The Palimpsest

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

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

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

THE MEANING OF PALIMPSEST

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

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

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THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY JOHN ELY BRIGGS

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The Founding of Iowa College

The village of Denmark was the center of Iowa Congregationalism in 1844. There Asa Turner and Julius A. Reed had founded in 1838 the first Congregational church in Iowa. There an academy, endowed with one-half of the town lots, was incorporated in 1843 by the Territorial legislature and authorized to instruct the youth of both sexes "in science and literature". And there, in November, 1843, members of the famous Iowa Band were ordained and assigned to their pastorates. Settled chiefly by persons of New England origin, the community from the beginning was characterized by a spirit of piety and culture. Influential church members talked of founding a college.

One of the earliest suggestions of a Congregational college in Iowa was made in a letter written by Reuben Gaylord in March, 1838, to the American Home Missionary Society. A few young men in Yale Theological Seminary, he wrote, "have become deeply interested in that section of

our country lying west of the Mississippi, commonly known as the 'Iowa District' or 'Black Hawk Purchase'. Seeing its destitute condition, both as respects education and religious institutions, and learning that the District is filling up with a rapidity unparalleled in the history of our country, we feel a strong conviction that, if the way can be opened, it is our duty to plant our feet west of the Father of Waters. We wish to concentrate our influence and bring it to bear upon the future state of Iowa while yet in its infancy. Our object will be two-fold — to preach the gospel, and to open a school at the outset, which can soon be elevated to the rank of a college."

The subject was not allowed to languish. In May, 1838, the Yale men planned a meeting "for consultation of those interested in our Iowa college plan." Money for such an enterprise was hard to get, and they contemplated deferring "the college effort until the pressure is over. But times are getting better. Banks are beginning to pay specie, and things are looking up." Reuben Gaylord began his ministry in Henry County that summer, cherishing his hopes of establishing a college.

Whatever the cultural aspirations of the early settlers may have been, the economic conditions on the frontier in Iowa were not encouraging for

the building of colleges. The pioneers needed all the cash they could get to pay for their land and to improve their own dwellings. But Gaylord and other advocates of higher education conceived of a means of endowment in the form of land. A tract could be secured, it was thought, "with comparative ease in the first settlement of a country, when land is plenty and cheap", worth maybe $200,000 in ten years. The Home Missionary Board smiled upon this project and "promised to do all in their power to aid in carrying it forward."

On March 4, 1841, after nearly three years in the Territory of Iowa, Reuben Gaylord wrote to the Hartford *Congregational Observer* that the population was increasing rapidly and "the machinery of moral and religious influences must be set in operation. The need of immediate action is becoming daily more and more pressing." He appealed for help. "A system of education is to be projected and carried into execution. To do this, needs the united counsels of men of enlarged and cultivated minds", he declared. "If a dozen faithful ministers, accompanied by a few hundreds of enterprising, pious young men, would now enter Iowa, eternity alone could disclose the blessings that would descend to future generations."

Meanwhile, Asa Turner was laboring in the vicinity of Denmark and organizing churches in

various communities. He, too, was thinking about the educational responsibility of the church. "We must take steps to found a college", he told Julius A. Reed in the summer of 1842. That fall, when the Congregational Association of Iowa met at Brighton, a committee was appointed to report upon the "expediency of taking the incipient steps towards the foundation of a college in this territory." The project was deemed to be premature at that time, though Asa Turner and J. A. Reed were authorized to correspond and take other measures pertaining to this subject.

The population in eastern Iowa was increasing rapidly. More preachers were needed. Asa Turner, like Reuben Gaylord, appealed to the Home Missionary Society. "I have done all I could, privately and publicly, to enlist laborers for this field," he wrote in 1843. A layman, W. W. Hadden of Keosauqua, was reported to have entered a claim to a water-power site on the Wapsipinicon River in Buchanan County which might be devoted to the support of a college. It was assumed, however, that funds and missionaries would have to be secured from the East before much progress could be made either in religion or education.

Just when hope was at low ebb, good news came. Several young men at Andover Theolog-

ical Seminary decided to serve where their ministry was most needed. After much prayer and discussion, they selected Iowa. And so the Iowa Band was formed — twelve earnest men, all college trained and well prepared for religious service. One of them expressed the hope and vision of all when he said: "If each one of us can only plant one good permanent church, and altogether build a college, what a work that would be!" It was the same ideal that Asa Turner, Reuben Gaylord, and the men at Yale had cherished five years earlier. But this purpose, separately formed, became a common one when the two groups united in the Territory of Iowa.

