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Article Summary: Address of the President of the Nebraska State Historical Society, January 11, 1898, describing the development of journalism in Nebraska. There is a detailed description of the first issue of the *Arrow*, published in July 1854, as well as a thorough discussion of various issues of the *Palladium*, first published in November 1854 and the *Nebraska City News* first issued November 14, 1854. Briefer remarks are directed toward the influence of the *Omaha Daily Herald* first published in 1865, and the development of newspapers in smaller towns in Nebraska.

Cataloging Information:

Names: [Due to the number of names from advertisements and newspaper mentions in this article, only primary names are indexed here.]

J E Johnson, J W Pattison, H E Reed, Thomas Morton, Dan Carpenter, A D Long, Henry Bradford, John Sherman, George L Miller, A W Merrick, John McPherson, George W Hepburn, W W Wyman, Jacob Dawson, S N Jackson, T H Robertson, M H Clark, Robert W Furnas

Names of Publications: *Arrow* [Omaha / Council Bluffs], *Bugle* [Council Bluffs], *Palladium* [Bellevue], *Free Press* [Detroit], *News* [Nebraska City], *Nebraskian*, [Omaha], *Daily Herald* [Omaha], *Enquirer* [DeSoto], *Herald* [Nemaha], *Advertiser* [Brownville], *People's Press* [Nebraska City], *Republican* [Omaha], *Time* [Omaha], *Telescope* [Wyoming],

Photographs / Images: None

TERRITORIAL JOURNALISM.

Address of the President, Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Tuesday Evening,
January 11, 1898.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—There is no material work of our race anywhere in any age that did not first have a mental concept. It existed primarily in some human intellect. The artist who attempts on canvas the reproduction of some beautiful scene in nature asks a great deal from his own personality and trusts largely upon his skill, his experience, and imagination. The sculptor who sees in the formless mass of marble some beautiful piece of statuary, which must be brought out by his chisel, asks of himself and of Providence a great deal for the fruition of his mental image. But it occurs to me that the pioneers of a new country ask more of life than either the painter or the sculptor. They who saw in these vast plains stretching from the Missouri river to the Rocky mountains the great commonwealth which is now left on this canvas asked a great deal to live to see the fruition of their thought and the completion in part of this great painting of the prairies.

It has been assigned to me to tell you something of the early forecasters of the future of Nebraska.

The eyes and ears of the United States first gave attention to the existence of journalism in Nebraska during the latter part of July, 1854. On the 28th day of that month a paper named the *Arrow* (published in Omaha every Friday by J. E. Johnson and J. W. Pattison, editors and proprietors) first hurled itself upon a waiting public. But it was really printed and issued at Council Bluffs in the office of the Council Bluffs *Bugle*, which was owned and edited by J. E.

Johnson. It was not at all out of keeping with his domestic relations for Mr. Johnson to have two newspapers, as he was a polygamic Mormon and at that time enjoyed the domestic felicity of three Mrs. Johnsons in the same domicile. He was a man with the courage of his convictions. From a leading editorial in this first number of the *Arrow*, entitled "A Night in our Sanctum," we copy:

"To dreamland we went. The busy hum of business from factories and the varied branches of mechanism from Omaha City reached our ears. The incessant rattle of innumerable drays over the paved streets, the steady tramp of ten thousand of an animated, enterprising population; the hoarse orders fast issued from the crowd of steamers upon the levee loading with the rich products of the state of Nebraska and unloading the fruits and products of other climes and soils greeted our ears. Far away from toward the setting sun came telegraphic dispatches of improvements, progress, and moral advancement upon the Pacific Coast. Cars, full freighted with teas, silks, etc., were arriving thence and passing across the stationary channel of the Missouri river with lightning speed, hurrying on to the Atlantic seaboard. The third express train on the Council Bluffs & Galveston Railroad came thundering close by us with a shrill whistle that brought us to our feet, knife in hand. We rubbed our eyes, looked into the darkness beyond to see the flying train. It had vanished, and the shrill second neigh of our lariatied horses gave indication of danger near. The hum of business in and around the city had also vanished, and the same rude camp fires were before us. We slept again, and daylight stole upon us refreshed and ready for another day's labor."

