

Governor Grimes Holds a Reception

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Newcomb pasted in his diary. Of the "Constitution of the State of Deseret," not more than three or four copies have survived, one of them being in the Harvard College Library. Its rarity may be judged from the fact that at a book auction some eight or nine years ago the only known copy of this 16-page pamphlet not then preserved in a library was sold at \$1,030.

GOVERNOR GRIMES HOLDS A RECEPTION

James W. Grimes relinquished the office of governor of Iowa on January 14, 1858, was elected United States senator January 16, and on January 19 gave a reception at the Demoine House, the leading hotel of the new capital city. This was the first session of the General Assembly that met in Des Moines. In its issue of January 14, 1900, the *Iowa State Register*, see files in the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa, in giving a series of historical reminiscences, has the following concerning this reception of Senator elect Grimes:

One of the great levees given at the famous hostelry (Demoine House) was that given by Governor Grimes in honor of his election as United States senator. The Governor was never noted for the tidiness of his wearing apparel, and was often seen trudging from the Demoine House over to the Capitol Building through the mud, generally with his pants stuck in his boot tops, or else one leg in the boot top and the other rolled up, while the rest of his dress was worn in a don't-care sort of manner—in fact it was on the slouchy order. Now, in giving this grand reception he did not send his invitation cards around by another person, but trudged about and delivered them himself. But when the guests—the members of the legislative, the state officers, judges of the Supreme Court and leading citizens began to arrive they found a great surprise awaiting them, for there stood the senator elect clothed in a spick-and-span new full dress suit, patent leather shoes and kid gloves. This little incident furnished food for talk for the frontier town for many months. The old settlers even say that it was one of the grandest soirees ever given in the city.

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