal Departments, and some from both these departments receive instruction in the departments belonging to the University proper; but there are probably not thirty of the whole number pursuing a regular university course. This is indeed a very small number. But of the whole number of students, one hundred and three are from Iowa City, and of the remainder, fourteen are from Johnson county, and only seven from other counties in the State. Thirty students may be a small number for a whole State, but it is sufficiently large for a single city. We come, then, to this result, — that the benefits of the University are almost exclusively confined to Iowa City. This is not the fault of the people of that city. The University is established there by law, and they avail themselves of the advantages it affords them, as they have a right to do, by sending their sons and daughters there to be educated. We have a University munificently endowed, with able and faithful Professors; yet, our young men are obliged to resort to other States to obtain a classical education: and the reason is this, we have made no provision to accommodate them with suitable rooms for study. It costs a young man seeking a liberal education, more to procure board and a suit-

able room for study in Iowa City, than his whole education would cost in most of the colleges in other States. But let there be a suitable building erected to accommodate students with rooms, a liberal education may be acquired with as little expense here, as in any college in the United States.

If free public education was in its infancy there were many private schools — elementary, academy, classical, seminary, commercial and college — that afforded opportunities to the youth of Iowa. Thus, on December 29, 1858, the Bloomfield *Democratic Clarion* noted that Mr. and Mrs. McCarty would again open a "Select School" in the new school building on November 1st. The session was to be 22 weeks in length, divided into two terms of eleven weeks each. Mrs. Clara V. Weaver, an experienced and well-qualified teacher, had been employed to take charge of the primary department, and the rate of tuition per term for residents was as follows:

Spelling, Reading and Writing	\$2.50
Mental Arithmetic, Primary Grammar, Primary Geography	3.00
Practical Arithmetic, Analytical Grammar, Advanced Geography	3.50
The higher English branches	4.00

Persons not residing in the district would be charged an additional twenty-five cents per scholar per term for the use of the school room. None but regular scholars were solicited and no

reduction for lost time would be made except in cases of "absolute sickness."

Apparently Mr. McCarty's school was popular with Bloomfield residents. The *Davis County Index* of October 16 records:

The exhibition of Mr. M'Carty's School took place at the M. E. Church, on Wednesday evening last, and was well attended. It consisted of declamations, dialogues, and reading composition by the students. The exercises were well timed, interesting and in some instances happily conceived. The large and attentive audience seemed delighted with the performance of the "little ones," who were repeatedly cheered by the clapping and stamping of the audience. Altogether it was a very pretty affair and every one seemed pleased with the rapid progress and great improvement Mr. McCarty's students are making and have made during the term just closed.

The Council Bluffs *Weekly Nonpareil* of February 6, 1858, carried an advertisement of the Council Bluffs Male & Female School which intended to open its sixth quarter on Monday, February 14. J. B. Rue was Principal and the following rates prevailed:

Terms Per Quarter of Eleven Weeks.	
Primary	\$ 5.00
Preparatory	7.00
Junior	10.00
Senior	15.00
Instruction on Piano or Guitar	15.00
Use of Instrument	3.00
Vocal Music	2.00
Incidentals	.50

All the English branches usually taught in the first class Institutions, together with Latin and Greek, are included in the above terms.

It is highly important that Pupils should commence at the opening of the quarter, and be punctual in attendance.

No deductions after entrance, except in cases of protracted illness.

The variety of schools established in Iowa prior to the Civil War is amazing. In Iowa City, for example, Professor Welton conducted an English and Classical School in Mechanics Academy. Professor Welton, according to the *Iowa City Republican* of December 8, "sustains a high reputation as a teacher" whose previous term had met "with a very flattering success." The editor hoped the professor's benches would be "full of youthful learners."