In another paragraph of the same issue of the *Omaha Arrow* is "A Word to the Editorial Fraternity," in which Messrs. Johnson and Pattison declare:

"We now look to you all for fraternal assistance in this, our honest attempt to establish a good, substantial paper,

upon this land, of general interest, whose object is and will be to transfer everything pertaining to the country through the *Arrow* to the wide, wide world. You can, if consistent with honest impulses, assist us to quite an extent. The present settlement here will by no means yet justify the expenses we incur, and from those interested abroad in the country we look for at least a partial support—not for a fortune—nor do we solicit patronage through you from abroad because we can't afford to do otherwise."

The advertising in this issue of the *Arrow* is not voluminous. Mr. J. E. Johnson, the principal owner and editor of the journal, issues what he designates "The Last Call" to those who have "unsettled accounts with the late Emporium Store."

R. Hawke & Co. notify all persons indebted to them that they will save cost by liquidating immediately.

Snow & Turley advertise real estate for sale in the towns of Sigourney and Keokuk, Iowa.

E. Lowe offers Omaha City lots, and closes his advertisement by stating: "Lots will be given to persons who wish to build this season."

Maria Mynster advertises real estate for sale.

But most prominent and most intimately connected with the development of the territory is the following advertisement:

"ATTENTION! SETTLERS IN NEBRASKA—The Gen. Marion runs regularly between Council Bluffs and Omaha City. There need be no fear of detention, as the boat is in constant readiness for stock, teams, or foot passengers, with steam up and ready crew. Come on, emigrants, this is the great central ferry! Hurrah for Nebraska! (signed) FERRY Co., June 23, 1854."

William Clancy, who subsequently distinguished himself as a member of the legislature from Washington county, advertises a "new arrival of an extensive stock of groceries,

liquors, and provisions, and outfits at the sign of the Big Six, Middle Broadway, Council Bluffs City, Iowa."

The executrix of the estate of C. O. Mynster, deceased, "warns all persons not to purchase any town lots lying in the hollow below the powder magazine, claimed by Wm. G. Brown, A. J. Hanscom, or Hepner, Baldwin, Test, or Larimer, as the same are the property of the estate of the decedent, C. O. Mynster."

J. D. Baylis advertises a bakery and eating house, while his brother, S. S. Baylis calls attention "to the new, elegant, and commodious Pacific House of Council Bluffs as a haven of rest for travelers."

John Keller advertises that a large *pine* lumber yard has been opened in Council Bluffs.

John McMechan & Co. (who subsequently moved to Nebraska City) advertise an extensive assortment of groceries and provisions.

Tootle & Jackson likewise offer a general assortment of goods, together with a prime article of osage orange seed for hedges.

One of the most unique, and, at this day, antique articles advertised for sale by J. E. Johnson, agent, is "Child's California Guides, giving a distinct and proper description of the road to California, made by and from the author's personal observation, and also copies from the Mormon Guide, with full directions for an outfit, and various other necessary instruction and advice. This is a good, correct, and neat article, and may be sent by mail free of postage to the purchaser for 50 cents."

But it is not possible in a paper as brief as this to make detailed mention of all commercial advertisements in the first number of the first paper published as from Omaha, Neb. In it, however, attorneys who advertise for clients are: A. W. Babbitt, Franklin Street, Marshall Turley, John W. Kelly, Joseph L. Sharp, Jas. D. Test, Johnson & Cassidy, C. E. Stone, A. C. Ford, Wm. Corfield, A. V. Larimer, W. C.

James, and L. M. Cline. No physician advertises in that issue of the *Arrow*—which is an implied compliment to the purity of the Nebraska atmosphere and the healthfulness of the climate at that day. And while no “big medicine men” were offering their services through the *Arrow* for the restoration or perpetuation of health among the frontiersmen, a prospectus for the *Nebraska Palladium*, which was to give sanitation to the settlement and improvement to the trans-Missouri country, was printed in this number. The *Palladium* was really the first newspaper printed and published in the Territory of Nebraska, and was edited by H. E. Reed and set up and printed by Thomas Morton, Dan Carpenter, and A. D. Long. The prospectus declares that the *Palladium* will be published at Bellevue, and then states:

“This paper will be strenuously devoted to the support of the great interests involved in the early settlement of this rich, beautiful, and desirable country. It will be an earnest advocate of the immediate establishment of those industrial, social, political, and religious institutions which can avail a permanence to society.

