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Frank Miller Cartoons and Weather and Historical Calendar

William J. Petersen

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AN IMPORTANT BUILDING
IN THE HISTORY OF
SOUTH ENGLISH,
KEOKUK COUNTY
FEBRUARY—1838

Weather Calendar

Thursday, February 1. Cold weather continued. The thermometer fell as low as sixteen degrees below zero at Dubuque. Nevertheless, the mail was coming regularly, and so the settlers west of the river were "once more in the world."

Tuesday, February 13. At Dubuque the temperature went down to twenty-five degrees below zero, but at Burlington the thermometers were "all too short" to measure the cold. Everything was "friz up," including the pockets of newspaper subscribers and the hearts of creditors.

Friday, February 16. "Stolen, I expect," advertised John W. Markle, 'but missing anyhow, a small black 'Fiste,' or if that ain't spelt right, a little dog, well known by the name of 'Toney,' with a plain, smooth, honest countenance, dressed in a blue stockinet jacket, decorated with ribbons; but as he took all his clothing with him, it is quite likely he may change his dress."

Thursday, February 22. The ice bridge was being used by Illinois farmers to market produce in Burlington.

Wednesday, February 28. Residents of Des Moines County began to dig out of the deepest snow of the season. The storm was "interspersed with varieties of rain and hail, and accompanied with a due proportion of thunder and lightning."

A MILLION LITTLE DIAMONDS

A million little diamonds
Twinkled on the trees;
And all the little maidens said:
"A jewel, if you please!"
But while they held their hands outstretched,
To catch the diamonds gay,
A million little sunbeams came,
And stole them all away.

—MARY FRANCES BUTTS
February Historical Calendar

February 1, 1808 Zebulon M. Pike reached Leech Lake and erroneously described it as source of the Mississippi.

February 5, 1851 Governor approved "Code of 1851."

February 6, 1846 Mormons crossed Mississippi and began long trek across southern Iowa.


February 12, 1875 Brilliant meteor fell at Amana.

February 12, 1909 Lincoln’s Birthday first celebrated as legal holiday.

February 22, 1897 Washington’s Birthday became a legal holiday in Iowa.

February 22, 1936 End of most severe and prolonged cold spell in 127 years.

February 25, 1847 State University of Iowa established by law.

February 25, 1847 Great meteor fell near Marion.

February 26, 1874 Death of William Williams, founder of Fort Dodge and commander of the Spirit Lake Massacre Relief Expedition.

The Bells

Hear the sledges with the bells,
Silver bells!
What a world of merriment their melody foretells!

How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night!

While the stars, that oversprinkle
All the heavens, seem to twinkle
With a crystalline delight;
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme

To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells

From the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells—
From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells.

—Edward Allan Poe
I SHALL DO NOTHING THROUGH MALICE: WHAT I DEAL WITH IS TOO VAST FOR MALICE

FEBRUARY, 1966

COLD DAY AT STONE CITY JONES COUNTY
# MARCH 1969

**MARCH SNOW IN IOWA COUNTY**

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"THE REGISTER'S IOWA CALENDAR"
MARCH—1838

Weather Calendar

Thursday, March 1. March came in like a lion, bringing a snowstorm.

Friday, March 9. The weather was "clear and pleasant" at Dubuque where the thermometer rose to 40° at noon and fell to about 20° at night.

Thursday, March 15. At Dubuque the frost was nearly all out of the ground, the streets were "perfectly dry," and business was "pricking up its ears with the fair prospect of seeing a boat puffing up soon."

Friday, March 16. Early risers at Burlington, where the weather had been "more like May than March," were "greeted with a two inch carpet of virgin snow upon nature's floor."

Sunday, March 18. The ice began to go out of the river at Burlington.

Thursday, March 22. Black Hawk and his son, Nash-easkuk, attended a ball in Fort Madison. Black Hawk wore his full "court dress."

Saturday, March 24. "If a division of the Territory is affected, we propose that the Iowans take the cognomen of Hawkeyes," wrote James G. Edwards in the Fort Madison Patriot. "Our etymology can then be more definitely traced than can that of the Wolverines, Suckers, Gophers, etc., and we shall rescue from oblivion a memento, at least, of the name of the old chief. Who seconds the motion?" The Reverend Mr. McCoy, appointed by the Schuyler Presbytery to form a church in Fort Madison, preached at early candlelighting in Mr. O'Neil's house. The Gypsy was the first steamboat up the river.

Sunday, March 25. The weather was "as bland as May;" the ice was all out of the river, and the water at a high stage.

Tuesday, March 27. The handsome new steamboat, Demoine, landed a large number of enterprising Ohio farmers at Fort Madison.

Friday, March 30. The Demoine arrived at Dubuque, bringing forty kegs of blasting powder.
MARCH HISTORICAL CALENDAR

March 3, 1845  President Tyler signed bill admitting Iowa and Florida as States. Rejected by Iowa!

March 4, 1929  Herbert Hoover, first Iowa-born President, was inaugurated.

