

FREEDOM'S FLAG GIVEN TRIBUTE AT ELKS' EXERCISES

Five Thousand Hear Address by W. L. Beecher, Concert by Cedar Falls Band.

Tribute to the stars and stripes as a symbol of human liberty and freedom—something more than an attractive and beautiful colored piece of bunting—was given by William L. Beecher, Waterloo attorney, in speaking Wednesday evening at the Flag day program of Waterloo lodge, No. 280, B. P. O. E., presented to approximately 5,000 persons from the terrace of the clubhouse.

The Cedar Falls band, James A. Melcher, director, and assisted by Miss Grace Wheeler, pianist soloist, contributed an equally important share to the program with a concert. The band played with the spirited perfection which has twice won for it the highest national honors.

Wins Applause. Miss Wheeler's playing of "Thru the Air" by E. Van, accompanied by the band, was a lovely performance which brought generous applause.

"The Evolution of Dixie," arranged by Lake, was one of the band's outstanding numbers. It was a fantastic rich in American themes which proclaimed themselves against a "colorful" background. The "voice" of the band was superb.

The band's encore comprised such inspirational university marches as "On Wisconsin"; "The University of Illinois Grand March"; and Notre Dame's "fight" song.

Flag for Human Rights. "The flag," declared Beecher, "is a living refutation of the doctrine of the divine right of kings; it proclaims that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

"It proclaims that government exists because human nature is such that the individual has not and cannot attain that degree of perfection which will enable him to work out his destiny without rules and regulations to govern his conduct. To protect the personal and property rights of the individual against the imperfections and limitations of human nature, government exists."

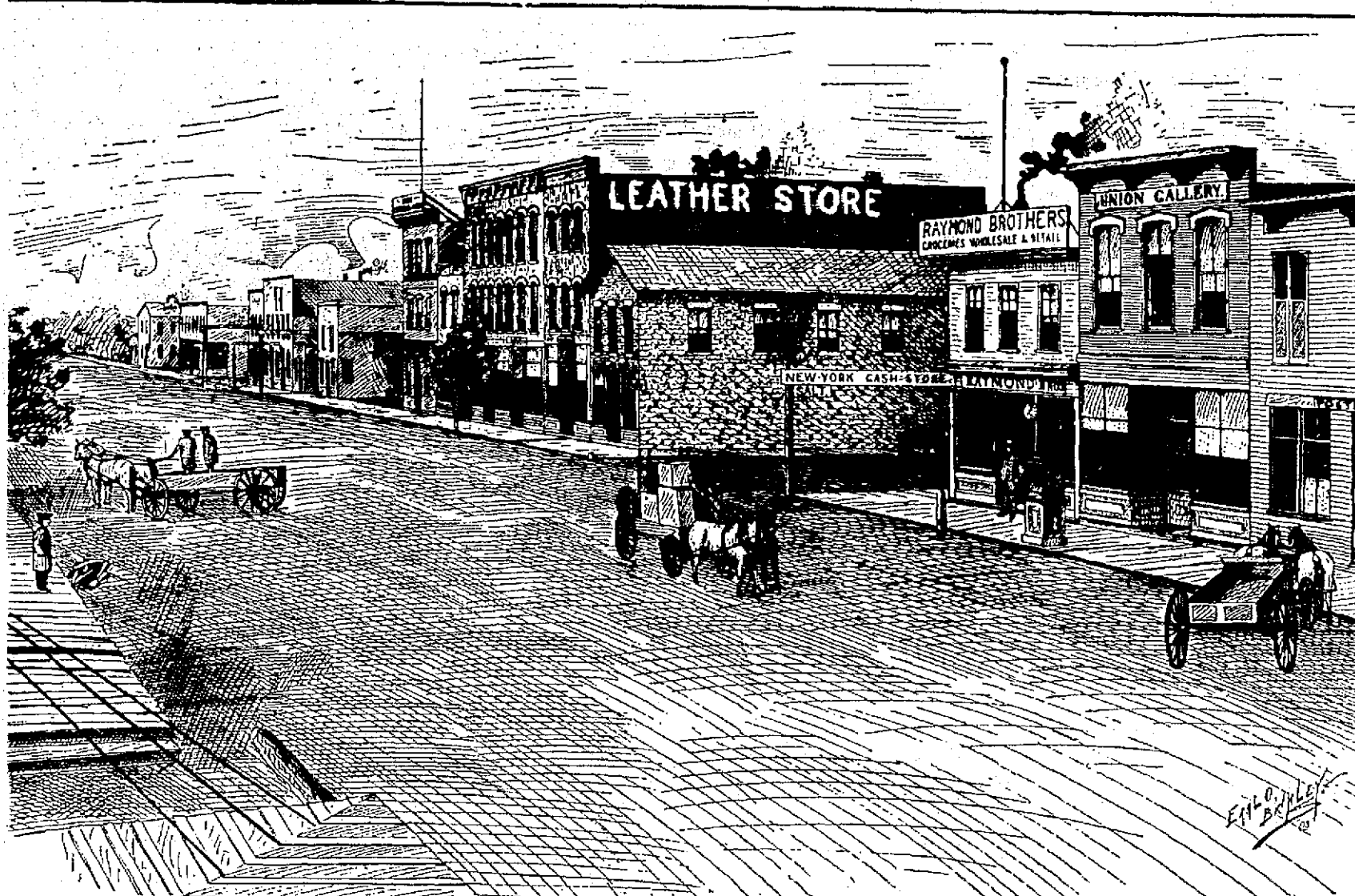
"Government an Agent." "For this purpose government is necessary. If the power of government is such that in the hands of the unjust it becomes destructive of these ends, then it ceases to be government in the proper sense and becomes the instrument and ally of tyranny and oppression. The subject does not exist for the government. The government is merely an agency to assure the individual of that security which will enable him to attain the maximum degree of happiness and contentment."