“The finest portion of this magnificent territory has already been purchased of its aboriginal owners, who will soon be transferred to more distant wilds and leave beautiful Nebraska free to receive the ever-enduring impress of the white man’s energy, genius, and taste.

“The *Palladium* will be zealously devoted to the social, political, and moral interests of the vast multitudes who will soon transfer their interests to this country and begin the foundation of future prosperity, freedom, and happiness. The higher interests of education and Christianity will find a vigilant and an impartial advocate in the *Palladium*.

“Our political faith and character will correspond with that of the great Democratic party of the United States and be a true exponent of republican principles. We shall be independent and honorable in our course with friends and foes and follow no party when it departs from the standard

of righteousness and truth. We shall avoid a state of neutrality upon all subjects, especially upon questions that relate to the great moral interests of mankind."

All of the foregoing is promised by the *Palladium* for \$2 per annum, invariably in advance, and is signed "Reed, Latham & Co., editors and proprietors."

Mr. Reed came originally to the territory as a teacher at the Presbyterian Mission School for the Omaha Indians. He was a man between thirty-five and forty years of age, of fairly good ability, excellent moral character, and not much energy. Neither was he qualified by habits of study or writing for the position of an editor. His partner, Mr. Latham, was a downright, old-style, first-family-of-Virginia man, who prided himself particularly upon his powers as an orator and his gifts as a writer. He was a lawyer of considerable repute and (aside from a habit of at times drinking more fire-water than was good for him) a man of fine reputation. He was a member of the First Territorial Legislative Assembly from the county of Cass—in which he never lived. My memory gives me no suggestion of what became of Mr. Reed or Mr. Latham after the spring of 1855; but I have an impression that they both left the Territory and that Latham died sometime before 1860 either in Council Bluffs or Glenwood, Iowa.

The *Palladium* was first issued in November, 1854, at Bellevue, from a hewed-log edifice known as the McKinney House, which stood between the old Presbyterian Mission at its southeast and the trading post of the American Fur Company at its northeast, near the bank of the Missouri river. The pioneer number printed in that town is 16, of volume I, and bears date Wednesday, November 15, 1854. In its editorial column we find:

"The first printers in our office, and who have set up the present number, are natives of three different states—Ohio, Virginia, and Massachusetts, namely: Thomas Morton, foreman, Columbus, O. (but Mr. Morton was born in England);

A. D. Long, compositor, Virginia; Henry M. Reed, apprentice, Massachusetts. At the moment our foreman had the press ready for operation, the following persons were—not by invitation, but providentially—present to witness its first operation, viz., His Excellency, T. B. Cuming, Governor of Nebraska, and Mrs. T. B. Cuming; Hon. Fenner Ferguson, Chief Justice of Nebraska, and Mrs. Fenner Ferguson; Rev. William Hamilton, of the Otoe and Omaha Mission, and Mrs. William Hamilton; Major Jas. M. Gatewood, of Missouri; W. A. Griffin, of Bellevue; Arthur Ferguson, of Bellevue; A. Vandergrift, Esq., of Missouri; Bird B. Chapman, candidate for Congress from Nebraska Territory; Geo. W. Hollister, Esq., of Bellevue; Theodore S. Gilmore, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Mary Hamilton and Miss Amanda Hamilton of Bellevue.

“The first proof-sheet was taken by His Excellency Governor Cuming, which was taken from the press and read by His Honor Chief Justice Ferguson. Thus, quietly and unceremoniously, was the birth time of printing in Bellevue, Nebraska—thus was the Nebraska *Palladium* inaugurated into the public service. This event, although to some it may seem unimportant now, will form an epoch in history which will be remembered ages after those present on this interesting occasion are no more.”