Nine of the Iowa Band arrived at Denmark early in November, 1843. There, in the simple, pioneer church, the young ministers were ordained. The needs of various communities were described, and each one was allowed to choose the place in which to begin his ministry. The two married men were given well settled locations — Daniel Lane went to Keosauqua and A. B. Robbins to Muscatine. Horace Hutchinson preferred Burlington; Harvey Adams decided upon Farmington; B. A. Spaulding volunteered for "rough work" in the new settlements farther west; William Salter selected Maquoketa; Edwin B. Turner favored Cascade; Ebenezer Alden took Solon;

and Ephraim Adams went to Mount Pleasant. In the following spring James J. Hill began his work at Garnavillo and Erastus Ripley located at Bentonsport. Ill health prevented W. B. Hammond from coming.

Although the first services of the new ministers were devoted to the religious welfare of their pastorates, the educational feature of their work was not forgotten. Several ministers, including some of the Iowa Band, met at Denmark on March 12, 1844, to discuss church affairs. At the close of the regular business, according to Ephraim Adams, the ministers were "invited to tarry a few moments and listen to plans for founding a college. A little surprised were they, and not a little gratified."

The proposal was to find a tract of land, in some suitable location, and obtain funds for its purchase, and then sell it in small parcels at an advanced price to settlers favorable to the object, "thus securing an endowment for the institution, and a community in which it might prosper." A committee of exploration was appointed, with J. A. Reed as chairman, and authorized to call a meeting when ready to report. March 12, 1844, therefore, is a date to be remembered, for it marks the beginning of the execution of a long-cherished design to found a Congregational college in Iowa.

The committee acted promptly, inspected several locations, particularly the water-power site on the Wapsipinicon River, and called a meeting of Congregational and New School Presbyterian ministers in southern Iowa at Denmark on April 16, 1844. This assembly was apparently well attended and the report of the committee was favorably received. After some discussion Reuben Gaylord offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted: "*Resolved,* That we deem it expedient without delay to adopt measures preparatory to laying the foundation of an institution of learning in this territory." The ministers forthwith organized as the Iowa College Association with suitable rules and regulations, and named an executive committee to promote the project. Asa Turner was appointed agent for the association to go East and raise $30,000 to be invested in land for the endowment of the college. The members of the association agreed to defray his expenses out of their own scanty resources.

Thus, the plan recommended by the committee and adopted by the association was the one conceived by Reuben Gaylord and urged by him on various occasions. It was the same in principle as the method adopted by the government of selling lots in county-seat towns to pay for the erection of public buildings. Moreover, the exploring com-

mittee seems to have approved the tract in Buchanan County where the present city of Independence is located, including the water power furnished by the Wapsipinicon River at that point.

Actually the selection must have been made late in 1843, for the Dubuque *Miner's Express* on December 23, 1843, mentioned the fact that twelve Congregational clergymen proposed to establish in Buchanan County a manual labor college, and had purchased therefore the water rights at a certain place on the Wapsipinicon River in order that a mill might form a part of its equipment. That this idea ever became a part of the scheme is not shown in any authoritative review of this period of the college history. How the newspaper which published the item came to infer that a manual labor college was contemplated can only be surmised. That this was the same group which, in the following spring, organized the Iowa College Association seems evident.

The journey of Asa Turner to the East in order to secure capital to purchase the claim in Buchanan County was not successful, though through no fault of his or of his associates who from their thin purses contributed his expenses. It is said that he might have succeeded had not the interests of possible contributors been centered in a new organization, just formed, for the "Pro-

motion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West". It was the opinion of the officers of this organization that the Iowa plan of investing in a large body of land with a view to subsequent sale at a profit involved an element of speculation.

The proceedings in Boston on this occasion are worthy of notice, inasmuch as they reveal not only the reasons for the action, but also the high moral ground on which the refusal to endorse the movement was made. As will be seen, although the practice of investing in land from which to derive a profit for the establishment of an institution of learning has often been recognized since then, it was not believed by these conservative eastern men in 1844 to be the best way. These facts appear in the record of the session at which Asa Turner was present. He had presented the details, as the Iowa organization had authorized, whereupon a committee was named to consider three questions: First, was it expedient to prepare to establish a college in Iowa? Second, was the plan proposed suitable? And third, if not, what plan should be adopted? This action occurred on May 28, 1844, and the next day the conclusions were submitted.