March 8, 1857  Spirit Lake Massacre began at the Gardner cabin.

March 9, 1804  Captain Amos Stoddard, representing France, received Upper Louisiana from the Spanish Governor at St. Louis.

March 15, 1842  Chief Wapello died on hunting trip in Keokuk County and at his request was buried beside his white friend, Joseph Street, at Agency.

March 22, 1858  Bill approved for organization of State Agricultural College.

March 24, 1810  Death of Julien Dubuque.

March 24, 1838  James G. Edwards suggested the nickname "Hawkeyes" for the people of Iowa.

March 25, 1837  Incorporation of City of Dubuque voted at meeting in Methodist Church.

March 31, 1838  John Plumbe, Jr., called meeting at Dubuque to discuss the possibility of building a railroad to the Pacific Ocean.

SNOWFLAKES

Whenever a snowflake leaves the sky,
It turns and turns to say "Good-by!
Good-by, dear clouds, so cool and gray!"
Then lightly travels on its way.

And when a snowflake finds a tree,
"Good-day!" it says — "Good-day to thee!
Thou art so bare and lonely, dear,
I'll rest and call my comrades here."

But when a snowflake, brave and meek,
Lights on a rosy maiden's cheek,
It starts — "How warm and soft the day!
'Tis summer!" — and it melts away.

—MARY MAPES DODGE
ON TOP OF THIS, WE HAVE THE GIRLS' BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BLIZZARD COMING UP THIS WEEK!
APRIL 1969

SPRING ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER — GUTTENBERG

THE REGISTER'S IOWA CALENDAR

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Weary at heart with winter yesterday,
I sought the fields for something green to see,
Some budded turf or mossbank quietly
Uncovered in the sweet familiar way,
Crossing a pasture slope that sunward lay,
I suddenly surprised beneath a tree
A girlish creature who at sight of me
Sprang up all wild with daintiest dismay.
"Stay, pretty one!" I cried,—"who art thou, pray?"
Mid tears and freaks of pettish misery,
And sighing, "I am April," answered she;
"I rear the field flowers for my sister May."
Then with an arch laugh sidewise, clear and strong,
Turned blithely up the valley with a song.

—O. C. Auringer
APRIL HISTORICAL CALENDAR

April 1, 1840  A pitched battle known as "Bellevue War" fought in Jackson County.
April 6, 1839  The first municipal election in Davenport.
April 10, 1886  Iowa divided into eleven Congressional Districts.
April 14, 1809  American troops occupied Fort Madison.
April 14, 1856  First trains crossed Rock Island railroad bridge.
April 15, 1865  News of Lincoln's death reached Iowa.
April 16, 1861  News of outbreak of Civil War reached Iowa.
April 19, 1735  Joseph de Noyelles fought first battle between Indian and white man on Iowa soil at present site of Des Moines.
April 20, 1836  Territory of Wisconsin created.
April 21, 1856  Site of Capital at Des Moines selected.
April 27, 1838  Temperance society formed at Fort Madison.
April 29, 1862  Iowa troops began march on Corinth.
April 30, 1803  Louisiana Purchase Treaty signed.

BLOSSOM TIME

Spring came with tiny lances thrusting,
   And earth was clad in peeping green;
In russet bark, the twigs incrusting,
   Tenderest blossom-points were seen;
A robin courier proclaimed good cheer:
   Summer will soon arrive, for I am here.

—WILBUR LARREMORE
POOR FELLA, DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE

30 YEARS AGO—A DASHING, DARING, DAREDEVIL

TODAY—A CAUTIOUS, CRINGING, COWARD

SNOW, HAIL, SLEET, WIND, ICE, FOG, COLD

AH! EARLY SPRING!

DON'T PUSH!

WONDER IF MY INSURANCE COVERS THIS

SHOULDA WORN MY LONGIES!

GULP
# MAY 1969

**THE OLD ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE.**

**GENESEO TOWNSHIP SCHOOL NO.7**

**CERRO GORDO COUNTY**

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**THE REGISTER'S IOWA CALENDAR**

© Des Moines Register and Tribune Company
Tuesday, May 1. The Dubuque county commissioners met at the courthouse. The fee for a tavern license to sell wines, beer, ale, and cider “by the drink, and in no larger quantities” was fixed at $20. A grocery [saloon] license cost $100.

Saturday, May 12. Signs of spring were not yet visible because the buds had been nipped by frost. Though the river was still high, few steamboats were running. Little freight was being shipped and rates were low. Money was scarce. Times were hard.

Sunday, May 26. The cold, unseasonable weather continued.