Another Iowa City private school was taught by Edward Zitzchke for those interested in learning German. This class was exclusively for men although the professor was prepared to organize a ladies' class if a sufficient number applied. The *Bloomfield Democratic Clarion* advertised the second session in dancing lessons by Professor O. F. Clark at the Mozart Hall. "Instructions to the Ladies, from 3 to 5 o'clock P.M.; to the Gentlemen, from 7 to 9 P.M. All who propose to attend the school are requested to do so regularly."

Several commercial colleges were begun in 1858. Thus, Davis and Tipton's two "Mercantile Colleges" were located in Peoria and at 5th and

Brady streets in Davenport. An institution that in 1958 could look back on a century of successful teaching is Baylies Business College at Dubuque.

*Baylies
Commercial
College*

Corner of Main and Third Streets,
DUBUQUE, IOWA.

DIRECTORS.

HON. GEO. W. JONES,
" WM. VANDEVER,
" LINCOLN CLARK,
L. D. RANDALL,
EDWARD LANGWORTHY,
H. A. WILTSE,
GEO. L. TORBERT,

GEN. WARNER LEWIS,
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A. BAYLIES.

The Course of Instruction in this Institution is acknowledged on all hands to be the most extensive, thorough, practical and modern to be found, and every precaution is taken for the acquisition of a business education, complete in all its particulars, it shall, as heretofore, have positively no equal.

The student will receive the most thorough instruction in, and become fully posted as to, the manner of conducting on scientific and correct principles, the books pertaining to all kinds of business, from the most simple transaction to the most intricate and complicated business, including Commission, Compound and Joint Stock Companies, Steamboating, Banking, Railroading, etc., etc., realizing and perfecting the accomplished Accountant. Also instructions from competent Masters in Penmanship, Commercial Calculations and Correspondence, detecting counterfeit notes, and much other important information. Daily Lectures given before the College on the Science of Accounts, Business Customs, and, during the season regular stated Lectures on Commercial Law, Banking and Finance, Commercial Ethics, Political Economy, etc.

For fuller and more complete information, see our new descriptive pamphlet circular, which will be furnished free to all applicants.

Sept. 25, '59.

A. BAYLIES.
dawly(868

One of the relatively few Iowa colleges that actually dates back to 1858 is Grinnell. The Des Moines *Iowa Citizen* of February 10, 1858, declared:

Grinnell University commenced its winter term on the 7th ult. A seminary building is in process of erection, 40 by 70 feet, four stories high, which will be ready for use in the spring. It is in contemplation, to erect a large College Hall, as soon as arrangements for that purpose can be perfected.

