

## History of Jackson County, Iowa (pt. 2)

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safe and sound in the office of the Sauk Centre *Herald*. This fact will no doubt be read with pleasure by your readers, who have been bewailing its supposed sad fate, as recorded in the January number of the *ANNALS*.

## HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, IOWA.

BY F. SNYDER, EX-EDITOR JACKSON COUNTY SENTINEL.

[Continued from page 50.]

Since writing the brief sketch of Jackson County, published in the January number of the *ANNALS*, I have concluded that a more particular description of that county would not be entirely devoid of interest.

### MAQUOKETA CITY

Is situated in a beautiful prairie, not far from the junction of the north and south forks of the Maquoketa River, two miles from the north line of Clinton County. Though without a navigable river or railroad, it is one of the best business points in Iowa. Perhaps one-third of the Clinton County farmers, besides a large number of the citizens of Jackson County necessarily have to pass through Maquoketa City to enter the large body of woodland known as the Maquoketa timber, the largest body of timber in the State.

Almost any pleasant winter day fifty or more teams, hauling timber, may be seen at one view passing between the city and the bridge over South Fork.

The principal publications of Maquoketa City for several years past have been the *Excelsior* and the *Sentinel*. Among the editors of the former were W. S. Eddy, Esq., Col. J. J. Woods, W. F. McCarron, and Peter Moriarty. Of the latter, W. C. Swigart & Brother, Walworth & Tilney, G. W. Hunt, and the writer.

On March, 1866, G. W. Hunt removed the old *Sentinel* office to LeClaire, Iowa, where he commenced the publication of the Scott County *Register*, on the 17th day of April of that year. Mr. W. C. Swigart purchased a new office last fall and is now publishing the Jackson *Sentinel*.

## BELLEVUE,

For several years past the county-seat of Jackson County, is beautifully situated on the Father of Waters twelve miles south of Galena, "surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills, mostly covered with timber." The town was first settled in 1836, by J. D. Bell. During the same year the Government Commissioners (one of whom was Capt. John Atcheson,) selected this site for the capital of the then territory of Wisconsin, but on account of some difficulty with the proprietors of the land the arrangement was never consummated. Mr. N. Howe Parker, (to whom I am indebted for some of the statements made in these sketches,) in his History of Iowa, published in 1855, says :

"This spot (Bellevue,) had always been a favorite one with the Indians, and its beautiful location caused said commissioners to select it as a commanding situation for the capital."

Perhaps the most important item in the history of Bellevue was the storming of the Bellevue Hotel on the 1st day of April, 1840. A very interesting history of the whole affair was written by Wm. A. Warren, Esq., and published in the "Loyal West" by Henry Howe, Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1865, from which work I have taken the following quotations :

"In the year 1836 was organized a band of horse-thieves, counterfeitters and highway robbers, who carried on their operations in the States of Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, and even to the Cherokee Nation. Bellevue was the headquarters of one of the most numerous and powerful of these bands. Its leader was Wm. Brown. Brown and his family possessing many good traits of character, nothing but positive proof finally fastened suspicions of dishonesty upon them. Brown finally became more bold in his operations and openly defied the authorities to crush him out. Whenever a crime was committed by a member of the gang, Brown stood ready to defend the guilty by proving an *alibi*. For instance, in the spring of 1839 a steamboat landed at Bellevue to wood; the deck was covered with plows. At the suggestion of Brown, a fellow by the name of Hapgood went

upon the hurrican deck and in the presence of the captain, passengers, and citizens on shore, shouldered a plow and marched off the boat and up the levee. When the boat returned next day the captain inquired for the man that took that plow, but he remained out of sight until the boat was gone. Many other crimes were committed with impunity until the 20th of March, 1840, when the good citizens of Bellevue held a meeting to consider the wrongs of the community. It was resolved that a warrant should be procured for the arrest of the whole gang, and that the sheriff, accompanied by a posse, should serve the same. Anson<sup>v</sup> Harrington made the affidavit charging about half the inhabitants of the town—Brown's men, with the commission of crimes. Brown got wind of the proceedings and had rallied a party of twenty-three men, and proceeded to fortify the Bellevue Hotel. The sheriff, with a posse of eighty men, met at 10 o'clock A. M., and found a red flag streaming from the hotel, and a portion of Brown's men marching to and fro in front of their fort, armed with rifles. The sheriff and Messrs. Watkins and Magoon advanced to the hotel, leaving the posse in charge of Col.<sup>v</sup> Cox. Brown's men detained the sheriff for some time, but finally released him. During all this time Brown's men had been drinking freely to keep up their courage. They would not surrender, therefore forty men were selected from the sheriff's posse, who started and charged upon the house at a full run. As the men entered the porch the garrison commenced firing. At the first fire one of the sheriff's best men, Mr.<sup>v</sup> Palmer, was killed. Brown opened the door and put out his gun to shoot, when he was immediately shot down. The battle then became desperate and hand to hand. After considerable hard fighting the balance of the gang commenced their retreat through the back door, and were all captured but three. The counterfeiters lost five killed and two badly wounded; on the part of the citizens, four killed and eleven wounded.