According to the committee, each member of which had concluded separately, prior to their joint report through the secretary, that it was ex-

pedient to establish a college in Iowa but that they should counsel together in regard to available means for that purpose. The plan of endowment through the purchase of a township of land on borrowed money with the expectation of repaying it, principal and interest, in five years along with the provision for a college fund from the profits, involved serious objections. There was the risk of purchasing where the land would be sure to increase in value; and there would be some difficulty also in securing the desired amount just where the interests of college education for years to come would require the location of such an institution. Moreover, there would be great risk in trusting such an undertaking to the financial management of a group of men whose experiences were not in financial affairs, but rather in the intellectual and moral atmosphere. There was some danger that their minds would become occupied with these commercial transactions and great injury be done to their legitimate work; it would afford a good excuse to churches for not contributing to educational support; the character and reputation of the Iowa men in the ministry would be exposed to great danger if any mistake should be made; and finally there was great prejudice in the East against all plans of the kind.

The committee advised, therefore, that a loca-

tion in a desirable environment should be selected and the support be obtained from direct offerings. It would be well to have a site donated — but forty acres was declared to be an abundance of land for that purpose. There would be no objection, however, to taking land as a gift. No debts should be incurred, nor should the college be obligated for any compensation for donations. As early as convenient the trustees should offer instruction on a moderate scale, and extend it as means would permit. Finally, it was shown that under the recently organized society for the promotion of education in the West, aid could not be so readily obtained in the East, since the churches in that section of the country were confiding in it, and only when the "plan and the system of instruction" should be so well matured that "the confidence of the Eastern mind" was secured, could these new institutions obtain aid through this formal arrangement.

Ephraim Adams has said that the "Western brethren, with some reluctance, yet cordially, yielded to the judgment of their Eastern friends, some of whom had had experience in the West." At the same time he reflected on what might have been the results had the scheme been undertaken. As he later observed the prosperous town of Independence, located on one of the chief lines of rail-

road, with water power, and in the midst of a rich country owned by enterprising citizens, he said to himself: "That is where, with a few dollars, we might once have started and endowed" our college. Although no one could have foretold the outcome, had this been tried, it was certain that the plan finally adopted under Eastern advice meant "beginning at the very lowest round of the ladder, whence every step upward was of necessity by the hardest effort."

About two years were spent in the preliminary survey of college possibilities involving the formulation of new plans and seeking a location in some favorable spot, but without any funds whatsoever. The Iowa College Association reluctantly accepted Rev. Asa Turner's report in October, 1844, and appointed a committee consisting of Asa Turner and Ephraim Adams to locate an eligible site for the college. They eventually recommended Davenport as the most desirable place, a city which even then was considered as having no rival "for ease of access and beauty of situation". The judgment of the committee was unanimously approved at a meeting of the Iowa College Association held at Davenport in June, 1846, provided that the citizens of Davenport would donate the land and raise fourteen hundred dollars. Moreover, each member of the association was to raise

a hundred dollars and stimulate general contributions. As James J. Hill observed, "the time had come to give as well as consult," and, asking the privilege of being the first donor to the college, he laid a silver dollar on the table.

At the end of a year the citizens of Davenport had given thirteen lots for the college campus and pledged $1362 toward the erection of a building. The goal seemed to be in sight. The Iowa College Association authorized fifteen trustees to incorporate under the State law. A few days after the articles of incorporation were recorded, the first board of trustees met, thus giving Iowa College legal and active existence. Their first act was to authorize the erection of "a permanent college-building, in good taste, and which, when enclosed, shall not exceed in cost the sum of two thousand dollars."

In the course of the following year the building was erected and all bills were paid. In November, 1848, instruction was begun by Rev. Erastus Ripley, one of the Iowa Band, who was appointed professor of languages and principal of the preparatory department, with a salary of five hundred dollars a year. In 1850, in addition to those enrolled in the preparatory department, there were twenty-eight students in Latin and eight in Greek.

CLARENCE R. AURNER

An Iowa Anecdote

HIGH WATER IN CANAAN

Some of the earliest pre-survey maps of the State of Iowa show an astonishing extent of swamp and lake areas. Much of what is now the most arable and fertile farm land was then apparently under water. In some cases this was actually true, while in others it only seemed to be so.