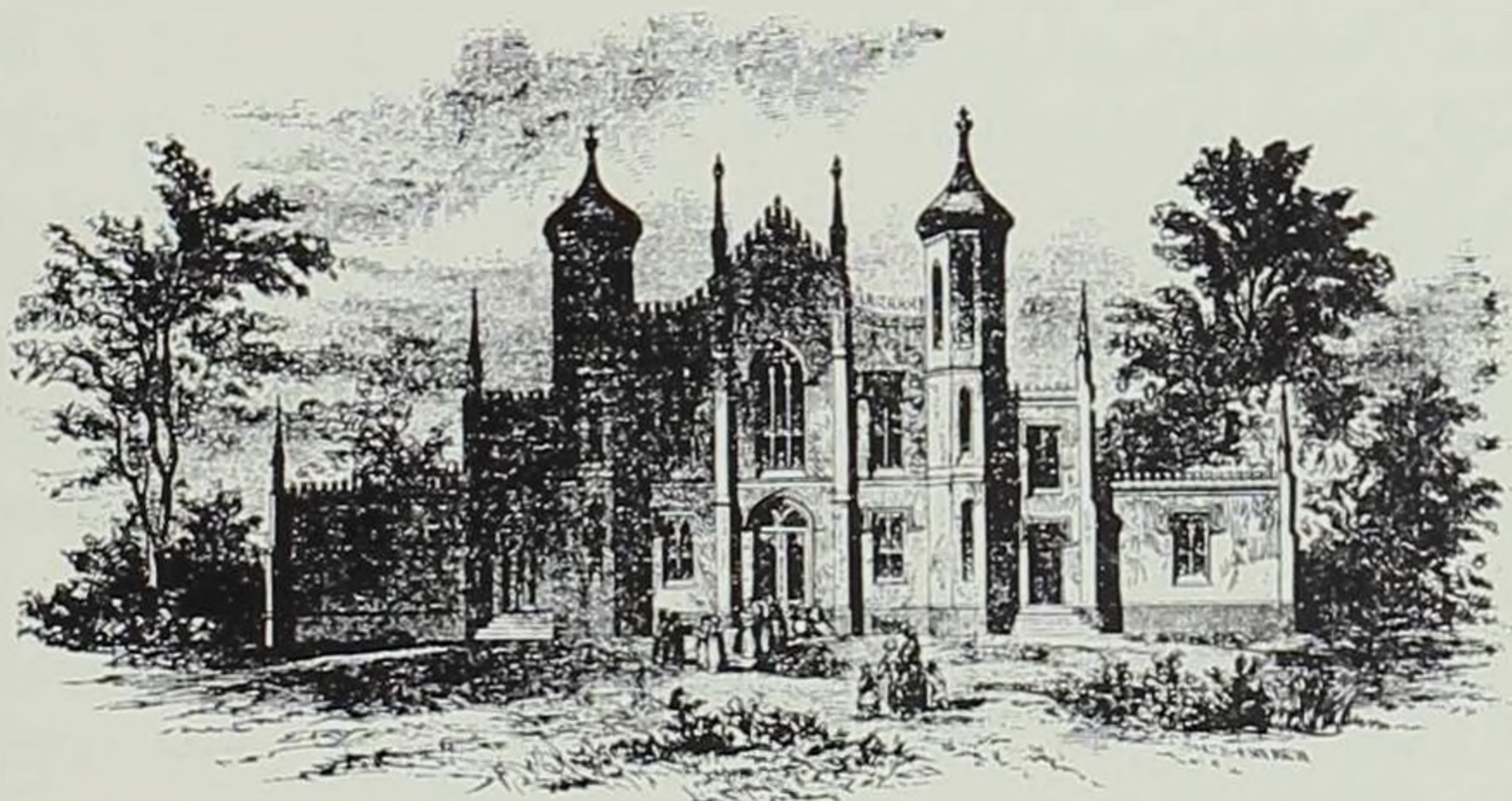
The year 1858 marks the centennial of the movement of Iowa College from Davenport to Grinnell

to consolidate with Grinnell University. It is interesting to note the reaction of a Davenport editor to the double loss within a decade of Iowa College to Grinnell and the College of Physicians and

Surgeons to Keokuk. According to the *Daily Gazette* of August 28, 1858:

The *Keokuk Gate City* says that the building now being constructed for the Medical Department of the Iowa University, is drawing towards completion. It will be one of the finest buildings in Iowa — a credit to the Institution to which it belongs, and an ornament to the city. This Department of the Iowa University was originally located in Davenport, but from the unwise opposition of our citizens — just such an opposition as some have shown towards the Iowa College — the trustees were induced to remove it to Keokuk, where it has ever since been an additional attraction to intelligent people who designed making that city their home.

Women's colleges and seminaries were particularly popular in 1858. Eighty students were at-



DUBUQUE FEMALE SEMINARY.

tending the Dubuque Female Seminary in 1857-1858. The school occupied a handsome building which had cost \$11,000 with its equipment, too

costly for the small attendance and the property was sold in 1859 for \$12,000. The Female Eclectic Institute and the Mount Ida Female College were a source of pride to Davenport although the latter closed its doors in 1859. The Vinton College Institute had its beginnings in 1858. Institutions of this type were fairly common in the 1850's, although many of them were short-lived.

