

The Iowa Society of New York

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"The Iowa Society of New York." *The Annals of Iowa* 7 (1906), 473-474.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4601>

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THE IOWA SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.

Through the kindness of Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, the Historical Department has received accounts of the beginnings and transactions of the "Iowa Society of New York," which began its existence on February 1, and inaugurated its first series of annual banquets on April 28, at the Waldorf Astoria. For some years the organization of such a Society was discussed by Iowans in New York City. Mr. Carl Snyder, formerly editor of *The Council Bluffs Nonpareil*, who in recent years has gained fame as a writer on scientific subjects, is credited with being the chief factor in bringing about the organization. General Dodge was made President, Judge John F. Dillon, formerly Chief Justice of our Supreme Court, S. V. White, one of the noted financiers of the country, and J. R. Sheffield, were made Vice Presidents, and Coker F. Clarkson, Secretary and Treasurer. Among other notable Iowans present at the dinner given by General Dodge on February 1, to effect the organization, were Col. Charles D. Palmer, Manager of the International Banking Company; E. A. Stedman, General Manager Wells-Fargo Express Company; W. C. Brown, Vice President of the New York Central Railroad Company; William T. Hornaday, Director New York Zoological Park; Mr. Allan Dawson, editor *The Globe*. So favorable was the outlook that circulars were immediately sent out, with the result that a Society was inaugurated with 180 charter members. A notable banquet was arranged for April 28 at the Waldorf Astoria. The menu and program was printed upon beautiful vellum with a handsome cover design containing views of Iowa's first and last capitol buildings, the State seal, a reproduction of a medallion of Black Hawk, and a pioneer with his ox team and prairie schooner traveling overland to Iowa. The toasts with one exception were given by members of the Iowa delegation in Washington. Hon. James Wilson responded to the toast, "The Iowa Farm;" Senator Allison, "Iowa, Its Evolution as a Commonwealth, and the Part It Has Borne in the Building of the Republic;" Judge Dillon, "The Early Judges and Lawyers

of Iowa." The spirit that warmed the hearts of the banquet-ers was beautifully expressed in the couplet:

Old friends are the best friends and
You can't get old friends in a day

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF CEDAR RAPIDS.

During the week beginning Sunday, June 10, the city of Cedar Rapids celebrated with interesting ceremonies the semi-centennial anniversary of its incorporation. Nearly two years ago Hon. C. D. Huston, then Mayor, called a meeting of her citizens for the purpose of instituting measures for the appropriate recognition of the event. Under the general charge of an efficient executive committee, of which Mr. E. E. Clark was chairman, an elaborate program was formulated and successfully carried out. Each day of the week was devoted to special interests—thus Sunday was given up to Sabbatical discourses replete with recollections of the religious experiences of the pioneers; Monday was set aside for programs recounting the civic and social beginnings and development of the city. The festivities included besides formal literary programs, balls and banquets, parades and prize contests, picnics and reunions, all the pleasant diversions that enter into the jollity of such an occasion. The "Official Program" with its historical accounts and its illustrations makes an attractive booklet of 64 pages. For the historian the most valuable result of such an event is the ingathering and preservation of the reminiscences of the pioneers and builders of the city's foundations. *The Cedar Rapids Republican* and *The Gazette* expended much energy and money in garnering and presenting a large amount of valuable historical material descriptive of the beginnings and growth of Cedar Rapids.

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