

## Animation in Des Moines

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10 years ago. Luke F. Parsons [is he] who has written this long letter to an old friend whom he has never seen.

I am the last John Brown man in Kansas, the sole survivor of the Battle of Osawatomic. Now I hope you will take pleasure in reading this and not lose either as you did my other letter, for I am in my 82nd year and don't like to write very well.

Yours Truly

Luke F. Parsons.

Mr. Tolles remained upon his farm in Mills County until sometime in the early '60's when he removed to Morning Sun, Louisa County, where he ran a sawmill and gristmill for a good many years. During his later life, which was lengthened to almost one hundred years, he lived with his children in Ottumwa, in Hedrick, and in Washington. His mind was active, his memory good, his interest in public matters keen, his sympathies for humankind active, and his presence must have been like a benediction. He was a life-long member of the Baptist church, was a temperance man and prohibitionist, and lived a life worthy of emulation. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. P. C. Woods, in Washington, Iowa, and was buried at Hedrick beside his wife.

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#### ANIMATION IN DES MOINES

Des Moines has been for the past few days a scene of bustling animation. Governors, senators, representatives, candidates for office in the gift of the legislature, and miscellaneous visitors, have congregated at this point; and the city, hitherto suffering with sympathy for other localities, has thrown aside its air of depression. Omnibuses thunder along the streets; and assisted by bridges and accommodating conveyances, the East and West sides have easy communication with each other. A new era in the history of Des Moines has been inaugurated. New responsibilities crowd upon our citizens; and we trust that every man of us, whether his home be near the State House or remote from it, will consider that he has something to do in directing the destiny of the Capital City.—*Iowa Citizen*, Des Moines, January 12, 1858. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

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