If the University of Iowa in 1858 could count only 124 students (117 from Johnson County) its friendly rival — Iowa State College — was just being created by law that year. Although legislative enemies opposed to the creation of Iowa State had referred derisively to agricultural students as "educated clodhoppers," William Duane Wilson of *The Iowa Farmer* took sharp issue with them:

An Agricultural college should be connected with a model farm. It should aim to give as complete an education in the common and higher English branches as any institution of learning; but connect study all the way through with labor. Let us see whether human hands and muscles hard with toil are a damage to an intelligent head or incapable to high civil truths. *We must learn to honor labor*, and to this end labor should honor its votaries.

An agricultural college should enlarge, arrange, classify and harmonize the field of natural sciences. The revolution of Philosophy, the discoveries of Chemistry, the phenomena of earth and air, can have to no one more interest than to him who notes the seasons and watches the changing winds for seed time; who waits upon nature in her distilling of the dew, and her rattling of the thunder clouds to help on the growing corn, and who sings the

harvest home by the light of the kind harvest morn. The agriculturist walks hand in hand with step dame nature, he needs to know her wayward moods and understand her to sway and bend her variable temper.

The editor of the *Sigourney Life in the West* was equally convinced of the value of an agricultural college.

This bill, should it become a law, will lay the foundation broad and deep for the future greatness of Iowa. Iowa must, from necessity, be an Agricultural State, and it is by fostering that interest that her resources must be developed. Every cent of money well expended in that direction must yield a rich return in future. Agriculture and Education must go hand in hand on the mission of civilization, and we know of no work which our Legislators could do better calculated to advance the future of the State than by maturing plans for the advancement of these.

Truly there were men and women of vision, whose dreams were large, whose hopes could not be crushed, and whose labors and sacrifices in 1858 did much to bring education to the forefront, thus causing the Hawkeye State to be ranked high among the states of the Union.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Gold on the Prairie

With poor crops and a panic to plague them, it is not surprising that some Iowans should look for greener pastures. California was a long way off for the less venturesome but maybe, reasoned some, there was gold at home. Actually, small quantities of gold were found at various points in Iowa, causing a gold rush fever to develop in 1858. The following letter, sent from the postmaster at Osceola to the Burlington *Hawk-Eye*, was reprinted in the Davenport *Weekly Gazette* of April 29:

The gold excitement is high here. There is a company of some fifty hands at work turning South River, and as soon as they get it completed, the dam and race dug, expect to find plenty of the precious metal. There are others making good wages, digging in the hills bordering the streams. It has been found in a number of places in this [Clarke] county.

A letter from Leon, quoted in *Ward's Own* of Bloomfield of May 6, 1858, declared there were several gold mines in Decatur County, and that "genuine gold" had been found in Ringgold, Clarke, and Madison counties. The same newspaper quoted a dispatch from Keokuk stating the *Gate City* editor had seen specimens of gold mined

near Winterset. Another dispatch indicated men were making five dollars a day at the Iowa diggings. A month later, on June 10, 1858, *Ward's Own* declared:

A number of our citizens talk of going to the mines as soon as the streams run down a little, so that they can prospect in the beds of the creeks. Soap Creek has furnished pearls, and we know of no good reason why Fox, Jaquest [Chequest?], or Shunam branch should not yield a sprinkling of the filthy lucre. The "Hairy Nation" is very prolific in a great many things, and why may it not abound in the specious trash found so extensively in other portions of the State.

The *Sioux City Eagle* of June 5, 1858, agreed the "gold fever" was running high in Iowa but knew of no one who had "accumulated a pile" despite the numbers who had spent "considerable time" searching for it. Where one man made "two dollars a day and roast beef" in the Iowa diggings, the *Eagle* concluded, "there are a dozen who do not make their bread and butter." The *Davenport Daily Gazette* was equally skeptical.