It must be remembered that many of these maps were only sketches drawn according to verbal descriptions of traders and trappers or from the observations of troops of dragoons making their occasional journeys overland, hither and yon, across the trackless prairies. These marches often began in the spring or early summer before the flood waters from the melting snow and frequent spring rains had settled into the ground. Such seasonal conditions gave the dragoons an erroneous impression.

It is a notable fact that many of the first settlers located along the rivers on lands which are now considered the poorest and most unproductive. At least three factors entered into this seeming anomaly — transportation, timber, and lack of adequate drainage upon the high prairies. All

this, however, has long been changed, so that it is difficult for younger students of Iowa history to realize why it is true that what we now consider our very best lands were frequently the last to be "taken up" for settlement.

Canaan Township, in northeast Henry County, with soil of the greatest fertility and almost 97 per cent arable, is considered to be one of the most perfect townships of farm land in the entire United States, yet much of it remained idle and unoccupied until long after other parts of the county had been fully developed. Each year, in the spring, due to its extreme flatness and imperfect drainage, Canaan appeared on the prairie as an immense, unbroken sheet of water, often stretching for miles, as far as the eye could reach, giving the semblance of a vast lake.

The water stood at varying depths, filling the low places in the gently undulating glacial ground moraine. Having no adequate outlet, the water remained, sometimes until late in June, when it soaked away into the ground or evaporated under the strengthening rays of the advancing sun. This condition often prevailed for months at a time. Sometimes it was midsummer before the poor roads then existing became at all passable.

Under these circumstances, it is little wonder that settlement was delayed. Such early Terri-

torial roads as were projected diagonally across the township toward Iowa City failed to materialize, being abandoned in favor of the less direct routes which were dryer, skirting the edge of the hill country through New London and Mount Pleasant. To travel such roads as did exist, during the wet season in the spring of the year, was often hazardous, and a journey to town or away from home was made only when emergency demanded.

Those who did travel frequently went on horseback, often swimming the swollen streams and wading across the low places. Farmers who had a new Turney wagon box were lucky indeed, for it is said that these wagon boxes were so well made that on more than one occasion, when the water got beyond the depth of the wagon, they floated off the running gear and were used as boats in the emergency. At least once such a conversion was credited with having saved the lives of some members of a family who were thus caught in the high water.

As serious as these situations sometimes were, pioneer joviality usually prevailed, capable of making the most of amusing incidents. One morning, when the water was unusually high, Jesse Mathews went by Mike Mulligan's place at the southwest corner of section fourteen, some seven

miles almost due north of New London. He was riding on horseback. Seeing Mulligan through an open window in the house, apparently unable to get out into the yard, he called to him, "Is your cellar full of water, Mike?"

In a droll voice, Mulligan yelled back, "It would be if it wa'n't for running out of the windows."

That evening upon returning home, Mathews saw Mulligan outside in the yard, groping around in the water with a long pole. He seemed to be very cautiously probing every step ahead of him.

"What are you doing?" asked Mathews.

Mulligan, without looking up, replied in a loud voice, "I'm lookin' for the well, by gad."

BEN HUR WILSON

With Dyed Garments

The frontier housewife was something of a pioneer chemist. Her mother had taught her the rudiments of herbal medicine, had tutored her in the complexities of tanning, and had instructed her in the mysteries of vegetable and chemical dyes. But of all the talents which the emigrant woman was expected to master, the art of dyeing was the most fascinating. From earliest colonial times indigo had stood for color in drab cabins and fustic had transformed dull homespun into yellow garments. Many a linsey-woolsey suit took its characteristic shade of brown from the walnut or from the root of the birch tree.

As the daughters of the Old Dominion moved along the waterways and the forest trails leading to the trans-Mississippi West, they brought with them — as did the women from New England, York State, and Pennsylvania — skilled knowledge of colors. They came with dyed garments, exemplifying the sixty-third chapter of Isaiah. Their chemistry was much like themselves — practical, tried and true, and tested in the stern school of adversity. Tucked securely in some odd corner of flatboat or wagon were packets of dye

stuffs. When a new home had been established, the women at once began their accustomed duties of carding and spinning, weaving and dyeing.

