

## A Primitive Capitol Building

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benevolence and charity. The college regained more than it lost, and it was not many months until it was in better condition than ever before. In every sphere of effort in which he labored, whether in the pulpit, in the State Legislature or in Congress, for the cause of education, or as a builder and manager of railroads, Mr. Grinnell proved himself an exceptionally able and useful man. During his last illness he wrote his recollections of men and events, which appeared in a printed book after his death. In this work, written while suffering from a most painful disease, he paid generous and kindly tributes to scores of men with whom he had been associated during his long and busy public life. All his old-time friendships seemed beautifully revived when the hand of affliction rested upon him most heavily. This book, as Professor Parker so pertinently states, is the best record of his life. It presents his autobiography from his youth to near the time of his death, and sets forth the hopes and ambitions which were the inspiration of his busy life, and makes an enduring and beautiful record of his abiding friendships. It deserves a place in all our public libraries.

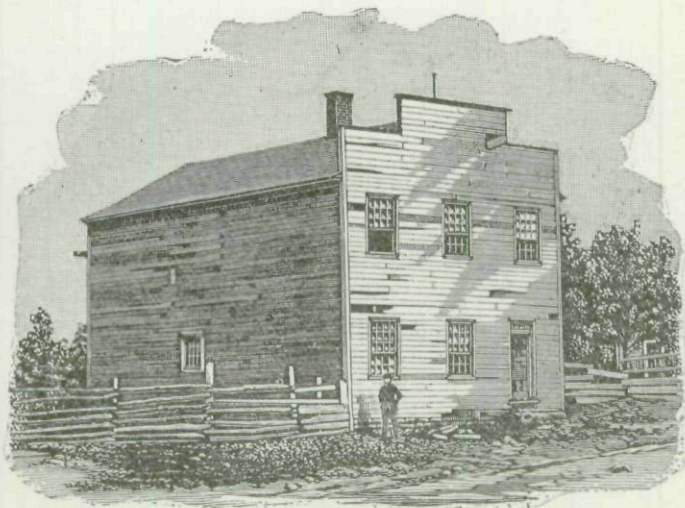
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#### A PRIMITIVE CAPITOL BUILDING.

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We are apt to associate the edifice where legislative bodies meet, and Governors and Councils exercise their authority, with some degree of elegance, stability and solidity. But there was a wide departure from this ideal in the first Capitol of Wisconsin, when the region now known as Iowa formed a part of that large Territory. President Jackson approved the bill establishing the territorial government of Wisconsin, April 20, 1836. Ten days later General Henry Dodge was appointed Governor. The 9th day of September following Governor Dodge issued his proclamation, stating the number of members of the council and house of representatives that each of the six counties

was entitled to, ordering that "the first election shall be held the 2nd Monday of October next ensuing," and that the legislative assembly should convene at Belmont in the county of Iowa on the 25th day of the same month. Two of the six counties lay on the west side of the Mississippi, to wit: Des Moines and Dubuque. Dubuque elected as members of the council, John Foley, Thomas McCraney and Thomas McKnight; and to the house of representatives, Loring Wheeler, Hardin Nowlin, Hosea T. Camp, P. H. Engle and Patrick Quigley. Des Moines elected to the council Jeremiah Smith, Jr., Arthur B. Inghram and Joseph



FIRST CAPITOL OF WISCONSIN.

B. Teas; and to the house, Isaac Leffler, Thomas Blair, Warren L. Jenkins, John Box, George W. Teas, Eli Reynolds and David R. Chance. The session lasted until about the 9th day of December. It was held in a building of which we present the accompanying engraving. THE ANNALS is indebted for the use of this cut to the office of our Secretary of State. It originally appeared in one of the publications of the Wisconsin State Historical Society whence it was procured for the

“Iowa Official Record” for 1893. Its faithful representation of the ancient edifice is attested by Hon. Theo. S. Parvin of Cedar Rapids, Judge W. H. Utt\* of Dubuque, and other residents of Iowa at this time. Excellent work was done by that first legislature, though the council consisted of but 13 members, and the house of representatives of but 26. Its laws fill a volume of 88 pages, and while some were of a local and temporary character and now obsolete, all seem to have been necessary at the time, and many of their wise provisions are still in force. Certainly, in the matters of education, libraries, the organization of townships and counties, location of roads, etc., etc., the work of those pioneer law-makers was well done.

This “Capitol” and the accommodations of the town were so meager that Hon. Jeremiah Smith, Jr., a member of the council, offered to erect a suitable building in Burlington, if the legislature would hold its next session at that place. This offer was accepted, provided the public buildings were not sooner completed in Madison, where the law located the permanent capitol of the Territory of Wisconsin. The next session (winter of 1837-8) was held at Burlington—the temporary capital—as well as the extra session which convened the 11th day of June, 1838. After this sudden and conspicuous elevation into the capital of the vast region then known as Wisconsin Territory, Belmont lapsed into its previous obscurity. The Cyclopedias do not even mention it, while the last edition of Lippincott’s great Gazetteer gives it six lines, mentioning sundry old mounds near by, but does not even state that it was formerly the seat of the territorial government.

Hon. Hardin Nowlin, referred to above, settled at Dubuque in 1833. He was prominent as an early surveyor

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\*“I have several times seen the old capitol building at Belmont. The cut you give is a correct picture as it existed from 1863 to 1874 or '75. I think it is torn down now. The site of the town has long since been part of a farm.” Letter of Hon. W. H. UTT to MR. C. S. BYRKIT, Jan. 24, 1895.



*Photo by S.M. Esselt.*

*Eng<sup>d</sup> by J.C. Butler, N.Y.*

*J. M. Tuttle*

BRIG-GEN. JAMES M. TUTTLE

(aside from serving in the territorial legislatures of both Wisconsin and Iowa) and performed a large amount of work for the U. S. Land Office in N. E. Iowa. The last nineteen years of his life were spent in Waterloo, where he died at the residence of his son-in-law, Hon. H. B. Allen, Oct. 7, 1892.

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### WAR RELICS.

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It required considerable time and effort to secure any of these desirable objects for the Historical Department. Private individuals who are in possession of such articles—received, in most cases, from some father, brother, or son, who fought for his nation's life—are at first shocked at the idea of "giving them away." A father may wish that his sword, pistols or musket, shall descend to his son, and so remain in the family. But it is seldom that the third generation regards these objects as very precious—though there are, of course, exceptions. Too many of them are consigned to the garret or other lumber room, to be eaten up by rust, or destroyed by fire. But to us it seems far better that these objects should be presented or loaned to the State, for preservation in our beautiful Capitol—a fire proof edifice. Few can ever see such relics when retained by private persons, to say nothing of the constant risk of loss. It dignifies and ennobles the sword of a hero, when it can be said that his State guards it as one of her sacred treasures. So far as the question of safety is concerned, we believe there can be no better custodian than the State of Iowa. And then, the interest with which war-worn relics are regarded by the people ought of itself to be a sufficient reward for all such loans and gifts. Gradually, we believe, the owners of such articles throughout the State are coming to the same conclusion. The Department has received the sword and pistols—"the sword of Donelson"—of Gen. J. M. Tuttle; the swords of the two Belknaps, with the old-fashioned pistols belonging to the father; the

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