Prior to the issue of this number the *Palladium* was printed at St. Mary, in Mills county, Iowa, just across the Missouri river, opposite Bellevue. This copy contains also the following:

“REMOVAL OF OUR OFFICE.—We hope our readers will excuse the late appearance of this number. We have been removing our office from St. Mary, on which account we have fallen short of the regular time for the issue of our paper about three days—and for the same reason we shall issue no paper until a week from Tuesday next.”

Among other editorial notices in this issue of the 16th of November, 1854, the following appears:

“A. R. Gilmore, Esq., of Chicago, J. Sterling Morton, as-

sistant editor of the *Detroit Free Press*, and lady, Dr. E. N. Upjohn, of Michigan, arrived at Bellevue on the 13th instant."

It has been a rule of the writer of this paper never to correct journalistic misrepresentations concerning himself. But now, after the lapse and silence of forty-three years, the rule is waived and suspended long enough to state that he was not the assistant editor of the *Detroit Free Press* at the time of his arrival in Nebraska on November 13, 1854, although he had, even while in his teens, been a contributor to that journal, which was then owned and edited by Wilber F. Storey, who subsequently made the *Chicago Times* the greatest, strongest, and most influential newspaper in the Northwest.

This number of the *Palladium* contains the proceedings of the regular meeting of the Bellevue Claim Club, wherein the boundaries of the dominion of that association are laid down with great precision, and wherein also claimants are required to register within thirty days, and in case of failure their claims are to be declared vacant and liable to be taken by any person entitled to hold a claim.

It is perhaps well enough in this generation to explain that a claim in the North Platte country at that time consisted of 320 acres of government, unsurveyed land. Any American citizen had the right, under the Claim Club laws and regulations of that section of the territory, to measure and stake out 320 acres and place a cabin or a foundation for a log cabin upon it and have it recorded in the Claim Club books, and then sell it, or hold it for preemption, as to one-half of it. The preemption law at that time in vogue permitted the proving-up upon only 160 acres by each preemptor. The original design was that each of the first settlers should take and hold two quarters, and then if possible sell one of them for enough to pay the United States \$200 for preempting the other. And if more than enough for that purpose could be secured by the selling of a "squatter's right," all the better for the first claimant.

Horace Everett, who afterwards became a prominent citizen of Council Bluffs and a real estate owner in all of western Iowa, has a communication in this first number of the *Palladium* in which he says:

“What all your readers want is territorial news—anything that relates to the country west of the Missouri. Please send your paper to Horace Everett, Gainesville, Alabama.”

One of the most interesting features of this pioneer journal is found on its fourth page. At the head of the first column, under the word “Agricultural,” these two lines appear:

“He that by the plow would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive.”

And immediately under that, set in italics, is the following, which I believe to be historically true to the letter:

“This is the first column of reading matter set in the Territory of Nebraska. This was put in type on the 14th of November, 1854, by Thomas Morton.”

It is apparent that Thomas Morton fully realized the printing and publishing possibilities of the future, and that furthermore he had faith in that “column of reading matter” as the first part of a sure foundation upon which a great social and civil superstructure was to be erected and perpetuated.

In the same column is a recommendation to “eat beets baked, because potatoes are scarce and high.”

Further along is an article on harvesting corn and another on cheap carpeting.

P. A. Sarpy advertises the Bluff City & St. Louis Packet Line on the Missouri river. The steamers El Paso, Polar Star, and James H. Lucas compose the line, and are declared to be boats “not excelled for safety, speed, and comfort, and shippers and the traveling community may rely upon the *permanency* of this line. Through freights and passengers will meet with but a few hours’ detention at St. Joseph, Mo.”

The business directory of the *Palladium* is not extensive, but very suggestive of enterprise. I. H. Bennett advertises a boarding-house at Bellevue; W. R. English offers his services as a negotiator, collector, general land agent and counselor at law, and states in his card that he has had an experience (he does not say of what kind) of seventeen years, in the Territory. C. E. Watson advertises as land agent, surveyor, and engineer; George Hepner offers his services as a counselor at law; G. W. Wallace tenders his abilities as a physician and surgeon; Bruno Tzschuck offers his professional services to the citizens of St. Mary and vicinity as a surveyor and engineer, he having an office in Peter A. Sarpy's store, corner of Gregory street. Mr. Tzschuck has since been made acquainted with Nebraska as one of its ablest secretaries of state, and is, I believe still living at or near Bellevue on his farm. Watson, Kinney & Green offer land for sale and likewise town lots. The Astor House, by William Ingall, St. Mary, Iowa, solicits a share of public favor.