"It was in a spirit of devotion to these principles that our forefathers built the foundation upon which our government rests, the constitution of the United States. Truly ours is a nation 'conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.'"

Seating Capacity Filled. The crowd in attendance filled the temporary benches built in Park avenue and in front of the clubhouse and the greater portion of Lincoln park.

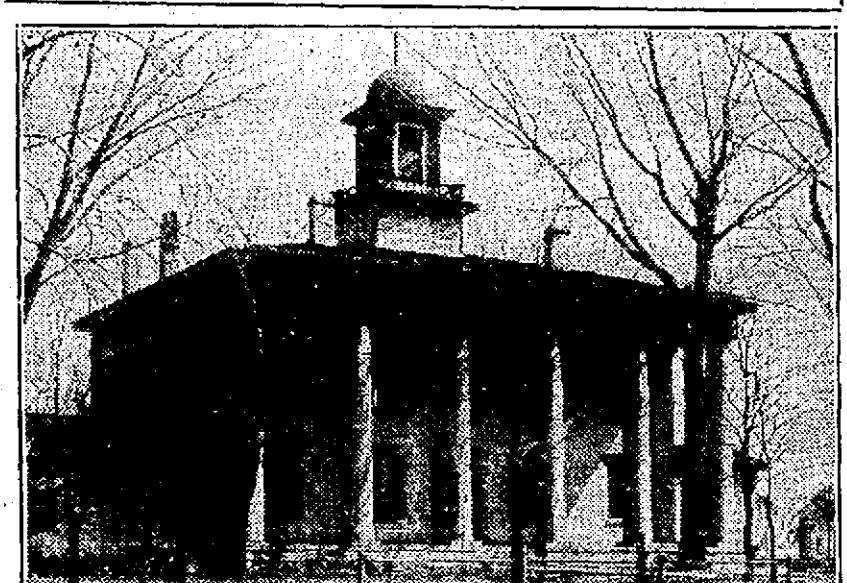
Members of the band were guests of the Elks at dinner. Introduction of the speaker was made by Dr. R. J. Carroll, chairman of the Elks entertainment committee.

Scene on Commercial Street in 1865



Commercial street looking southeast from present Irving hotel corner, in 1865. Black Hawk building now occupies site of Raymond Bros. store and building on right. Across Fourth street, Caward building, now occupied by Lauterman's, covers site of Benight's stone building, Robinson Bros. leather store and R. Russell's three-story building.

First Courthouse, 1856-7



Black Hawk county's first courthouse, built 1856-7, by Giles M. Tinker, contractor. Stood at southeasterly corner Tenth street east and Water street, facing Water street.

Black Hawk's 'County Seat Fight' Settled in Election 79 Years Ago

Norman Jackson drainage commissioner, Edmund Butterfield coroner and Charles Mullan, county surveyor. The commissioners' action in locating the county seat at Cedar Falls was determined largely by the fact that Cedar Falls was the largest town in the county at that time, having been the first settled. Also they took into consideration that it was the leading business center. But they neglected to consider the remoteness of the town from certain parts of the county.