Even in Iowa, fringe of the frontier, the art of coloring was practised generally. To dye well was no romantic task. It meant knowledge of mordants, acquaintance with cloth textures, and some botanical lore. It meant long hours over steaming kettles and muscle-straining periods of dipping and wringing.

To understand mordants, of course, was to know the real secret of dyeing. Iowa homemakers knew that some dye stuffs would not unite directly with the cloth to be colored. A unifying "substance" had to be combined with the cloth before the material was dipped into a solution containing the color. Intermediate substances with which cloth was first treated were called in the picturesque language of the nineteenth century "mordants". It was frequently said that the most important part of dyeing was the choice and application of mordants. Upon a careful selection of these rested the success of the entire process.

One of the more generally known mordants throughout Iowa in the early period was "alumine" which was used either in a state of common alum or as acetite of alumine. The latter was prepared quite simply by pouring acetite of lead into

a solution of alum. Common alum as a mordant was used primarily with woolen fabrics, and acetite of alumine was selected for use with cotton and linen. Both alum and acetite of lead were relatively easy to secure in Iowa during the late forties and early fifties. General stores and pharmacies, for example, in Burlington stocked a plentiful supply. Much of this stock came up the Mississippi River and some of it was purchased from Cincinnati supply houses.

Individual taste, early experience, and training, of course, determined selection from a wide range of mordants. Nitromuriate was popular, as were red oxide of iron, an infusion made from sumach, common in Iowa, and, in some instances, sal ammoniac.

The most popular colors and the easiest to impart to fabrics were the blues, reds, and yellows. Compound colors, made by mixing two simple ones, were none too common in the average home. Greens, olives, lavender grays, cinnamon fawns, although attractive, usually were beyond the capabilities of the average woman. But the simple hues were easy.

The coloring matter used for imparting the various shades of red was derived from orchil, madder, carthamus, kermes, or cochineal. Madder or orchil was used for coarse woolen cloths.

Fine cloth was dyed almost exclusively with cochineal.

If the Iowa homemaker wished to give woolens one of the many shades of blue, she went about the dyeing in a businesslike manner. First, she dissolved one part of indigo in four parts of concentrated sulphuric acid. To this solution she added, as her second step, one part of dry carbonate of potash. The entire mixture then was diluted with eight times its weight of water. Meanwhile, she had boiled the cloth for an hour in a solution composed of five parts of alum and three parts of tartar for every thirty-two parts of cloth. After this boiling, the cloth was plunged into the previously prepared mixture of indigo, sulphuric acid, and potash, and was boiled until the wished-for shade of blue was attained. Indigo was especially satisfactory as it was the only blue dye which could be applied directly to the cloth without first subjecting the textile to a mordant.

A sky blue usually was achieved in silk by mixing together six parts of bran, six of indigo, six of potash, and one of madder and then boiling until the proper shade developed. Cotton and linen, however, were treated differently. In this case, the mixture was composed of one part of indigo, one of green sulphate of iron, and two parts of

quicklime. The relative ease of handling indigo induced many women to prefer the various shades of blue to the more-difficult-to-prepare reds and crimsons. Yellow also was more complicated than blue.

The essential coloring matter for yellow, however, was not difficult to procure in Iowa. Weld, fustic, and quercitron bark were carried as staple items in drug stores and general merchandise establishments. Sometimes, the physician kept a small supply of dye stuffs. It was not too uncommon, indeed, to find a jar of indigo next to a laudanum bottle and a box of quercitron associating with unrefined quinine.

Yellow, of course, demanded a mordant before any further step was taken. Cloth, therefore, was always first soaked in alumine. If a bright orange or golden yellow was desired, oxide of tin was used as the mordant. After the cloth had been thoroughly impregnated with the mordant, it was plunged, without being rinsed, into a bath of warm water containing sufficient quercitron bark, weld, or fustic to lend the desired shade.

As walnut was indigenous to Iowa, it was relatively easy to find ample ingredients to concoct a brownish dye. Walnut peels or even the green covering of the nut readily yielded their coloring matter to water. To secure the best results, the

woman half filled a cask with walnut peels, then covered them with water, and let them stand for about a year. By that time the water had assumed a dark hue. As in the case of indigo, no mordant was necessary for use with walnut. Wool cloth was steeped directly in the decoction until the wished-for color was attained. The intensity of the shade was proportional to the strength of the solution.