We have heard of one of the citizens of Davenport leaving our city in the search, who when he reached Iowa City was informed that there was no gold there to justify the digging, but that there was plenty of it further west. The further west he proceeded the same illusion was held out to him, so conceiving the whole thing to be a humbug he left the pursuit to the ignus fatuus and returned a wiser man — as many have done before him — to his home.

Meanwhile, saner minds endeavored to calm

restless Iowans. The *Iowa Farmer* of April 1, wisely observed:

There is gold on every farm in Iowa. A good team attached to a good stout plow, run ten inches below the surface will secure more gold than half our farmers would know what to do with, if they persist in this plan a few years. — There is more gold in our soil than was ever or will be dug from the sand banks of California — and when it is laid up for use, it looks clearer and brighter than found in any other kind of mine. Remember, it lies principally at *ten inches or more* below the surface.

Scarcely had the gold fever in Iowa subsided than news sped over the prairies of the discovery of gold in the "Cherry Creek Diggings" or "Pike's Peak Gold Country" in Colorado. By the fall of 1858 fantastic yarns of gold strikes were being spread by the merchants and newspapers of Missouri River towns hopeful of becoming outfitting centers in a gold rush. The Webster City *Hamilton Freeman* of January 21, 1859, mindful of the unrest in that sparsely settled county of 1,655 souls, endeavored to discourage farmers from pulling up stakes and setting out for the diggings.

There is just now a wonderful uneasiness among all classes of people, east and west, occasioned by the pretended gold discoveries at Pike's Peak. The infection has extended even into this garden of the West. Many of our farmers, we are sorry to say, are talking of going to the gold regions, and others would go if they could. It seems to us that the farmer who exchanges his certainly golden prospects in Hamilton County for the shadowy

visions of the new Eldorado, is very shortsighted, to say the least. It is true . . . the hard times, and the wet summer of 1858, have both contributed to make our farmers anxious for some change in their programme of operations; and the prospect of gold at Pike's Peak imparts the first ray of hope. . . . gold-digging is but a lottery, at best, in which the good luck of here and there a man is heralded to the skies, while the miserable failure of thousands is unchronicled and unknown. Farming, intelligently pursued, invariably leads to success.

We believe the future is bright with promise to every man in Hamilton County, who sticks to his farm. The drawbacks of the last year and a half are merely temporary and exceptional, and will soon give place to a better state of things. Everywhere the times have been hard, and almost everywhere have only meager crops rewarded the labors of the husbandman. We have not suffered more than other localities. With a soil abounding in all the elements of fertility — a climate the healthiest on the globe — good society — and the promise of a market as soon as any new section of our country will have one, there seem to be a hundred inducements to farmers to remain here, where there is one to leave for the uncertainties of gold digging. Times have often been harder and prospects more gloomy throughout the West, than at present. But the clouds have speedily given place to sunshine. — They will do so again.

Although the logic of such arguments may have restrained farmers in 1858, thousands of Iowans joined the Pike's Peak Gold Rush in 1859.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Wild Game Everywhere

In 1857 Orion Clemens, the elder brother of Samuel L. Clemens, told the following story in his *Keokuk Directory and Business Mirror* for the year 1857:

"How far will I have to go to find buffalo?" inquired an eastern gentleman of the clerk of one of our hotels, one morning three or four years ago. It was soon after breakfast, and the querist was armed and equipped for a glorious hunt.

"About six hundred miles," replied the clerk.

"Bless me! I thought they were all about!" exclaimed the astonished sportsman.

Although buffalo had pretty well disappeared from Iowa by 1858, considerable game could be found on the prairies and more heavily wooded districts. The *Webster City Hamilton Freeman* of January 14, 1858, records a "large bear weighing 300 pounds" killed near Hardin in Allamakee County.