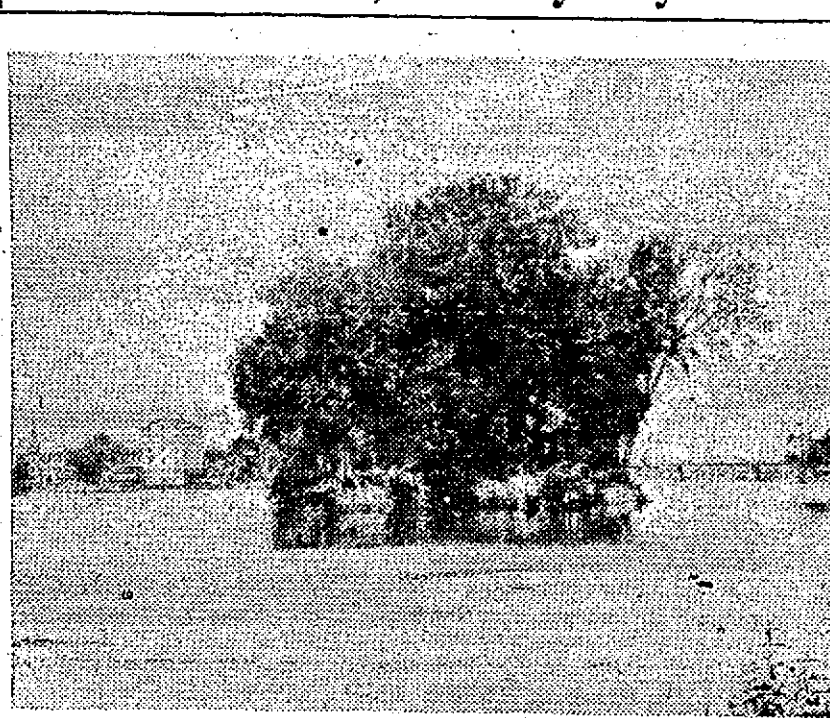
Rivalry Becomes Tense. The town of Waterloo soon sprang into prominence and gave promise of being just as important as its rival, Cedar Falls, if not more so. The situation naturally became a tense one, and strife inevitable.

Under this order, the second election in Black Hawk county was held at the house of John T. Barrick. There are no records of this meeting, but it was remembered quite distinctly, and John Melrose and Norman Williams were named constables.

Section 1 of an act of the legislature to locate the seat of justice in Black Hawk county, approved Jan. 22, 1853, provided: "That A. J. Lowe, of Delaware county, S. S. McClure and Edward Brewer, of the county of Buchanan, be and they are hereby appointed commissioners to locate and establish the seat of justice in Black Hawk county. Said commissioners, or any two of them, shall meet at the house of E. J. Adams, in Black Hawk county, on the first Monday of May next, or within two months thereafter, as a majority of them may agree, in pursuance of their duties."

The commissioners met on June 9, 1853, at the Adams home in Cedar Falls, and decided upon Sturgis Falls (Cedar Falls) as the site for the county seat.

Lovers' Isle, in Early Day



Lovers' isle, near east bank of Cedar river, between Sixth and Eighth streets. Upstream view from Ninth street. West side mills on left, wooden bridge at Fourth street in distance on right. Photo previous to 1871.

In the early days of Waterloo there was a beautifully wooded island, known as Brinckley's Island, or Lovers' Retreat, near the east bank of the Cedar river, extending from Sixth to Eighth streets, and covering approximately two acres. The nature of the soil and height of the land composing the island indicated it was in remote times a part of the mainland of the east side.

The island was covered with a growth of towering elms, cottonwoods and other native trees. A deep channel about 150 feet wide separated it from the east bank of the river, and the water was a favorite fishing ground, yielding black bass, walleyed pike and catfish in abundance.

Between the west bank and the island the water was shallow and a footbridge was built to the island on this side, in 1857.

Legendary Trysting Place. Tradition had it that the island was a trysting place for a young white man and the daughter of an Indian chief. The story ran that the chief disapproved of his daughter's marriage to a white man, which, however, was contrary to custom of that day for Indian parents were said to be proud to have their daughters wedded to mates of the white race. In this instance the white lover was slain.