On November 29, 1854, the *Palladium* issued a number containing an editorial, from which we quote the following:

"THANKSGIVING.—His Excellency, the Chief Magistrate of this Territory, has, in accordance with the custom of our Puritan ancestors, issued a proclamation to the people of Nebraska, recommending them to set apart Thursday next (November 30) to be observed as a day of thanksgiving and praise to the Great Being to whom we are indebted for the mercies we have and dependent for those we are striving to gain.

"Although we have, as in all new countries, comparatively little to be thankful for, we have sufficient to inspire our gratitude and praise.

"We have reason to be thankful that the Governor has thus publicly acknowledged the Supreme Ruler and recommended a day of Thanksgiving to be observed by the people of this Territory on the very threshold of their territorial

existence. We hope this ordinance will be respected and perpetuated from year to year to the latest posterity.

"A public meeting will be held at the Mission on Thanksgiving Day, at 11:00 o'clock A.M. Preaching by the Rev. William Hamilton. The public are invited to attend."

In the issue of the *Palladium* for December 6, 1854, we find a communication from Frederick V. Hayden, who subsequently became distinguished as a scientist and prominent as the head of the geological survey for the government of the United States. Professor Hayden, with whom I became very friendly and intimate, passed that winter at Bellevue. In this communication Hayden says:

"The geological formation around Bellevue is carboniferous, which extends as far as the Big Sioux river, where the cretaceous formation commences. Fine beds of coal may be exhibited when a thorough survey is made. About a mile north of Bellevue the bluffs strike the river, and a valuable bed of limestone is exposed. This will have an important bearing on the settlement of Bellevue. A geological section of it would be as follows: first, an argillaceous schistose limestone of a yellowish color, very compact, not suitable for lime, but well adapted for building purposes. This bed is very near the water's edge. Second, a coarse-grained, greyish-white limestone, containing no clay and therefore suitable for lime. This is an important bed and second only to a coal mine in its value to this portion of the territory."

This same 6th of December number of the *Palladium* contains the following:

"COUNTIES OR DISTRICTS.

"1. Richardson county contains two precincts or places of voting: one on the north and the other on the south side of the great Nemaha. The first will be held at the house of William Level, the second at the house of John Bellew.

"2. Forney [now Nemaha] county. There shall be one

precinct or place of voting in this county, viz., at the house of Richard Brown.

"3. Pierce [now Otoe] county. There shall be one precinct or place of voting in this county, viz., Nebraska City, at the house of H. P. Downs.

"4. Cass county. There shall be two precincts or places of voting in this county; one at the house of Col. Thompson, Kanoshe precinct; the second at Martin's precinct at the house of S. Martin.

"Douglas and Omaha counties blank.

"7. Washington county. There shall be one precinct or place of voting in Washington county, viz., at the post-office.

"8. Burt county. There shall be two precincts or places of voting in this county, viz., Tekamah and Blackbird; the first shall be held at the house of Gen. John B. Robinson, the second in Blackbird precinct at the Blackbird House.

"9. Dodge county. There shall be one precinct or place of voting in this county, viz., at the house of Dr. M. H. Clark, Fontanelle precinct."

The *Palladium* of January 3, 1855, gives a rather vigorous writing-up of a territorial convention which had been held December 30, 1854, at Nebraska City,

"For the purpose of taking into consideration the present unfortunate political condition of the Territory and of expressing the views of the people in relation to the motives by which Acting Governor Cuming has been guided in the management of the affairs of the said Territory."

