

An Iowa Newspaper Relic

John King

Wm. Cary Jones

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and is now noted as a railroad builder on a gigantic scale. One, who handled the reins in Ohio, has since been governor of Iowa, and still another is a member of congress from Indiana.—*Des Moines Register*.

AN IOWA NEWSPAPER RELIO.

THE *Dubuque Herald* says: "There is hanging, under glass, in the room of the early settlers' association, in charge of Mr. Childs, secretary, the original of the first contract referring to the first newspaper in our state. In addition to the matter stated in the contract, it is known that the late Andrew Keesecker was the compositor and printer of the first Iowa paper issued, May 11, 1836, and that he was one of the few men who could "set up" an editorial from his own brain without reducing it to manuscript, though in the last fifteen years of his work at the "case," continued for fifty years, and to the last hour of his life, he worked at nothing but setting type. Mr. Jones became a ready writer and a successful editor and publisher in New Orleans, and died several years since, in San Francisco. Judge King survived these associates, and one of them only a year. The following is a copy of the contract alluded to: 'Articles of agreement, made this 31st day of March, A. D. 1836, between John King, of Dubuque, Michigan Territory, and Wm. C. Jones, of Chillicothe, Ohio, witnesseth: that the said John King hereby binds himself to pay to the said Wm. C. Jones the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars, fifty dollars of which to be in hand paid, and the balance in sums as they become due, on demand, and further to provide the said Wm. C. Jones with suitable boarding and lodging during one year, from and after the 20th day of April proximo—in consideration that the said Wm. C.

Jones do go to the town of Dubuque, in Michigan Territory, with the said John King, and there, for the term of one year as aforesaid, do faithfully perform the duties of foreman in the printing office of the said John King, and likewise such other duties in superintending the publication of the newspaper as may be required.

“‘[Signed.]

JOHN KING.

WM. CARY JONES.’”

The *Dubuque Herald* is the successor, through the *Iowa News* and the *Miners' Express*, of the *Dubuque Visitor* of 1836.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

— THE verses entitled “The West,” written by Mr. R. B. Groff, of Marengo, though not historical in character, appear in our pages, in respectful response to urgent requests to this effect, made by several gentlemen of literary taste in different parts of the state.

— THE old settlers of Tama county perfected an organization to perpetuate pioneer memories, at Toledo, on October 17th. All persons who were actual settlers of Tama county September 28th, 1856, are eligible to membership. The second Wednesday in June was fixed as the time, and Toledo the place, for their annual meetings. Anthony Wilkinson was elected chairman, Frank Davis treasurer, and D. D. Applegate secretary for the present year.

— IT is from the October number of the *Iowa Progress* that we copy the article entitled “Early Historical Sketch of Iowa,” though it does not seem to have had its origin in that monthly.

— THIS number, like several that have preceded it, is late in making its appearance, but it is not so far behind time as some of its contemporaries. For instance, the February (1872) number of the *New York Historical Magazine* is just out.

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