Museum Notes
miles west of Davenport on the Iowa City road.

Logan’s efforts to “develop the boundless resources of the territory and to invite to our soil, moral, industrious, and intelligent cultivators” did not go unappreciated by the citizens of rapidly growing Davenport. It is written that “he has always been a good friend to the interests of Scott County, ever carrying with him the goodwill, respect, and esteem of all who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance.”

Pioneer journalism continued in the state until the late 1870’s. The pioneer editor, who with printers’ ink and paper, had chronicled the unfolding of a civilization in an area that was wilderness when he first arrived, and the itinerant printer with his “shirt-tail full of type” had become more settled and more permanent in residence. The files of old newspapers of early day Iowa bring those bygone years back to life more vividly than rewritten history can ever do.

MUSEUM NOTES

Lights from the Dim, Dark Past

Until the invention of the electric lamp, shortly before the turn of the century, man’s basic lighting techniques had remained practically unchanged for thousands of years. In rural areas the oil lamp was still in general use less than 40 years ago. Now, with our fast-moving society, we seldom give thought to anything so commonplace as electricity. Only when we experience a power failure do we realize the convenience of our modern methods of lighting.

A new museum exhibit, Lights from the Dim, Dark Past, shows basic lighting techniques from the 17 and 1800’s. Included in the exhibit are several “Betty” lamps from 1700; a candle mold; block matches; oil lamps, including a lard oil lamp; oil and candle holders; and an electric lamp from 1890. This exhibit is located on the second floor of the Museum.