Among the delegates present at that convention were: Stephen Decatur, Geo. W. Hollister, B. B. Thompson, Philip E. Shannon, Jas. O'Neil, Jas. H. Decker, Simpson Hargus, H. P. Bennett, A. M. Rose, C. H. Cowles, John Clements, Louis Cornutt, Nelson Hopkins, R. W. Frame, Jesse Cole, E. Wyatt, J. P. Handley, and J. Sterling Morton. The last was chairman of a committee on resolutions which made a very peppery report. It submitted resolutions for the consideration of the body of the convention, which, after a long and

spirited debate, were unanimously adopted. The last resolution recommended to President Pierce Gen. Bula M. Hughes, of Missouri, for Governor; and Dr. P. J. McMahon, of Iowa, for Secretary of the Territory of Nebraska.

The last number of the *Palladium* bears date April 11, 1855, and its leading article is relative to the murder of Geo. W. Hollister, a graduate of Yale College, who had been shot to death by Chas. A. Henry. The funeral services of Mr. Hollister were held on Sunday, the 8th day of April, 1855, under the direction and ministrations of Rev. G. G. Rice. On the third page the editor formally announces the suspension of the *Palladium*, and with solemnity consigns it to death and posterity.

The *Nebraska City News* was first issued November 14, 1854, as being published at Nebraska City (Henry Bradford, editor), while really it was printed and issued at Sidney, Fremont county, Iowa. But in the spring of 1855 the scribe now making this historical record entered into a contract with the Town Site Company of Nebraska City by which he became, at the remunerative compensation of \$50 per month, the editor in charge of and sole director and general manager of the enormous plant which was to continue the utterance of the weekly *Nebraska City News*. Therefore, from the second story of the U. S. Military Block House, which had been constructed in the year 1846 under the direction of Capt. Stewart Van Vliet (who, as a retired brigadier-general, is now living in Washington, D. C.), the first number of the *Nebraska City News* was, on April 12, 1855, duly sent to press and launched upon a waiting and astonished world. Under the terms of my contract with the Town Site Company, I had the right to employ and discharge printers and all the other employees at pleasure. Therefore, having known Thomas Morton, an Englishman (no kin of the writer), at Bellevue, as a most competent, steady, and industrious printer, I immediately secured him as foreman of the *News* office. Then began a

social and business relation and a personal friendship which lasted without break or interruption until the grave closed between him and the writer hereof.

In those days the rivals of Nebraska City were constantly publishing the statement that its site was a military reservation and that consequently no good titles could be given to lots. This rumor was so persistently repeated and so generally circulated by other town site companies on the Missouri river that it really worked great injury to the holders of property in and about the county-seat of what was then Pierce, and is now Otoe county. However, by continued correspondence, we at last drew a letter from Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War in the Cabinet of Franklin Pierce, stating very distinctly and conclusively that this town site was not a military reservation, and that it never had been one, except for very temporary purposes. Each newspaper in the Territory was at that time merely the advance agent of a town company which was to act either successfully or otherwise in the drama of building a city—of establishing and maintaining a municipality. Out of this fact was evolved a selfish style of journalism and a markedly personal sort of paragraphing. Sectionalism between the North and South Platte was evolved from this sort of newspaper writing, and it grew to a bitterness and heat which led in later years to a serious convention, the delegates to which were pledged to do all in their power to annex South Platte Nebraska to Kansas. In fact, a convention was held in the latter state and delegates attended from every county south of the Platte river. Fortunately, however, Nebraska did not become a scion on the trunk of Kansas, though sometimes it seems to have been infected by microbes of its isms and vagaries.

Among the early newspapers came the *Nebraskian*, published at Omaha in the interest of Bird B. Chapman, of Elyria, Ohio, who was running for Congress in this Territory at that time. Its editor was Mr. John Sherman, likewise from Ohio, but not identical with the present Secretary of

State, though, if living, he would be about the same age. Editor Sherman was a man of about thirty-five years of age, of good physique, and more than average intellect, and great facility and perspicacity as a writer of sharp, pungent paragraphs.

But I shall not trench on Omaha newspaperdom any farther, because I have hoped that Dr. Geo. L. Miller would take up the early days of journalism in that propinquity and with his facile pen and felicity of expression give us a complete record of its infancy.