To what extent the dyeing of cloth took place in the Iowa home during the State's early period is difficult to determine. That many thrifty housewives did some dyeing cannot be doubted. Shops would not have stocked alum, madder, cochineal, and the other mordants and dyes had there been no demand. And the minute instructions printed in many home guides used throughout the State point to an interest in coloring. In addition, many women who emigrated to Iowa had been trained in the art. As time went on and as retail establishments carried larger stocks of commercially dyed yard goods, the need for home dyeing undoubtedly decreased. But even then it is not improbable that some women when remodeling garments took the opportunity to alter color as well as design.

The elementary chemistry imparted by a knowledge of dyeing stimulated interest in allied fields.

For example, a well-known method for dyeing hair black called for a pint of the liquor of pickled herrings. With this was mixed half a pound of lamp black and two ounces of the rust of iron. After boiling for twenty minutes, the preparation was strained and then rubbed well into the roots of the hair. The home manufacture of perfumes, soaps, and tooth pastes was practised also.

One of the earliest hair oils, for example, was prepared by mixing half a pint of oil of sweet almonds with half a pint of olive oil. It was perfumed with attar of roses or, according to individual taste, with essence of orange flowers, or with extract of jasmine. A "fine perfume" could be made with an ounce of ground cassia upon which were poured three ounces of warm oil of cloves. French Hungary Water came almost entirely from the garden of herbs which hundreds of Iowans tilled. This perfume was concocted from the young leaves of rosemary, lavender, thyme, and sage. These were infused in odorless spirits of wine and allowed to remain for a month. Colored with alkanet, a simple and familiar preparation, the liquid was drawn off into smaller bottles and was ready for use.

Tooth powder, said an 1854 volume of household hints, could be made easily at home. Half an ounce of powdered orris root, half an ounce of

prepared chalk, and a little dutch pink to lend color were all that was needed. Mixed together, they made an excellent cleansing powder. One of the oldest hand lotions was made quite simply by mixing together a pint of rosewater and an ounce of sweet almond oil to which were added ten drops of oil of tartar.

Although the primitive conditions existing on the Iowa frontier were, in many instances, disagreeable and crude, compensating factors did exist. The imparting of color to cloth must have served as a release from the humdrum and monotony of daily chores. And the compounding of simple perfumes must have brought not only memories of easier days in girlhood homes, but also must have carried promise of better things to come. The coarseness of the frontier could not exist too long when women found time to dye and to prepare cosmetics.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

Tents for Lewis and Clark

From 1895 to 1904 several prominent citizens of Sioux City were intensely interested in the Lewis and Clark expedition. The earlier year was memorable for the rediscovery of Sergeant Floyd's grave and the organization of the Floyd Memorial Association; the year 1901 saw the dedication of the beautiful Floyd monument; while the last named year was the centennial anniversary of the passage of Lewis and Clark up the Missouri and, therefore, of the death and burial of Sergeant Floyd within the corporation limits of the present city.

One of the prominent citizens of Sioux City during this period, and one whose interest in the great expedition was most active, was H. C. Powers, a retired professor who for many years had been a member of the faculty of the Agricultural College of Florida. Professor Powers was a trained scientist as well as a widely read student of history.

One day in 1900, Professor Powers came to my home in Sioux City (I was then professor of history in Morningside College) and with great enthusiasm declared that, in one of his many walks

around the adjacent country, he had discovered the remains of a Lewis and Clark camp near the Floyd Bluff. In fact he had found a series of five embankments about one-eighth of a mile from the explorer's grave. At the earnest request of Professor Powers, I accompanied him to the site of the earthworks and together we examined, measured, and platted them.

Immediately we began to speculate upon the origin of the embankments, Professor Powers taking the position that they must be the remains of the camp of Lewis and Clark made on August 20, 1804. His argument ran like this: "Floyd was seriously ill and the party landed in order better to care for him. Not knowing how long he might be ill, a better camp than usual was made. At the time of making the camp no one knew that Floyd was fated to die almost immediately, making such a camp needless." It must be remembered that at this time R. G. Thwaites's edition of the complete journals of Lewis and Clark had not been published. Nor did we have access to the journals of Whitehouse, Gass, or Ordway. Reprints of the Biddle-Allen edition of 1814 were of no help in solving the problem.