Thursday, May 31. A severe frost destroyed the corn and many garden vegetables. “Nearly 2,000 savages, in their finest rigs and carefully painted in all sorts of patterns” met Father Pierre De Smet when he landed from a Missouri River steamboat to establish a mission among the Pottawattamie Indians where Council Bluffs is now located.
MAY HISTORICAL CALENDAR

May 1, 1844  Census of Territory of Iowa.
May 2, 1890  Forest City meteor.
May 3       Average date of last killing frost.
May 5, 1840  Joseph M. Street, Indian agent, died at Agency.
May 6, 1856  Steamboat **Effie Afton** wrecked on Rock Island Bridge.
May 10, 1896 Driving of golden spike at Promontory Point, Utah, completed the first transcontinental railroad.
May 10, 1879 Date of Estherville meteor, largest iron-stone type ever seen to fall.
May 11, 1836 First newspaper in Iowa, **Du Buque Visitor**, made initial appearance.
May 14, 1804 Lewis and Clark set out up the Missouri River.
May 17, 1899 Cornell May Music Festival presented first program.
May 18, 1834 First Methodist Society organized in Iowa by Barton Randle at Dubuque.
May 21, 1851 Cloudburst between Fort Dodge and Fort Des Moines and steady rains caused great flood of 1851 on the Des Moines.
May 30, 1849 Last troops evacuated Fort Crawford.
May 30, 1868 First celebration of Memorial Day in Iowa.
May 30, 1880 Memorial Day became a legal holiday in Iowa.
This time of year thoughts turn toward Spring.

Back when Spring was really muddy.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN DUMB MULES? THEY DON'T GET STUCK IN THE MUD!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOUR DU...SIPPY? PULL ANYTHING?

CANDID PHOTOGRAPHS! HE'S HAD IT UP ON THE BOXES NO MORE HE'S WINTER IN THE MUD TILL JULY!
JUNE 1969

SOME OLD CARS OF THE IOWA TERMINAL RAILROAD
MASON CITY—CLEAR LAKE

A LINE CAR... NOW THE MAIN OFFICE OF THE RAILROAD

A SWEEPER CAR... USED TO SWEEP THE STREETS OF MASON CITY

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THE REGISTER'S IOWA CALENDAR

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JUNE—1838

Weather Calendar

Friday, June 1. The bill to create the Territory of Iowa was debated, amended, and passed by the United States Senate.

Friday, June 8. Though it was still cold in southern Iowa, “refreshing showers” broke the drought in Dubuque.

Thursday, June 14. Frequent showers and a warm sun calmed the fears and excited the hopes of the “industrious husbandmen.”

Friday, June 15. Secretary W. B. Slaughter submitted the census returns to the legislature. Citizens of Fort Madison met at the Madison Hotel to plan a celebration of Independence Day. A flock of wild pigeons lighted in Dubuque on the building occupied by the pre-emption commission.

Tuesday, June 19. A flatboat, heavily loaded with stone and lime, sank when it was struck by a squall while crossing the river between Appanoose and Fort Madison. Two of the crew swam ashore but the third, Samuel Oliver, was drowned.

Wednesday, June 27. A bad storm did “considerable damage to the standing grain” in southern Iowa. Some of the hailstones that fell at Montrose were “ten inches in circumference,” and very few “could be got in a common sized tumbler!”

Saturday, June 30. In spite of the late spring, crops looked better than in any season since the country was settled.
JUNE HISTORICAL CALENDAR

June 1, 1833  Beginning of permanent white settlement in Iowa.
June 2, 1853  United States troops vacated Fort Dodge.
June 3, 1860  Many lives lost and property damaged by Camanche Tornado.
June 5, 1884  The Rainsbarger brothers lynched at Eldora.
June 5, 1917  Iowans registered for World War I draft.
June 6, 1944  Iowa troops participated in invasion of European continent.
June 7, 1835  U. S. Dragoons under Stephen Watts Kearny set out on 1100-mile tour up Des Moines Valley.
June 9, 1856  First Mormon handcart expedition left Iowa City.
June 13, 1873  Swarms of grasshoppers reached Emmet and Pocahontas counties.
June 17, 1830  The "Miner's Compact" signed at Dubuque.
June 17, 1882  The Grinnell Cyclone.
June 20, 1834  Execution of Patrick O'Connor at Dubuque.
June 20, 1841  Steamboat Ripple arrived at Iowa City.
June 25, 1673  Joliet and Marquette first white men to set foot on Iowa soil.
OUR "DISADVANTAGED" PIONEERS—HOW DID THEY DO IT?

ECONOMICALLY, CULTURALLY, AND SOCIALLY DEPRIVED, THEY CONQUERED A WILDERNESS AND GAVE US THE ADVANTAGES, RICHES, CULTURE AND THE SOCIETY WE HAVE TODAY.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

There could have been the peace and quiet of Mount Vernon. Instead, there was hardship, war, and politics.

There could have been the retiring gentleman farmer. Instead, there was a man of duty, honor and leadership.
Tuesday, July 3. A raft containing 100,000 feet of pine plank arrived at Fort Madison from the Chippewa country.

Wednesday, July 4. The birthday of the Territory of Iowa and the sixty-second anniversary of the independence of the nation were celebrated with patriotic ceremonies. At Fort Madison old Chief Black Hawk participated in the festivities. "A few winters ago I was fighting against you," he said. "I did wrong, perhaps, but that is past—it is buried—let it be forgotten." Temperance prevailed. Even in Dubuque "the immoral practice of drinking spirits to excess was unknown."