That hunting was once profitable is attested by the following from the *Hamilton Freeman* of December 21:

"Ed Wright" of Mason Township, Cerro Gordo Co., the pioneer of Winnebago and Worth counties, and one of most successful hunters and trappers of that region —

wears a suit of clothes made entirely from the skins of animals which have been slain by his hand. His coat, pants, vest, moccasins and mittens were made from the skins of deer — tanned by himself after the Indian mode — which fell before the deadly aim of his enormous old smooth bore; while an unfortunate coon that was beguiled into one of his traps furnished him with the raw material for a comfortable head gear. "Ed." used to slay hosts of bears, deer, elk, buffaloes, otters, beavers, &c., and the change that has been wrought in his hunting grounds by the emigration of the last two or three years, is anything but welcome to him. He sighs for a new country, and another spring will doubtless see him pack his "traps" and set his face toward the setting sun. — Success to "Ed." wherever he pitches his tent in the wild Northwest.

Meanwhile, small game hunting was popular with Iowans in 1858. On May 24 the *Davenport Daily Gazette* chronicled a "pigeon shooting match" in which the challengers were beaten "but the shooting, on both sides, was fair." The *Iowa City Republican* was informed in December that "one firm in this city last Saturday, packed and shipped to New York about thirty dozen prairie chickens. Several other firms were nearly as successful as the one referred to." The *Iowa Weekly Citizen* of Des Moines carried a story on December 29 that \$1,300 in prairie chickens and quails had been sent to New York by one Iowa City firm.

The destruction of quail in Iowa was so appalling that the *Hamilton Freeman* of December 10, 1858, importuned hunters not to shoot them. "In a few years, if they are not killed off," the editor

declared, "they will increase so rapidly as to become very plenty. At present, sportsmen, spare the quails!"

The ravage of wolves and coyotes was so great in pioneer Iowa that Governor Ralph P. Lowe approved an act on March 15, 1858, providing that the county judge was to allow \$1.50 on the scalp of each prairie wolf, lynx, or wild cat, and \$3.00 for the "large species of Wolves known as the Timber Wolf." The ferocity of these wolves was described in the Cedar Rapids *Democrat* and reprinted in the Dubuque *Daily Express and Herald* of January 10, 1858.

A few days since a party of gentlemen from this city, went out on the prairie to the west, to hunt prairie chickens and such other game as might come within range of their fowling pieces. Arriving on the hunting ground, they separated, leaving their horses in charge of one of their number, while the rest sought for game. In a short time they were alarmed at the sound of a gun in the direction of their horses, and on hastening to the spot found that a wolf had suddenly attacked one of them, a valuable animal, and injured him seriously. The wolf was still within range of their guns, but terror had seized upon the hunters, and they made a rapid flight homeward. The horse has since died from his injuries, and the wolf still wears his scalp. Can't some valiant hunter get his scalp, and thus secure the bounty?

Newspapers frequently called their readers' attention to circular wolf hunts. On January 14, 1858, the Davenport *Weekly Gazette* announced:

A grand circular wolf hunt is to come off at 9 o'clock A. M., on Saturday, January 16th, in Scott and Cedar counties, embracing the four townships of Liberty, Cleona, Farmington and Inland, where there are wolves in abundance. No guns will be permitted on the ground, and no dogs be allowed to run loose. A very friendly invitation is given to the citizens of Davenport, Muscatine, Tipton and Iowa City to be in attendance. Much sport is anticipated.

A week later the same editor chronicled the results of this widely-heralded wolf hunt:

GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL — We advertised last week a great wolf hunt which was to come off at the outer edge of this county, last Saturday. At the appointed time a great crowd of folks assembled, numbering, it is estimated, about one thousand persons, and a great many of them mounted. They formed a circle of twelve miles, and centered five miles from Fulton. About twenty wolves were started, but the greater number were smart enough to get out of the ring. Only three half-starved looking chicken-thieves were killed. There was, however, a great deal of excitement, and lots of fun. Some of the young men were ambitious to exhibit their horsemanship, but their ambition as well as themselves, had a fall. A young man named Hollenbeck had his horse knocked over, breaking the animal's leg. The horse was afterwards killed. The young man was badly injured. A subscription was taken up to pay him for the loss of his horse, and we learn that enough was raised for the purpose. The hunt commenced at 10 o'clock A. M. and closed at 3 P. M.

