

## High Water in 1858

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Tenth, and George D. Perkins the Eleventh. This was the era of the war with Spain. Iowa in Washington in this period, or growing out of it, had the speaker, Henderson. In the Cabinet were Shaw and "Tama Jim" Wilson. In the Senate Allison, Gear, and then Dolliver. In the Smithsonian Institution W J Magee and Dr. Charles A. White. Two other lifelong scientific friends of Mahaska County in New York were William T. Hornaday and George K. Cherry, who was with Roosevelt on the River of Doubt, and with Roosevelt's sons the present year on the Asian Roof. Two other figures are enough to suggest the effective view of "the Iowa group"—John F. Dillon of the New York bar, and Grenville M. Dodge of the railroad world.

Acts of Congress accredited to Major Lacey and executive orders of like tenor were talked out of evenings in the home of Allison, and elsewhere cordial meetings were held, actually attended by the men named, and often by others. The migratory bird laws, the national parks and monuments, and the transfer of conservation functions to James Wilson's Department of Agriculture came out of these meetings as is revealed by correspondence of these and other leaders of the time which the Historical Department possesses.

It is most appropriate then that the Van Buren County park is named in memory and to the honor of John F. Lacey.

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#### HIGH WATER IN 1858

From all parts of the state we receive accounts of swollen rivers and great difficulties in traveling. The stage from Iowa City was brought last Friday to a perplexing pause on the bank of Skunk river, and many hours elapsed before the mail could be *rafted* to the west side. It is stated that Skunk River has never been known hitherto to take such an impetuous splurge; and many other streams—among which are those respectable dignitaries, the Coon and Des Moines—have gone up to a bewildering elevation. Occurrences of this kind are somewhat singular in the latitude of Iowa during the winter.—*The Iowa Citizen*, Des Moines, February 2, 1858. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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