Deputy Auditor of Chickasaw County Gets Pay Boost. New Hampton, Ia.—The Chickasaw county board of supervisors has voted to increase the salary of deputy auditor, E. J. Yavorsky, from \$55 to \$75 a month.

Mrs. G. W. Hanna, of First Party of Settlers, Tells of Arrival on East Bank of Cedar July 19, 1845

"Boys, This Is Where We Will Have Our Town," She Said; and They Did.

Editor's Note: The following account of the arrival of the first permanent settlers on the site of Waterloo, in July, 1845, was written by Mrs. George W. Hanna, who was a member of the party. This account was written 40 years ago at the request of the late John H. Leavitt. Mrs. Hanna died in 1912. The hunchbacked "bachelor" mentioned by Mrs. Hanna was an adventurous named Dyer and his cabin stood near the present Edison school.

As you request, I will try to give a short sketch of the first settling in Black Hawk county as best I can. As you say, I was one of the first among the first settlers. You ask where we came from and what induced us to come to Iowa. We came from "Egypt," Illinois. Our parents were induced to come there in an early day by the glowing accounts of much corn. My parents were from West Virginia. My father was from Pennsylvania. My fore-parents were from Scotland, from Melrose Abbey. My grandfathers were in the Revolutionary war and one was killed.

What induced us to come to Iowa? First, times were very hard. In Illinois there was scarcely any good money and people could scarcely live. We thought if we went west we could do better. Second, it was very sickly there, very few children lived to grow up. We had two bright boys and we thought they would be healthier.

Believed Iowa "Canaan." We heard grand accounts of Iowa. Our parents being dead, we had nothing to lose there. So we gathered our cattle, loaded our wagons, hitched the oxen, took our little boys and started for "Canaan," Iowa. We drove to Rock Island. Mr. Hanna had three brothers living there; so we stopped there to visit. Mr. Hanna got a hunter to come with him to show him the country. One of his brothers came also. They came up the Cedar river on the east side to Cedar Falls. The river was up so they could not cross, but they heard there were 12 families living at Cedar Falls.

They were satisfied with the looks of the country. They came to Rock Island with a good report, so we started on. We crossed the Mississippi July 4, 1845. There were nine of us in our company; my sister and her husband, William Virden, and their two children; my brother, John Melrose; and while out of four, we all had ox teams and drove the cattle. We camped wherever night overtook us. We all traveled together until a few miles this side of Cedar Rapids, where my sister was taken quite sick. We stopped several days until she was better, when we left them at a farm house where they stayed until October and we came on to get ready for winter (cut hay and build our cabins). We reached Waterloo, east side, July 18.

Charmed with Sight. When we drove up to the river, I was perfectly charmed with the sight and said: "Oh, I did not think there was such a place on this side of heaven." I exclaimed: "Boys, this is where we will have our town." They laughed to think of me selecting a place for a town when there were no people here to build it. But I stuck to my idea of having a town right where it was. I told them I was going to dream of it, but I did not believe we could find such a beautiful place. I had dreamed of coming to just such a place before we started.

The west side was our choice. We camped on the east side one night. Next day we forded the river and camped on the west. The next morning when we took the cattle to graze alive with Indians, the first we had seen; we could look down and see the whole river bottom was covered with them.

In Mist of Indians. It did not seem a very welcome sight. To make it worse, I had to stay there alone till the men hunted up the settlement, for after we ate breakfast they left me with the children and were gone until about 2 o'clock. I tell you I did not enjoy myself very well while they were gone. There was a white man came down the river in a boat. He saw the wagon and came and came where I was. He was a very welcome face, and I tried to persuade him to stay till the men came back, but he was on his way to where Vinton now is. I kept in the wagon all day. The Indians came round but I would not pay any attention to them. I was afraid they might steal the children as I had read of them doing; so I kept them in the wagon until the men returned.

They had searched in vain for a settlement, for there was none; and had seen but one white man, who was living by himself in a cabin on a claim on the place which is now owned by Mrs. Butterfield. He gave them the privilege of stopping there till we could locate a claim and build a cabin. So we drove to his place, it being nearly dark when we reached there. The weather had turned quite cool, nearly cold enough for frost, so we made a "log heap"; and after supper were sitting around the fire when I had read of them doing; so I kept them in the wagon until the men returned.