The Des Moines *Iowa Citizen* of February 3, 1858, recorded a wolf hunt in Jasper County.

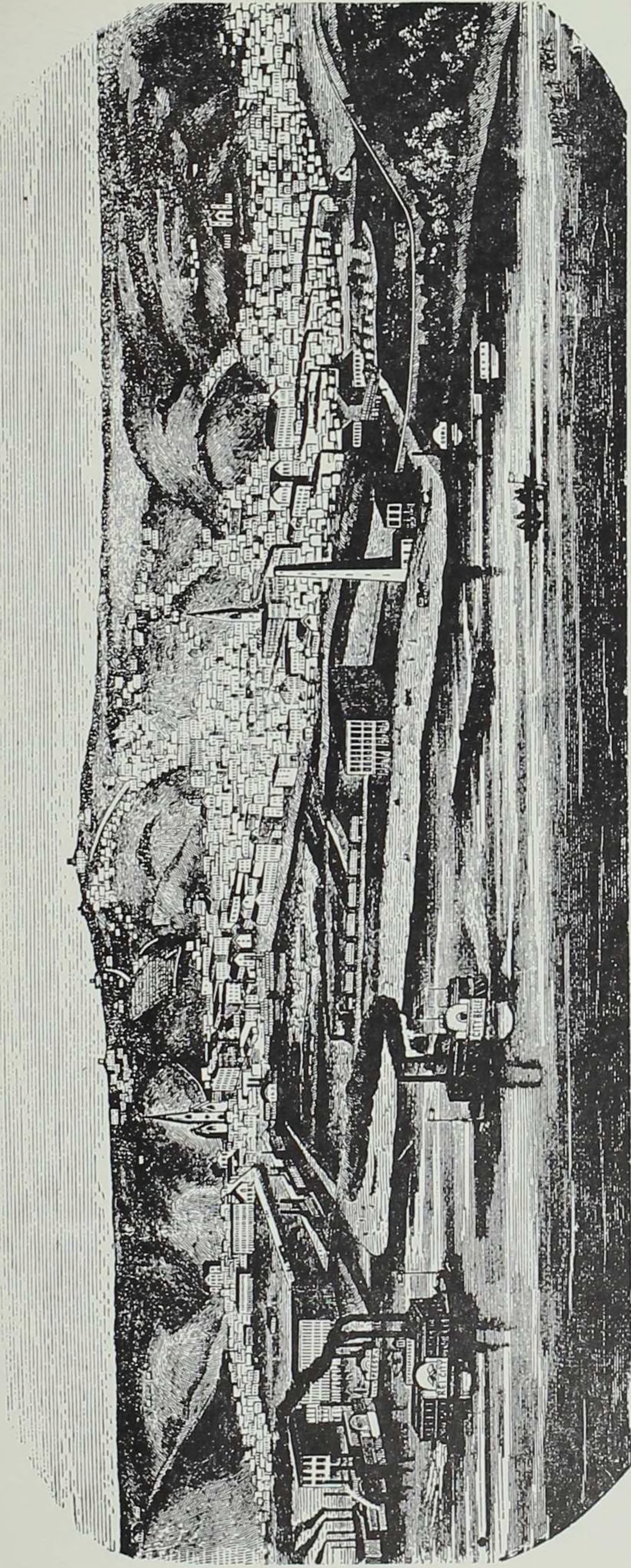
The mania for wolf hunting has infected Jasper. Three hundred and fifty persons in Newton resolved, at a meeting a few days since, to go into a general hunt. Dr. Gray was appointed President. He finds it easier to secure the presidency of a wolf society, than to be elected representative as the competitor of Col. Shelledy.