I was convinced that the embankments were not the remains of a Lewis and Clark camp, because the party went on after the burial of Floyd's body

and camped at the mouth of the stream now called Floyd River. The distance to this place was only one-half mile and it did not seem reasonable that the party would leave a superior camp to go such a short distance so late in the evening. In addition to this I was able to point to the lack of positive proof in support of Professor Powers's theory. And so, in the most friendly spirit, it was agreed to disagree, and, while I attempted to prove the embankments not a Lewis and Clark camp, Mr. Powers undertook to prove his contention. While Professor Powers was not able to prove that the earthworks were the remains of a Lewis and Clark camp, his investigations led to something vastly more important, namely, the discovery of the place where the equipment for the expedition was obtained, together with a complete list of the items in that equipment.

Professor Powers's theory was that the embankments had served as the foundations for tents and that their size measured the size of the tents of the party camping there. Having been in the Union Army during the Civil War, he was acquainted with the custom of throwing up such embankments so that the water from a tent would run off into the ditch outside of the embankment and thus keep the interior of the tent dry. Therefore, if he could discover the size of the tents used

by Lewis and Clark and if they corresponded to the embankments he would establish a presumption in support of his explanation.

After following several clues to no purpose, Mr. Powers wrote to Dr. R. G. Thwaites, who was known to be editing the original journals of Lewis and Clark, and asked him for the size of the tents used by those explorers. In his reply Dr. Thwaites asserted that he had searched far and wide and had not been able to find out where the expedition had been outfitted or any list of the items in the equipment. Thereupon, Professor Powers secured from Congressman Hubbard a letter of introduction to various authorities for his nephew, E. E. Stacey, principal of a ward school in Washington, D. C. Armed with this letter, Professor Stacey called several times at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington without obtaining the information he sought. Then, in response to a letter to the Secretary of War, he received the following reply:

"Washington, March 2, 1904.

"Nothing has been found of record to show the character of the camping equipment taken by the Lewis and Clark expedition up the Missouri River, or relative to the aid, if any, rendered the expedition by the Sec. of War, except that instructions were issued by the War Dept. July 2,

1803, to the end that the contractor's agent should put on Capt. Lewis' boat proper provisions to carry him and his men to Massac, and that he be furnished with eighteen light axes.

"No record has been found showing the items of the account rendered to the Sec. of War, referred to by Capt. Lewis in his letter to President Jefferson, dated at Fort Mandan, April 7, 1805.

"By authority of the Sec. of War,

F. C. Ainsworth.

Chief Record and Pension Office."

But Professor Stacey was persistent. In an old encyclopedia in the Library of Congress he found a hint that expeditions of a century before had been outfitted at Philadelphia and that the records of the Purveyor of Supplies at that time might contain the information sought. "A letter to the Depot Quartermaster at Philadelphia was referred to the Commanding Officer of the Schuylkill Arsenal, and from him came the desired information in copies from the old records of his office." These records contained a complete list of all the items of equipment requisitioned by Captain Lewis and also the bills for all the articles actually furnished. Not all of the articles requisitioned could be supplied. According to the records of the Arsenal, the items of equipment were arranged

under the following headings: "Mathematical Instruments, Arms and Accoutrements, Ammunition, Clothing, Camp Equipage, Provisions and Means of Subsistence, Indian Presents, Means of Transportation, Medicine, and Materials for making up the Various articles into portable Packs." The total amount paid for the supplies, according to the bills, was $2373.81.

Immediately upon the receipt of this information from Mr. Stacey, Professor Powers sent a copy of the various articles of equipment of the Lewis and Clark expedition to Dr. Thwaites, who received it just in time for insertion in the appendix of volume seven of his edition of the original journals of the explorers. In doing this he gave full credit to Professors Powers and Stacey, and also mentioned the Sioux City Academy of Science and Letters of which Mr. Powers was the secretary. A brief account of the find, together with a list of the articles requisitioned by Captain Lewis, was published in volume one of the Proceedings of the Sioux City Academy of Science and Letters.

Incidentally the data received from the Schuylkill Arsenal showed that nine tents had been supplied to Captain Lewis, eight of which had been made to order and one of which had been purchased. It was impossible, however, to determine

the size of any of these tents. So far as explaining the origin of the embankments near Floyd Bluff was concerned, the description of the equipment proved nothing. But the research stimulated by the mysterious embankments as possible evidence of the shape and size of the tents used on the Lewis and Clark expedition led to the discovery of something much more important, namely, the facts about the outfitting and equipment of the expedition.

F. H. GARVER

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