Alarm in the Night. All of a sudden something snapped which sounded like the cap of a gun. The bachelor jumped and ran for his gun saying someone was trying to shoot us. Just then he remembered there was no load in his gun and called to husband to give him his, which was loaded. When about to do so, I followed husband and told him to keep his own gun; so he did. I felt afraid of the man. It was thick brush around the fire; they first scattered the fire, and then we all scattered for awhile, but could not see or hear anything more. They watched nearly all night. I made up my mind it must have been the fire; so went to bed and slept soundly, counting ourselves under the care of him who never sleeps.

select school in Cedar Falls. We all taught our children at home. Mill Falls. Sturgis sold out the mill he had started to Barrick & Overman. They expected to have it running by the winter of '49; but when they started it, it would not crack corn. We all had grain, expecting to get it ground. By that time a heavy snow came drifting the deep hollows full; so it was impossible to get to mill between Cedar Rapids and Marion, where we had gone before and which was the nearest. Vinton was our nearest post-office for a long time. We were all looked quite dark. My husband sawed out a log, stood it on end, put an iron wedge in a handle and had a mill and pounded corn for bread. We lived on "pound cake" and hominy all winter and were quite happy. We had a little flour in the house of trouble and I will deliver you.

The next day was Sunday; so we hitched up the oxen and drove to Cedar Falls to see it and another bachelor living on a claim there, expecting to see some great falls in the river. Bull Cabin of Logs. We did not like the looks of Cedar Falls near as well as Waterloo. We selected our claim and built our cabin of logs and covered it with clapboards. We had one six-light window and one door. We cut hay, put down and covered with carpet, which was all the floor we had till cold weather; then we split logs and made what was called a puncheon floor. Our furniture consisted of a table and stools made of split logs. We brought two chairs with us. Our beds had one log and were made of poles put into holes in the logs of the house. We had a fireplace made of mud and sticks. We had left "Egypt" and had no bricks. A cupboard made of a dry goods box, and our house was furnished. And we were "at home" to everybody who came. And happier than kings in our cabin, for it was all our own and we had hopes of a better time coming and our hearts were thankful.

Child Taken by Death. Shortly after we got moved into our cabin we were all taken sick, but we thought we dare not give up; so went to work and all got better except our least child. He grew worse. By this time Sturgis and Adams came on their claims. My sister and family came on and my brother, Samuel Melrose, from Illinois, came. Our child grew worse and died Oct. 18. My brother Samuel was a cabin-maker and he made a little coffin from boards. That was the hardest trial we had. Our hearts were set on rearing our children. But the Lord had promised his grace would be sufficient; so we trusted it in his hands. His was the first death of a white person in the county. Four families were all there was that winter.

Sturgis began the mill race at Cedar Falls the following summer. He went to Iowa City on business, and while there he saw a Methodist preacher, a missionary. He told him there were some Methodists up here and invited him up to his cabin to preach and he came. In the fall of '46 he organized a class of five members with G. W. Hanna, leader, and William Virden, Retzer Virden, America Mullan, Mary Hanna, members. That was the first church organization in the county. The meeting was held in the cabins of the settlers. We were left without a preacher over a year; then Asbury Collins came. The first school was a

celebration 80 years ago. In 1854, we thought we must have some kind of a celebration. The two towns were both striving for the county seat. Cedar Falls had it. We sent John, our eldest boy, to Cedar Falls to ask some of them to hold the Fourth. But contrary to our rather beyond, orders he went there and all around and told everybody he saw, "Everybody who is in favor of the county seat being at Waterloo, come down; we are going to have a free dinner." It was Saturday the Fourth. But contrary to our will and we did not know what to do. But we all went to work, baked, killed sheep, turkeys, chickens, etc., and had a fine dinner. We made a large flag, erected a large bowery about where the big mill stands and were ready for the crowd. We had speaking and marching to the music of two violins playing "Hail Columbia." There were, I should think, 200 or 250 partook of the dinner and hot coffee. I could give you some of the toasts given to the county commissioners who located the county seat at Cedar Falls, but I refrain. They were not in any wise flattering. Waterloo began to grow. A number who were at that celebration who were here looking at the country bought lots and moved here.

The town grew wonderfully from that right on and my opinion is it will never cease to grow while time lasts. It will be 50 years July 19, 1895, since we came to the county. And I expect to remain among you until I cross the river and enter a more beautiful city. Yours sincerely, (Signed) Mrs. G. W. Hanna.

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