Those Iowans who lament the stringent laws on hunting in 1958 may be surprised to find that measures were needed and passed a century ago. Apparently the law of 1858 was not too clear for the Bloomfield *Democratic Clarion* facetiously observed:

It may not be generally known that by a law of the last General Assembly, it makes it unlawful to "Kill, sell, purchase, or have in possession, any deer, elk, wild turkey, prairie chicken, pheasant, or quail," between the first day of January and the 15th of August. This puts an embargo on all game shooting and traffic for this winter, for our citizens are a law abiding people, and always obey the mandate of the law making power. But there is one difficulty in obeying this law, provided anybody should be found to have any of this interdicted game in their possession on the 1st day of January. He cannot kill it, for that would be unlawful. He dare not sell it, for that subject him to be mulcted in damages, besides everybody is forbidden to purchase it. He cannot keep it, for the law says he shall not "have in possession." What can be done in such a case?

Although wild game was no longer a significant economic factor in Iowa it still afforded great sport and an easy change of diet for many pioneers.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN



From Northern Iowa

View of Dubuque in 1858

In 1858 a prize essay on Dubuque, published by the Dubuque Emigrant Association, closed with these optimistic words: "The position of Dubuque, upon the Upper Mississippi nearly midway between St. Louis and St. Paul, about five hundred miles distant, and also its location on the railroad lines across Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin have made it the center of trade for this portion of the Northwest. Sustained as the city is by the trade, to a great extent of the northern half of Iowa, and a part of that of Minnesota, it must eventually become the metropolis of the Upper Mississippi."

Dubuque Emigrant Association

OFFICE—JULIEN THEATER BUILDINGS,

LOCUST, BETWEEN 5th AND 6th STREETS,
DUBUQUE, IOWA.

To Travelers, Emigrants, Settlers, and Owners or Purchasers
of Lands in Iowa:

The rapid settlement of the eastern and southern portions of this State, during the past ten years, has left but little government land in the counties bordering on the Mississippi.

The Railroads, being extended into the interior, will speedily develop the agricultural and mineral resources of those districts of country in which the roads are located. The unsold and unoccupied alternate sections within six miles of the Dubuque and Pacific Railroad are in market at \$2.50 per acre. Government lands are for sale in each of the four land districts embracing the north half of the state at \$1.25 per acre. The Dubuque and Pacific Railroad is completed to Nottingham, Delaware County, thirty-eight miles from Dubuque, and will be finished to Manchester, forty-seven miles, the present year.

The Dubuque Western Railroad is finished to Sandspring, thirty-two miles from Dubuque and within fifteen miles of Anamosa, Jones County.

Throughout the whole north half of the state good second-hand, unimproved lands are offered for sale at prices mostly ranging from \$1.50 to \$10.00 per acre, reference being had to timber, water, nearness to railroads, churches, schools, and other advantages. Information collected from more than fifty counties in relation to lands for sale, water, timber, minerals, soil, settlements, prospects, etc., will be given to strangers and emigrants, gratis, on application to the office of the Association.

The descriptive Registers are open to the public for examination and the entry of farms, unimproved lands, city and town lots, and other property. The Association is incorporated and is sustained by contributions from the city of Dubuque and other corporations and from individuals, for the benefit of persons seeking information relating to Iowa.

Letters of inquiry will be promptly answered, and upon the receipt of stamps to pay return postage, descriptive pamphlets, catalogues of lands and other documents will be sent, gratis, by mail.

Strangers and emigrants wishing information, and citizens of Iowa, having property to sell or who can give any information in reference to the inducements and advantages offered to settlers, in particular localities, are cordially invited to call at the office, or to correspond with the Secretary.

OFFICERS.

CHAS. CORKERY, President.

EDWIN JAMES, Jr., Vice President.

C. H. BOOTH, Treasurer.

JAMES HUFF, Auditor.

Address,

C. CHILDS, Secretary.

DUBUQUE, IOWA, August, 1858.