3-1-1959

A Trip to Sioux City

William J. Petersen

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest

Part of the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest/vol40/iss3/7

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Palimpsest by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.
A Trip to Sioux City

[Pioneer editors were a convivial lot; they always enjoyed getting together to compare notes on problems relating to their profession. In 1872 the editor of the Spirit Lake Beacon and a companion made a trip to the metropolis of the Upper Missouri—Sioux City. They traveled by stagecoach to Storm Lake and then boarded the newly-completed Dubuque and Pacific [Illinois Central] to Sioux City. Overnight stops were made along the way at Spencer, Sioux Rapids, and Storm Lake, during which time visits were paid to local editors and an estimate made of the hotels and meals served along the way. The excitement over a local railroad bond election at Spencer, the court activities in Sioux Rapids, as well as the "glitter and tinsel" of "gay and dashing" Sioux City attracted the "green uns" from Spirit Lake. The trip was made during the decade that saw the last American frontier line, that of 1870, pass out of northwest Iowa. The enthusiasm of the frontier had not been dimmed by the Panic of 1873 or the ravages of the grasshopper plagues. The letter appeared in the Spirit Lake Beacon of March 1, 1872. THE EDITOR.]

On Monday, the 19th ult., in company with Henry Barkman, we left our quiet and peaceful home to encounter the temptations which beset the verdant in the gay and dashing "metropolis of Northwestern Iowa."

After a chilly ride of three hours we reached the busy town of Spencer. Called on Bro. Ford,
of the *News* and found him up to his ears in business, yet he spared us time for a pleasant chat. The people of Clay county justly recognize the *News* as their friend. Spencer is an example of what railroad prospects will do for a town. The citizens we met were all jubilant over the voting of the five per cent tax in favor of the Minneapolis, St. Paul & U. P. R. R.

Tuesday morning we left Spencer for Sioux Rapids, arriving there at about 10 o'clock a.m. We first visited the new Court House, and were surprised to find so commodious a structure. It is provided with good desks, seats, tables, and other conveniences for the accommodation of the bar. The Circuit was in session, His Honor, J. M. Snyder presiding. The Bar was represented by the following gentlemen: Galusha Parsons, of Fort Dodge; Judge Cook, of Cedar Rapids; Sutfin & Wirick, G. S. Robinson and Frank E. Chamberlain of Storm Lake; Eugene E. Snow, of Spencer; John T. Long and J. C. Saylor of Newell; Eugene Cowles, of Cherokee; D. C. Thomas and Lot Thomas, of Sioux Rapids. The Court was engaged in the trial of a suit of *mandamus*, which will occupy the most of the term. We understand that the case was argued at the last term upon a demurrer, which was sustained, and the Plaintiffs amended their petition. The suit is to get possession of the office of the Board of Supervisors. — Attys. for Pltf. — Sutfin &
A TRIP TO SIOUX CITY

While at Sioux Rapids we took our "hash" with W. S. Lee, mine Host of the Sioux Rapids House, by the way, one of the best hotels in Northwestern Iowa.

NEW STAGE LINE
FROM
Storm Lake to Spencer.

ON AND AFTER JULY FOURTH, 1871,
THOMAS M. SELKIRK
will run a semi-weekly Stage from Storm Lake to Spencer, starting on Tuesday and Friday immediately after the train arrives from the East, and will connect at Spencer with the Jackson, Minnesota Line and Spencer and Algona Line. This Stage will leave Spencer for Storm Lake on the mornings of Wednesday and Saturday at six o'clock.

Office at the Lake House.

Storm Lake, June 26, 1871.

CHARLES A. SANDERS,
Architect & Builder,
F. O. Box 137, STORM LAKE, IOWA.

A LL kinds of Furniture made to order. Carpenters and joiners' work promptly done.

J. B. PHIPPS,
Physician & Surgeon
HAVING permanently located at Newell, Buena Vista county, Iowa, respectfully solicit the patronage of those that need medical assistance. All calls promptly attended to.

Office and Residence in the south part of town.

DR. STEPHEN OLNEY, Jr.,
Physician & Surgeon,
SIOUX RAPIDS, IOWA.

ASHLEY HOUSE,
K. BATEMAN, Proprietor.

Leaving Sioux Rapids Wednesday in one of Selkirk's stages, we arrived in the course of time...
at the pleasant town of Storm Lake. We first landed at the Lake House, but upon reflection we concluded not to take our "peck of dirt" in so short a time, as we should have been obliged to had we remained there. Accordingly we wended our way to the City Hotel, which we found to be a "hotel what is a hotel." We assure the traveling public that the City Hotel is a first class house, and that they will find in Mr. T. S. Smith, the proprietor, a gentleman ever attentive to their wants.

We called at the Pilot office, but did not have the pleasure of seeing Col. Vestal, the Grand Mogul of Iowa journalism, as he was attending to his stern duties at Des Moines.

Thursday morning we took the train for Sioux City, where we arrived after a three hours ride. Busy and bustling is the embryo metropolis; many changes had taken place since our last visit; still we recognized the gay and reckless town; the energetic and enterprising Sioux City.

The merchants are getting ready for the spring trade, which promises to be very heavy. The Hubbard House, which was closed for a time, has been re-opened under the management of Messrs. Ballantine Bros. & Bragg. This House is of brick, four stories high, and 80 feet in width by 125 in length, and with one exception the largest hotel in the state.

City politics was the all-absorbing topic and the
coming municipal election is one of unusual interest. The *Journal* thus defines the situation:

"The question is as to whether our city government is to be a help or simply an encumbrance; whether it is to be so conducted that Sioux City shall be recognized as a haven for liquor-sellers, gamblers and prostitutes, or be inviting to merchants, artificers, and all the better classes of society."

We met many of our old friends at Sioux City and passed the time pleasantly until Monday, the 25th, when we bid adieu to the "glitter and tin-
sel'" of city life and started for our hyperborean home, arriving here Tuesday noon, with the comfortable feeling of having acquired considerable polish during our metropolitan pilgrimage.