The prisoners were tried by a citizens' court, as the District Court was not to meet for three months, and fearing that the

prisoners might be released by friends, it was left for the citizens to decide whether to hang or whip them. A cup of red and white beans was first passed around to be used as ballots, the *red* for hanging, and the *white* for whipping. The result stood *forty-two* white and *thirty-eight* red beans. The whole crowd of prisoners was then taken out and received from twenty-five to seventy-five lashes apiece, upon their bare backs. They were then put into boats and set adrift in the river, without oars, and under the assurance that a return would insure a speedy death."

#### SABULA,

An important little town twenty-two miles south of Galena, and nearly opposite Savanna, was organized in 1837, by Charles Swan and William Brown. It was first called Carrollport, then Charleston, and finally, Sabula.

#### EARLY SETTLERS.

Among the early settlers of Jackson County, the following individuals deserve a passing notice: Col. Thos. Cox, member of the Legislative Assembly in 1838, '39, '40, '41, '42, and '43; Jas. K. Morse, member of the 4th Legislative Assembly; Ansel Briggs, member of the 5th Legislative Assembly, and the first Governor of the State of Iowa, elected in October, 1846; John Foley, member of the 6th Legislative Assembly; Jos. S. Kirkpatrick, Wm. Morden, Richard B. Wyckoff, members of the 1st Constitutional Convention; P. B. Bradley, private Secretary of Gov. Briggs, member of the Legislative Assembly in 1845 and 1846, and member of the General Assembly in 1846, '47, '48, '49, and for late years a practicing lawyer at Andrénd, the county seat of Jackson County; Jas. Leonard, member of the 7th Legislative Assembly; Thos. Graham, member of the 8th Legislative Assembly; Wm. Hubbell, member of the 2d Constitutional Convention; Harrison Holt, elected State printer in 1851, (but declined the honor,) for several years past a practicing physician at Maquoketa; Capt. Peter Moriarty, State printer in 1855, for some time editor of the Maquoketa *Excelsior*, a

captain in the late civil war, and recently editor of a democratic paper in Benton County; John B. Booth, Judge of the 8th Judicial District in 1854, lawyer of Bellevue; S. G. Matson and Geo. F. Green, members of the 1st General Assembly; John E. Goodenow, one of the first settlers of Maquoketa, and member of the 3d General Assembly; J. W. Jenkins, member of the Legislature in 1856, '57, Lieut. Colonel of the 31st Iowa infantry, lawyer at Maquoketa, and recently a practicing lawyer in Missouri; John Hilsinger, lawyer of Sabula, member of the 10th General Assembly; Jackson J. Woods, Colonel of the 12th Iowa infantry, and editor of the Excelsior, and Chas. M. Dunbar, lawyer of Maquoketa, democratic candidate for Attorney-General in 1864.

### THE OLDEST MILL-DAM ACROSS THE IOWA RIVER.

BY S. W. HUFF, M. D.

The facts of the following narrative was given us by SILAS FOSTER, Esq., of Iowa City, from a memorandum in his possession, made at or about the time of the occurrences herein related.

In the spring of 1843 a few of the citizens of Iowa City met at the office of Judge Coleman. The purpose for which the meeting had been called was to take action relative to the survey into lots of the burying grounds given to the city, and take measures for their improvement.

We have no means of knowing all the persons who attended this meeting, but do know from whom the suggestion came to enter upon the enterprise which forms the subject of this paper.

The meeting had transacted the business for which it had been called. Arrangements had been made for their survey; plans had been proposed and adopted for their improvement, and then adjourned. At the announcement of the adjournment Judge Coleman, who was at that time acting by appointment as Territorial Agent for the sale of public lands in Iowa City, requested the meeting to remain in their places for a few minutes as he had a suggestion to make. The sug-

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