Nevertheless, in justice, one can not leave the subject of journalism at Omaha and its effects upon that commercial center and the state of Nebraska without telling some little of the truth about the influence of the Omaha *Daily Herald*, edited by Dr. Miller, in laying the foundations and ably aiding in the upbuilding of a metropolis on the west bank of the Missouri river. Dr. Miller issued the first number of the *Daily Herald* in the year 1865. He continued to issue "*Daily Herald*s" for more than twenty years. There was no day in any month in any one of the twenty years in which he was not an enthusiastic believer in the possibilities—commercial and agricultural—of the whole state. At no time did his faith waver or his persistent industry flag. Every morning there was something new in the way of hope, suggestion, or fact for the benefit and development of Omaha and its resources. Each morning the columns of the *Daily Herald* boiled over with buoyant enthusiasm and exuberant faith which animated every nerve, fiber, and brain tissue of the robust and able editor who dictated its policy and evolved its thoughts. It is my candid opinion that there is no instance in all the history of the Northwest where the thought and pen of a single individual has done so much to build up any community or city as did the pen and thought of Dr. Miller for Omaha and Douglas county. If the present inhabitants of Omaha, numbering something more than 100,000, should each of them write an article setting forth the ad-

vantages—agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing—in the state of Nebraska on each day of the week for six months to come, they would not have achieved as much manuscript and as much effectively good work in behalf of their homes as Dr. Miller performed in the twenty years during which he so diligently labored for the upbuilding of that community. No other man, either by the power of money, or by the power of brawn, or by the strength of brain, did as much to make Omaha a city as this one man accomplished.

Among early newspapers in the smaller towns or settlements in the Territory, the *Nebraska Enquirer*, by A. W. Merrick, published at DeSoto, in Washington county, played an important part. Mr. Merrick was succeeded as editor by Hugh McNeely. The *Enquirer's* best work was between the years 1858 and 1861. During the campaign of 1860 it was an ardent and active supporter of the Republican ticket, national and territorial.

The *Nemaha Herald* issued its first number of vol. I at Nemaha City on the morning of November 24, 1859. It continued its existence under the management of Fairbrother & Hacker until sometime in the early '60's when its publication ceased.

The *Nebraska Advertiser* was established at Brownville by Dr. John McPherson in 1856, and I have found copies of it running from October 27, 1859, to November 22, 1860, when it was published by Furnas & Lyanna.

The *Advertiser* was pronouncedly an advocate of the material development of Brownville and Nemaha county. It was a strong believer in the horticultural and agricultural possibilities of Nebraska soil. Its editor from 1856 to 1861 was Robert W. Furnas, since Governor of the State, who has been one of the most self-sacrificing and persistently industrious men in behalf of the upbuilding in this state of all that makes prosperity and happiness for its citizens. There is no Nebraskan in public or in private life who has, during a period of forty years, performed a greater, better, and at

the same time less remunerative labor than has Robert W. Furnas in his thoughtful and diligent efforts for the development of the true methods of home-building in this state. History will give him a peerless position among the pioneers who laid the social and æsthetic foundations of this commonwealth.

The *People's Press* was established at Nebraska City by Irish & Matthias in the spring of 1859, and No. 47 of vol. 1 was issued on November 11 of that year. It has continued and worked, like its competitor in that town, to the present day, although it has met with more changes of ownership and editorial control than has the *Nebraska City News*. As a rule, the *Press* has been fairly, decently, and ably conducted in a political way; and has always, according to its light, been a faithful supporter of the interests of Otoe county and Nebraska City.

The *Nebraska Republican* was established at Omaha in the year 1858 but passed out of existence about 1889, as I now recall it.

The *Omaha Times* was established with Geo. W. Hepburn as editor and proprietor, in the autumn of 1857, at Omaha. It subsequently came into the possession of W. W. Wyman, the postmaster at Omaha, during the Buchanan administration, and expired sometime during the year 1870.

The *Wyoming Telescope*, of Wyoming, Otoe county, was established in 1857 by Jacob Dawson, editor and proprietor. It was edited during the year 1859 by S. N. Jackson, who publishes his valedictory on July 30 of that year.

