

## Town Making in Iowa in 1837

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"Town Making in Iowa in 1837." *The Annals of Iowa* 16 (1929), 609-609.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5305>

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Governor Clarke: I assure you it is the greatest pleasure of the Pioneer Lawmakers to give pleasure to the members of the Forty-third General Assembly, and I am pleased to call on Mr. Van Houten for a five-minute talk.

Mr. Van Houten responded eloquently and was followed by Constant R. Marks of Sioux City, who was a representative in the Thirteenth General Assembly, 1870, their speeches closely following the lines of their addresses delivered during this meeting of the Association and already set out in these proceedings. The joint assembly then adjourned.

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#### TOWN MAKING IN IOWA IN 1837

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Town making has become quite a system in the West. So successfully has it been carried on for some time past that numerous small fortunes, and not an inconsiderable number of great ones, have been made at it. The proprietors of Chicago, Alton, Peoria, in Illinois, and Milwaukee and others in Wisconsin Territory, and many in Michigan, Alabama and Mississippi, may be enumerated as belonging to the class of the very fortunate ones. But the day will soon have passed away when money will be amassed in very large quantities by proprietors of new towns in the older of the states above named. The Indian title to some millions of land more, west of the Mississippi and Missouri, must be extinguished—the tide of emigration must roll some hundreds of miles further, and subdue the wide prairie and lay low the forest, and then the town makers and land speculators will be again in their glory.—*The Western Adventurer*, Montrose, Wisconsin Territory (Iowa), August 26, 1837. (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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