Tuesday, July 10. Since the game of nine pins "is productive of great waste of time, and leads to habits of idleness and dissipation, and is attended with great noise and disturbance" it was prohibited in Fort Madison.

Sunday, July 15. Hot and dry. Yet "all kinds of grain and vegetables have grown very well this season, and in much greater abundance than that of any previous one."

Thursday, July 19. The river was rising at the rate of a foot a day at Dubuque.

Tuesday, July 24. Rattlesnakes were plentiful.

Thursday, July 26. During a "severe thunderstorm" a stable in Dubuque was struck by lightning but the horses were not injured.

Friday, July 27. The river at Burlington rose "nearly four feet within a day or two."

Saturday, July 28. At Dubuque the river, which had been ten feet above low water mark, highest for many years, began to recede.
JULY HISTORICAL CALENDAR

July 1, 1839 Surveyors began survey of Iowa City.
July 1, 1851 First real Code of Iowa, Code of 1851, went into effect.
July 3, 1858 Second earthquake known to have occurred in Iowa, recorded in Sioux City.
July 4, 1828 Galena excursionists raised American flag in Independence Day celebration at Dubuque's grave at mouth of Catfish Creek.
July 4, 1838 Chief Black Hawk participated in Independence Day celebration at Fort Madison.
July 4, 1840 Cornerstone of Stone Capitol laid at Iowa City.
July 4, 1862 First Fourth of July celebration after the General Assembly made that day a legal holiday by a law approved on April 7, 1862.
July 4, 1863 Iowa troops in capture of Vicksburg.
July 5, 1876 Thirty-nine lives lost in the Rockdale flood.
July 6, 1881 Kate Shelley saved midnight flyer of the Chicago & North Western from destruction.
July 6, 1893 The Pomeroy Cyclone.
July 10, 1838 The game of nine-pins was prohibited at Fort Madison because it was "attended by a great noise" and was productive of "idleness and dissipation."
July 15, 1830 Neutral Ground created by treaty between the Sauk and Fox and the Sioux Indians at Prairie du Chien.
July 15, 1856 Iowa General Assembly granted Tama Indians permission to live in Iowa.
July 16, 1849 Abbot Bruno laid foundation of Trappist monastery at New Melleray near Dubuque.
July 18, 1804 Lewis and Clark reached southwestern Iowa.
July 20, 1934 A temperature of 118°, the highest ever recorded in Iowa, was registered in a sub-station at the mouth of the Des Moines River.
July 21, 1873 Adair train robbery by Jesse James.
July 22, 1839 Abner Kneeland arrived at Salubria.
July 28, 1902 Western Iowa recorded an earthquake.
July 29, 1869 Race riot on the steamboat Dubuque.
HOW MANY OF TODAY'S GRADUATES WOULD HAVE TAKEN THIS JOB?

NO PAY, NO VACATIONS, NO FRINGE BENEFITS, NO RETIREMENT, NOTHING BUT HARD WORK AND DANGER!

REMEMBER—WE AREN'T THE ONLY AMERICANS WHO HAVE LIVED IN A SHADOW

FAMINE
DISEASE
BLIZZARDS
WINDS
DROUGHT
INDIAN
OURSINGS
NUCLEAR
ATTACK
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THE OLD FEDERAL BUILDING—
DES MOINES

THE REGISTER'S IOWA CALENDAR

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33
AUGUST—1838

Weather Calendar

Sunday, August 5. The Methodists of Burlington were pleased to see the progress being made on their new brick church.

Tuesday, August 7. Benjamin F. Wallace made a short speech in Burlington. Mrs. Catharine M. Bronson, aged twenty-three and distinguished for her amiable disposition and "reverence for the principles and duties of revealed religion," died at the home of her father, William Janes, in Burlington.

Thursday, August 9. A deputation from the Mississippi Emigration Company in Upper Canada was reported to be "now in our country" seeking a location for a colony in the vicinity of Rock Island. Rainy weather was spoiling grain in the shock.

Thursday, August 16. Settlers formed an association at Rock Springs to protect their claims against speculators at the land sale. The opening of the Burlington land office was delayed because the plats had not been received.

Saturday, August 18. The Mississippi was falling rapidly.

Sunday, August 19. The Iowa Temperance Society met at the Methodist Church in Dubuque.

Tuesday, August 28. The Mississippi was falling about a foot a day.