The *Omaha Nebraskian* began its sixth year in January, 1860, and on the 28th of that month the issue (being edited by T. H. Robertson and M. H. Clark) contains very interesting correspondence from Washington, dated January 16, it taking at that time twelve days to convey a letter by United States mail from the Federal capital to the west bank of the Missouri river. Peculiar zest is given to this correspondence from the fact that it is written by Dr. Geo. L. Miller, then

sojourning at the capital. The Doctor mentions the fact that William A. Richardson, of Illinois, who had been the Governor of this Territory, was in Washington attracting much attention and in close communion with Senator Douglas, of Illinois. The Doctor seems, judging from his epistles, to be very much interested in securing a land-grant for the purpose of building a trans-continental line of railroad which should make Omaha the initial point on the Missouri river. Even at that early day Dr. Miller cherished Pacific railroad building as a chronic ambition.

On July 6, 1860, Dr. Miller corresponds with the *Nebraskian* from St. Joseph, Mo., and informs its readers of the falling in at St. Joseph of a large grocery-store building owned by Nave & McCord. The edifice was supposed to be one of the strongest in the city, but without premonition it fell, burying in its ruins twelve persons, seven of whom were taken out dead when the Doctor communicated with the *Nebraskian*.

The year 1859 was probably the most prolific of newspapers of any in the entire history of the Territory. It was in the early part of that year that we first began to receive news from the Rocky mountains confirming the legends of gold in paying quantities about Auraria on Cherry creek, where the city of Denver is now flourishing. Hon. A. A. Brookfield, a former mayor of Nebraska City, is noticed in the *News* of July 23, 1859, as having just returned from the gold diggings, and the editor declares that he has "brought some beautiful specimens which we have felt, seen, and handled, one to the value of \$3.05 of solid gold, which looks as if it had been melted and hammered out. He has other specimens, some of quartz-bearing."

And the *Nebraska City News* of July 23, 1859, also contains a reprint from a letter of Horace Greeley. During that summer Greeley, Schuyler Colfax, and Deacon William Bross made the overland stage trip to the Pacific Coast and tarried

for some time at Denver. Greeley, writing to the New York *Tribune* on July 15 of that year, says:

“I never visited a region where physical life could be more surely prolonged or more fully enjoyed. Thousands who rush here for gold will rush away again, disappointed and disgusted, as thousands have already done; and yet the gold is in these mountains and the right men will gradually unearth it. I shall be mistaken if two millions or three millions are not taken out this year, and some ten millions in 1860, though all the time there will be, as now, a stream of rash adventurers heading away from the diggings, declaring that there is no gold there, or next to none. So it was in California and in Australia. So it must be here where the obstacles to be overcome are greater and the facilities for getting home decidedly better. All men are not fitted by nature for gold-diggers; yet thousands will not realize this until they have been convinced of it by sore experience. . . .

“Mining is a pursuit akin to fishing and hunting and, like them, enriches the few at the cost of the many. This region is doubtless preordained to many changes of fortunes—to-day giddy with the intoxication of success, to-morrow in the valley of humiliation. One day report will be made on the Missouri by a party of disappointed gold seekers that the Rocky mountain humbug has exploded and everybody is fleeing for the States who can possibly get away. The next report will represent these diggings as yellow with gold. Neither will be true; yet each in its turn will have a certain substratum of fact for its justification.”

I have ventured to quote the above from Horace Greeley's Denver correspondence, relative to mining, because it is apropos at this time of Klondike excitements which are carrying so many people to the gold fields of Alaska.

But this paper is already too far extended. It is my duty to end it. In doing so I suggest that the Nebraska State Historical Society seek biographical sketches of the early editors of the Territory and State whenever and wherever

legitimate opportunity offers the probability of securing the stories of their lives during the time of their activity in the newspaper profession. Personally, I might extend my reminiscences to volumes. But I am already constrained to importune forgiveness for the length and drouth of this desultory medley of the legends and characteristics of the early journalism of Nebraska. They are to me as attractive as paintings by the old masters are to artists who would emulate their taste, deftness of touch, and beauty of colorings. To frame and preserve an individuality which, as an advertising agent in advance of the coming of hundreds of thousands of home builders, was useful and efficient in the first settlements of Nebraska is an agreeable and pleasant duty which only living pioneers can perform.