Friday, August 31. Samuel Bronson, aged thirty, survived his wife, Catharine, less than a month.
AUGUST HISTORICAL CALENDAR

August 1, 1832 Steamboat Warrior repulsed Black Hawk at Bad Axe.
August 2, 1832 Sauk and Fox under Black Hawk crushed in Battle of the Bad Axe.
August 3, 1846 People of Iowa adopted Constitution of 1846.
August 3, 1857 People of Iowa adopted Constitution of 1857.
August 4, 1825 Great Indian Council began at Prairie du Chien.
August 8, 1846 Land Office at Iowa City authorized.
August 10, 1861 Iowa troops fought fierce battle at Wilson’s Creek, Missouri.
August 15, 1835 Cornerstone of first Catholic church in Iowa laid at Dubuque.
August 17, 1878 Court decree dissolved Icarian community in Adams County.
August 19, 1825 The Neutral Line was established between the Sioux and the Sauk and Fox at Great Council at Prairie du Chien.
August 20, 1804 Sergeant Charles Floyd died near site of Sioux City, the first white man known to have died on Iowa soil.
August 20, 1805 Zebulon M. Pike reached present site of Keokuk.
August 21, 1890 The Blue Grass Palace opened at Creston.
August 26, 1890 Ten thousand spectators jammed Rush Park race track at Independence on opening day.
August 27, 1805 Zebulon M. Pike encamped on west bank of the Mississippi opposite Rock Island.
August 31, 1886 Several towns in eastern Iowa ”distinctly felt” Charleston, South Carolina, earthquake.
THE TOWN SQUARE
OSKALOOSA

THE COUNTY FAIR
BUENA VISTA COUNTY FAIR
APEX, IOWA

A BIG EVENT ON A HOT DAY A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO

YOU KID LET OFF THAT WAGON!

I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS LAST AN HOUR!

YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M GOING TO BE AN ICE MAN WHEN I GROW UP!
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SEPTEMBER—1838

Weather Calendar

Monday, September 3. The Temperance Society of Dubuque met at the Methodist Church to discuss whether its object could be best attained by adhering to the pledge of total abstinence or by prohibiting the use of spirituous liquors.

Friday, September 7. With no news in the mail, no editorial written, the “devil” sick, and many election tickets to print, the editor of the Iowa News found the music from the circus distracting and the “bills of mosquitoes” more annoying than the landlord’s.

Sunday, September 9. Settlers were busy studying the regulations for proving their land claims and adjusting boundaries.

Wednesday, September 12. The Dubuque fish market was well supplied with large pike.

Friday, September 14. Joseph M. Street at the new agency on the Des Moines River wrote to Governor Lucas that he could not keep liquor and unscrupulous traders away from the Sauk and Fox Indians.

Sunday, September 16. No steamboat had reached Burlington from below for a week due to low water. Two or three were stranded on the Des Moines Rapids.

Saturday, September 22. James Clarke proposed forming a “Historical Society of Iowa.”

Tuesday, September 25. After a perilous trip of fourteen weeks “across an uninhabited country, without roads, and in small carts drawn by oxen,” several “hardy and industrious” Scotch families from Selkirk’s colony on the Red River settled on the Big Maquoketa in Jones County.

Saturday, September 29. Editor Logan warned his readers that the “people have much more to fear from the encroachments of congressional acts than they have from any other source” and might “shortly expect to see our state rights sink before the powerful arm of a central or consolidated government.”

Sunday, September 30. Corn was ripe.
SEPTEMBER HISTORICAL CALENDAR

September 1, 1805 Zebulon M. Pike arrived at Dubuque’s Mines.

September 3, 1813 Fort Madison abandoned and burned by U. S. troops.


September 6, 1834 The first counties in Iowa, Dubuque and Demoine, were created by the Territory of Michigan.

September 10, 1805 Zebulon M. Pike held conference with Chief Wabasha at mouth of Upper Iowa River.

September 11, 1844 U. S. Dragoons encountered first frost of season on Big Sioux above Sioux Falls.

September 16, 1890 Opening of the Ottumwa Coal Palace. University of the Northwest, later Morningside, opened classes.

September 17, 1847 Last Mormons evacuated Nauvoo.

September 18, 1839 David Dale Owen set out on survey of lead mining region in Iowa.

September 21, 1832 The Black Hawk Treaty or Scott’s Purchase, which had been negotiated in Iowa, was signed at Fort Armstrong on Rock Island.

September 23, 1806 Lewis and Clark returned to St. Louis from expedition.

September 26, 1891 Earthquake felt throughout eastern Iowa.

September 27, 1909 Earthquake recorded in southwestern Iowa.

September 28, 1882 Oskaloosa Herald announced appearance of comet of 1882.

September 29, 1875 President Grant delivered his famous Des Moines speech.
INDIAN SUMMER
No more the battle or the chase
The phantom tribes pursue,
But each in its accustomed place
The Autumn hails anew:
And still from solemn councils set
On every hill and plain,
The smoke of many a calumet
Ascends to heaven again.

—JOHN BANISTER TABB

THE LAST LEAF
I saw him once before,
As he passed by the door,
And again
The pavement stones resound,
As he totters o'er the ground
With his cane.

But now his nose is thin,
And it rests upon his chin
Like a staff
And a crook is in his back,
And a melancholy crack
In his laugh.

I know it is a sin
For me to sit and grin
At him here;
But the old three-cornered hat,
And the breeches, and all that,
Are so queer!

—OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES
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THE REGISTER'S IOWA CALENDAR

OCTOBER 1969

THE OLD ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE
TAMA COUNTY

THE REGISTER'S IOWA CALENDAR © 1965 DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE COMPANY
OCTOBER—1838
Weather Calendar

Monday, October 1. The Burlington land office opened; John H. Murphy was the first to buy the land he had pre­empted.

Tuesday, October 2. Robert E. Lee was making rapid progress in blasting reefs to deepen the channel over the Des Moines Rapids.

Wednesday, October 3. Chief Black Hawk died of "a violent bilious attack" in his lodge on the Des Moines River near the Agency.

Tuesday, October 9. Work on the Des Moines Rapids was practically suspended because laborers refused to go into the cold water, "even for $3 a day."

Friday, October 12. From Bellevue and the mines "several sporting fellows" went to hunt elk and buffalo at the head of the Maquoketa and Turkey rivers.

Saturday, October 13. The weather was delightfully clear and balmy, though on account of having no rain "worth talking about" for two months the Mississippi was very low, small streams were dry, the soil was parched, and dust was "something less than ten cubic feet deep" in Burlington.

Monday, October 15. Citizens of Dubuque were respectfully invited to attend a lecture on temperance. Anxious to make Burlington the "most eligible point for the seat of Government," the Gazette urged that the deep gullies in the streets be filled up so that strangers would not break their necks at night in the dark of the moon.

Wednesday, October 17. Frosty weather had done wonders to improve health. Soon, ague patients predicted, the doctors would have nothing to do. Completion of the Methodist Church in time for the legislature seemed doubtful.

Monday, October 22. The weather was "squally" with a prospect for rain.

Saturday, October 27. The Burlington Gazette was a "dull paper indeed" because the editor had received few exchanges, partly due to poor mail service.
OCTOBER HISTORICAL CALENDAR

October 1, 1875 Sixty weather stations in Iowa began making regular reports to Professor Gustavus Hinrichs of the State University of Iowa.

October 3, 1838 Death of Black Hawk.

October 3, 1887 First Corn Palace Exposition opened at Sioux City.

October 5, 1891 "World Series" baseball game opened at Sioux City between Sioux City Huskers and Chicago Colts.

October 7, 1844 First State Constitutional Convention convened in Iowa City.

October 9, 1872 Earthquake recorded at Sioux City.

October 10, 1910 First Dairy Cattle Congress opened at Waterloo.

October 11, 1842 Sauk and Fox signed treaty ceding central Iowa to the United States.

October 12, 1844 Governor John Chambers issued first official Thanksgiving Day proclamation in Iowa.

October 13, 1838 Lack of rain for two months made the Mississippi very low at Burlington.

October 19, 1838 Ioway Indians gave up claim to territory in what is now Iowa.

October 20, 1839 David Dale Owen completed survey of lead mining area in Iowa.

October 20, 1870 Earthquake recorded at Dubuque.

October 21, 1837 Second Black Hawk Purchase consummated.

October 25, 1854 First annual Iowa State Fair began at Fairfield.

October 31, 1895 Keokuk felt "hardest shock" since New Madrid earthquake.

THE DEATH OF THE FLOWERS

The melancholy days are come, the saddest of the year,
Of wailing winds, and naked woods, and meadows brown and sere.
Heaped in the hollows of the grove, the autumn leaves lie dead;
They rustle to the eddying gust, and to the rabbit's tread.
The robin and the wren are flown, and from the shrubs the jay,
And from the wood-top calls the crow through all the gloomy day.

—WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT
THE FIRST SNOW-FALL

The snow had begun in the gloaming,
And busily all the night
Had been heaping field and highway
With a silence deep and white.

Every pine and fir and hemlock
Wore ermine too dear for an earl,
And the poorest twig on the elm-tree
Was ridged inch deep with pearl.

From sheds new-roofed with Carrara
Came Chanticleer's muffled crow,
The stiff rails softened to swan's-down,
And still fluttered down the snow.

I stood and watched by the window
The noiseless work of the sky,
And the sudden flurries of snow-birds,
Like brown leaves whirling by.

I thought of a mound in sweet Auburn
Where a little headstone stood:
How the flakes were folding it gently,
As did robins the babes in the wood.

Up spoke our own little Mabel,
Saying, "Father, who makes it snow?"
And I told of the good All-father
Who cares for us here below.

Again I looked at the snow-fall,
And thought of the leaden sky
That arched o'er our first great sorrow.
When that mound was heaped so high.

I remembered the gradual patience
That fell from that cloud like snow,
Flake by flake, healing and hiding
The scar that renewed our woe.

And again to the child I whispered,
"The snow that huseth all,
Darling, the merciful Father
Alone can make it fall!"

Then, with eyes that saw not, I kissed her;
And she, kissing back, could not know
That my kiss was given to her sister,
Folded close under deepening snow.

—JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL
# NOVEMBER 1969

![Along the Iowa River, Iowa Falls](image)

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**The Register's Iowa Calendar**

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NOVEMBER—1838

Weather Calendar

Thursday, November 1. Cyrus S. Jacobs died of the wound inflicted by David Rorer. The Gypsy, passing Burlington on her way downstream, reported that the Palmyra had sunk on the upper rapids.

Monday, November 5. The first public land sale began at Dubuque. The town was crowded with settlers ready to buy "the places upon which they have expended their labor."

Wednesday, November 7. "Winter is upon us." The ground was covered with snow, five inches deep at Dubuque, and the weather turned "bitterly cold."

Thursday, November 8. Ice began to form in the river. Some of the Dubuque legislators abandoned their canoe at Lyons and went on by carriage. Proceeds from the Dubuque land sale at the end of the fourth day amounted to nearly $30,000.

Sunday, November 11. The Reverend Mr. Reynolds preached in Burlington. Neighbors in Bellevue exclaimed over Kirkpatrick's cucumber—18" long, and 16" around.

Monday, November 12. The First Legislative Assembly met in the Methodist Church at Burlington.

Tuesday, November 13. The river was full of ice at Dubuque.

Wednesday, November 14. The mail from the east failed to reach Burlington, but from Van Buren County came a letter that had been four weeks on the way.

Thursday, November 22. Cash receipts from the land sale at Burlington were averaging over $25,000 a day!

Sunday, November 25. Citizens in southern Iowa were wondering whether the Mormons, driven out of Missouri, would settle in Iowa.

Wednesday, November 28. The first session of the Territorial Supreme Court met in a Burlington home.

Thursday, November 29. Thanksgiving Day was not yet observed.
NOVEMBER HISTORICAL CALENDAR

November 1, 1840 First Federal census in the Territory of Iowa completed.

November 2, 1880 Amendment allowing Negro to hold office in the General Assembly was ratified at election.

November 3, 1868 First five amendments enfranchising the Negro were ratified at State election.

November 8, 1856 Etienne Cabet, French socialist and founder of Icaria, died at St. Louis.

November 10, 1796 Governor Carondelet granted Julien Dubuque permission to work his "Mines of Spain."

November 11, 1918 Iowa celebrated end of World War I.

November 14, 1839 A "Temperance Convention" at Burlington formed "The Iowa Territorial Temperance Society" with Robert Lucas as president.

November 14, 1910 Eugene B. Ely, a native Iowan, made first ship to shore flight in airplane.

November 15, 1877 Earthquake felt throughout Iowa.

November 19, 1838 Public land sales began at U. S. Land Office in Burlington.

November 28, 1839 First poor relief measure enacted in Territory of Iowa was introduced in Council.

November 30, 1846 First General Assembly convened at Iowa City.

NOVEMBER

Much have I spoken of the faded leaf;  
Long have I listened to the wailing wind,  
And watched it ploughing through the heavy clouds,  
For autumn charms my melancholy mind.

When autumn comes, the poets sing a dirge:  
The year must perish; all the flowers are dead;  
The sheaves are gathered; and the mottled quail  
Runs in the stubble, but the lark has fled!

—ELIZABETH STODDARD
WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE FAITH AND STRENGTH OF OUR FATHERS . . . MAY OUR CHILDREN BE ABLE TO DO THE SAME.

THANKSGIVING IS SO MUCH EASIER WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE TURKEY PERSONALLY

THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"

SUPER DUPER TURKEY DEPARTMENT

SCIENTIFICALLY GROWN TURKEYS
CLEANED
FROZEN
READY FOR THE OVEN
GUARANTEED DELICIOUS

GET ONE WITH BIG DRUM STICKS, DAD?
DECEMBER 1969

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WINTER IN WEST AMANA

THE REGISTER'S IOWA CALENDAR

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DECEMBER—1838

Weather Calendar

Saturday, December 1. The weather turned cold. Large cakes of ice filled the river at Dubuque. At Burlington, Theodore S. Parvin commenced his daily "Journal of the weather." Wells were so scarce in Dubuque that drinking water was being sold.

Thursday, December 6. The river at Burlington was covered with ice.

Tuesday, December 11. In response to a request from a farmer on the Little Maquoketa, who was concerned with the disparity between the prices of agricultural products and the cost of merchandise in the stores, the Iowa News published current retail prices in Dubuque. Salt was listed at $5 a bushel, fresh pork at $9 a hundred, beef at $6 a hundred, country flour at $12 a barrel (for which local millers got only $4), corn 75 cents a bushel, oats 75 cents a bushel, potatoes 72 cents a bushel, butter 50 cents a pound, wood $3.50 a cord, sugar 20 cents a pound, and coffee 25 cents a pound.

Tuesday, December 18. Lamson, Bridgman & Co. had on hand, perhaps for Christmas trade, 20,000 cigars, four boxes of "smoking pipes," ten boxes of "lump tobacco," a big supply of coffee, tea, and sugar, and 300 yards of "elegant Lowell carpeting."


Sunday, December 23. Five degrees below zero. T. S. Parvin read a sermon on "Gospel doctrine and Christian duty."

Tuesday, December 25. Christmas Day. Governor Lucas signed a law to prevent gambling.

Saturday, December 29. A bright day, 5° below zero.

Monday, December 31. T. S. Parvin started for Saint Louis with team and wagon to get the stationery he had bought in Cincinnati. Secretary Conway refused to pay for this material or the expenses of Parvin's trip until the goods were delivered.
DECEMBER HISTORICAL CALENDAR

December 1, 1838 Theodore S. Parvin began his famous weather journal at Burlington, which he continued at Muscatine and Iowa City until 1873.

December 3, 1846 Ansel Briggs inaugurated as first Governor of the State of Iowa.

December 7, 1836 Des Moines, Lee, Van Buren, Henry, Louisa, Muscatine, and Cook counties created out of Desmoine County.

December 8, 1854 Governor Hempstead called attention of General Assembly to our unprotected frontier.

December 12, 1837 Fire destroyed capitol at Burlington.

December 16, 1811 Terrible New Madrid earthquake.

December 21, 1837 Dubuque, Clayton, Jackson, Benton, Lynn [sic], Jones, Clinton, Johnson, Scott, Delaware, Buchanan, Cedar, and Fayette counties established—including the first with present boundaries.

December 25, 1838 Governor Lucas signed a law to prohibit gambling.

December 25, 1839 Iowa Sun invited Davenport citizens to join in a wolf hunt on New Year's Day.

December 25, 1849 Trappist monastery at New Melleray consecrated and occupied.

December 25, 1862 First Christmas celebrated as a legal holiday under act of the General Assembly passed on April 7th.

December 28, 1846 President Polk signed act admitting Iowa into the Union as the twenty-ninth State.

December 29, 1864 Dedication of the Little Brown Church.

CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF '62

The wintry blast goes wailing by,
The snow is falling overhead;
I hear the lonely sentry's tread.
And distant watch-fires light the sky.

Dim forms go flitting through the gloom:
The soldiers cluster round the blaze
To talk of other Christmas days.
And softly speak of home and home.

—WILLIAM GORDON MCCABE
THE FIRST TEMPERATURE REPORT DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE

COURTHOUSE HAD 12 BELOW THIS MORNING
18 BELOW AT MY PLACE?
23 BELOW OVER AT ROCKY JUNCTION
48 BELOW IN THE WINTER OF '98!

BACK WHEN THINGS FIRST STARTED GETTING COMPLICATED

WELL LOOK AT OR JESSE // PUTTING UP CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ALREADY AND CHRISTMAS NEARLY TWO WEEKS OFF YET?

WIFE'S GOT SIX DOLLARS SET ASIDE AND GONNA SPEND IT ALL ON PRESENTS!

WHERE WE GONNA GET TREES THIS YEAR? AIN'T HARDLY ANY LEFT IN THE WOODS NO MORE.

CHRISTMAS IS GETTIN' TOO COMMERCIALIZED
"SNOW-BOUND"

THE WORLD TRANSFORMED

Unwarmed by any sunset light
The gray day darkened into night,
A night made hoary with the swarm
And whirl-dance of the blinding storm.
As zigzag, wavering to and fro,
Crossed and recrossed the wingèd snows
And ere the early bedtime came
The white drift piled the window-frame.
And through the glass the clothes-line posts
Looked in like tall and sheeted ghosts.

So all night long the storm roared on:
The morning broke without a sun:
In tiny spherule traced with lines
Of Nature's geometric signs,
In starry flake, and pellicle,
All day the hoary meteor fell;
And, when the second morning shone,
We looked upon a world unknown.
On nothing we could call our own.
Around the glistening wonder bent
The blue walls of the firmament.
No cloud above, no earth below,—
A universe of sky and snow!
The old familiar sights of ours
Took marvelous shapes; strange domes and towers
Rose up where sty or corn-crib stood,
Or garden-wall, or belt of wood;
A smooth white mound the brush-pile showed.
A fenceless drift what once was road;
The bridle-post an old man sat
With loose-flung coat and high cocked hat;
The well-curb had a Chinese roof;
And even the long sweep, high aloof,
In its slant splendor, seemed to tell
Of Pisa's leaning miracle.
FIRELIGHT

Shut in from all the world without,
We sat the clean-winged hearth about.
Content to let the north-wind roar
In baffled rage at pane and door.
While the red logs before us beat
The frost-line back with tropic heat;
And ever, when a louder blast
Shook beam and rafter as it passed,
The merrier up its roaring draught
The great throat of the chimney laughed:
The house-dog on his paws outspread
Laid to the fire his drowsy head,
The cat's dark silhouette on the wall
A couchant tiger's seemed to fall:
And, for the winter fireside meet,
Between the andirons' straddling feet,
The mug of cider simmered slow,
The apples sputtered in a row,
And, close at hand, the basket stood
With nuts from brown October's wood.

—JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER