



**TABOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**February, 2018.....Newsletter**  
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 on the  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
 and  
**The National Park Service**  
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Here is hoping that all have had a great start to their “New Year”.

This newsletter will begin what I will call “Getting in on the Beginning”. I am going through the official records of Tabor from the beginning. Harry has digitized the records, so it will be relatively easy for me to put these in the newsletters. It is a bit difficult to decipher some of the handwriting, but I will do the best I can. In places where I can’t make out a word or words, I will insert ????. All will be copied just as it was written (misspelled words and all if the computer will allow!!) Hopefully, this will be interesting reading along with being educational.

**Tabor Official Records**

Stone Quarry Company

During the winter of 1853 & 4, several of the citizens of Tabor, in order to secure to the community the benefit of a stone quarry lying on Plum Creek 3 or 4 miles S.W. of Tabor, combined together & purchased the right to said stone quarry, as appears from the following paper, which appears to have been recorded at Sidney Aug.24, 1854 in Book A page 298.

For & in consideration of the sum of forty five dollars, the receipt of which I hereby acknowledge, I do bargain, sell & convey to G.B. Gaston, O. Cummings, J.L. Smith, W.J. Gates, SR. Pearse, J. West, John Hallam, D.P. Matthews & J. Todd, their heirs & assigns severally an equal share with each other & with myself my heirs & assigns, to all the stone or rock on or beneath the surface of the S.E.

¼ of the S.W. ¼ of Section 17 in Township 70 N. of Range 42W; & I hereby secure to them the right of way necessary to obtain the same; provided that no one of the aforesaid persons shall sell or dispose of their & title to said property without the consent of 2/3 of all concerned.

Tabor March 30, 1854

In presence of ) William L. Clark  
Joseph Munsinger )  
Cordelia G. Smith )

Next the following record of a meeting of the Tabor Stone Quarry Company is found.

Tabor August 22, 1854

1. Resolved that stone be sold for one dollar per cord in the quarry.
2. Res. That O. Cummings & S.R. Pearse be a committee to fix a line beyond which everyone getting stone shall remove the dirt.
3. Res. That J. Todd & J.L. Smith be a committee to draft Bye Laws to be presented at the next meeting.

Adjourned to two weeks from this evening.

Jas. L. Smith, Sec

The report of the above committee is as follows "Your com. recommend that the Stone Quarry Company of Tabor adopt the following

Bye Laws

1. This company shall hold its annual meeting on the second Monday of December, at which time shall be elected a President, Vice President & Secretary, who shall perform the duties usually pertaining to such offices, & together shall constitute an executive committee to attend to the business of the company.
2. The executive committee shall attend to the sale & measurement of stone, & through the Secretary (who shall also act as treasurer, keep a faithful account of

the business of the company, & report the same at the annual meeting.

3. All persons obtaining stone from the quarry shall be required to throw the dirt wherever the executive committee may direct.
4. No sale of title in the quarry shall be deemed valid until the written consent of 2/3 of the members be presented to the Secretary & notice of the sale be placed on the records of the company, except that the written consent may be dispensed with, when the consent is obtained by vote in a public meeting.

First Annual Meeting

Was held on December 11, 1854, when the following Report was made & accepted.

O. Cummings has taken	20	bags	---	4	cords
J. West	20	"	"	"	"
G. B. Gaston	20	"	"	"	"
I. Townsend	10	"			
W. Madison	10	"			
J. Todd	10	"			
D.P. Matthews	4	"			
W.J. Gates	5	"			
M. Spees	6	"			
School House	4	"			
J.L. Smith	1	"			

To the company

Wm. Madison for 10 loads of stone -----\$1.66  
Marcus T Spees " 6 " " " ----- 1.00

J.L. Smith Clerk

O. Cummings was then chosen president, J Hallam V. President & I. Townsend Secretary & Treasurer.

It was also Resolved that the officers be a committee to make arrangements to turn lime.

Second Annual Meeting, December 10, 1855

At the annual meeting of the Stone Quarry Company held Dec. 10, 1855 D.P. Matthews was

elected President, John Hallam V. President, & O. Cummings Secretary & Treasurer

Report

Due the company for stone taken from the quarry the past year

M.T. Spees-----\$1.00  
J. Jones----- 4.00  
S.H. Adams----- 4.00  
S.H. Adams in labor 2.00 & 2.00 to J.

Jones for removing dirt.

I. Townshend Sec. & Tr.

**Public Meeting relative to laying out the Village of Tabor**

Tabor, Fremont Co. Iowa May 15, 1854

The citizens of Tabor convened at the house of Geo. B. Gaston to transact business of general interest.

Judge L.F. Atkins of Cleveland Ohio, being present was called to the chair & J. Todd appointed secretary.

After prayer, G.B. Gaston proposed that a subscription be opened to pay for the bell brought by Jonas Jones – cost \$85. The proposition was acceded to by the meeting.

It was also decided that the school house, in process of building, be built by subscription, & be held as the property of those subscribing to it.

Voted that the surplus of the subscription for the bell, if any, be applied to the building of the school house.

The meeting then took into consideration the village plat & matters connected therewith.

Voted that a committee of three be appointed to draft a plat of the village of Tabor & submit the same to a subsequent meeting ---- J. Todd, Jonas Jones & J.L. Smith were appointed that committee.

Meeting Adjourned to 7 o'clock on the following Thursday.

J. Todd Sec.

The citizens of Tabor met on Thursday Evng, May 18, 1854, according to adjournment – Opened by prayer—Judge Atkins presiding.

The committee appointed at the previous meeting reported & the report was accepted. The subject was then taken up for consideration.

Voted that Main Street (that coinciding with the stage road running N.W.) be 80 ft. wide for the distance of ½ a mile N. & ¾ of a mile S. of the county line.

Voted that the Main Street be made to run on a straight line from the corner section stake, one mile N. to the corner section stake one mile S. of the county line.

Voted that the plat presented be referred back to the committee to perfect; & that the committee obtain the written consent of the owners of the soil, if possible, & have the same, together with the plat when perfected over to the committee to be appointed to superintend the laying out of the contemplated village of Tabor.

Voted that a committee of three be appointed, ?? Egbert Avey, G.B. Gaston, & W.J. Gates, to lay out adjourned to the next Thursday evening.

J. Todd Sec.

On Thursday evening May 25, 1854, the citizens of Tabor met & accepted the report of the committee appointed to complete a plat of the village, & after voting that the S.W. block of 10 acres be omitted, the plat as presented by the committee was adopted.

The meeting then adjourned to meet on next Thursday evening to hear the report of the committee relative to obtaining the written consent of the proprietors of the village –G.B. Gaston having presided as appointed by the meeting.

J. Todd Sec.

Thursday evening June 1, 1854, The citizens of Tabor convened according to adjournment – Appointed S.H. Adams chairman, &, because of the

fewness of those present, adjourned to Monday Evening June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 o'clock. J. Todd Sec.

The citizens of Tabor met on Monday evening June 5<sup>th</sup> according to adjournment.

Voted that the proprietors of the land to be laid out in a village be now asked for their consent to have the proposed village laid out according to the plat.

Voted that the previous vote (taken at the meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>) to make Main street straight for one mile S. & one mile N. be rescinded.

Voted that the Main Street be 80 ft. wide only so far as the village plat extends.

After obtaining consent of the proprietors present, J. Todd was appointed a committee to obtain the consent of Mrs. Webster, J.L. Smith & Jesse West

Voted that the committee of survey be authorized to employ E. Avery to survey & plat the village of Tabor

Adjourned sine die.

J. Todd Sec.

The laying out of the village was placed, as seen above in the hands of a committee. The survey was subsequently commenced, but, at a public meeting in the school house, on the evening of March 9<sup>th</sup> 1857, called to attend to the fencing of the burying grounds, & other matters of general interest, the records above having been read, it was decided that the unfinished business relative to the village plat should be urged forward to completion with all possible despatch.

*To be continued in June newsletter*

Under the apprehension that the troubles in Kansas, might extend into S. Western Iowa, there was a

### Military Company Organized in Tabor

Tabor Tuesday Evening, July 29, 1856 – In accordance with a previous notice, those interested in forming a Military Company convened at the school house & organized themselves, into a

meeting for the transaction of any business pertaining thereto, by electing Jonas Jones, Chairman & I.C. Leyman secretary. Prayer was then offered by Rev. J. Todd. Remarks were then made by several individuals, in regard to the object of the meeting. Next a motion was made by J. Todd to organize by electing officers, immediately afterwards, withdrawn & another substituted in its place, providing for enrolling the names, of such organization. A motion was then made by G.B. Gaston that those who had enrolled their names proceed to elect officers, amended so as to have them elected by ballot.

G.B. Gaston was elected Capt. M.P. Clark 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

On motion of O. Cummings, the election of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant was deferred until some future meeting of the Company.

Next voted to appoint G.B. Gaston, M.P. Clark & J.L. Smith a committee to make arrangements for procuring arms & also to furnish musicians for the company. Adjourned until Friday evening, Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 o'clock P.M.

I.C. Leyman Sec.

### Names Enrolled

M.P. Clark	E.S. Hill
C. Munsinger	James W. Clark
J.R. Gaston	John Hallam
O. Cummings	Charles Leawrence
Isaac Hollister	James Vincent
G.B. Gaston	A.C. Gaston
Wm. R. Shepherdson	H.D. Ingraham
J.L. Smith	B.F. Gardner
Edwin Hill	Darius P. Matthews
J. Munsinger	Charles Webster
Jonas Jones	Francis Asman
I.C. Leyman	L.B. Webb
W. Wallace Madison	Stephen L. Hardy
William Woodruff	John Todd

## Citizens Meeting

To consult relative to the propriety of selling the school house to the School District No. (The schoolhouse whh was built by subscription in In 1854).

The citizens of Tabor assembled in public meeting in the school house, on the evening of May 25, 1857, according to public notice duly given, & organized by calling James Leyman to the chair & appointing J. Todd secretary. After the meeting was opened by prayer, O. Cummings stated the object of the meeting to be to consider the propriety of selling the school house to the district for school purposes.

It was then, Resolved that it is expedient that the propriety of the school house sell the house to the district for school purposes. The propriety of the house present voted unanimously in the affirmative, after expressing at length their views of the matter.

Voted unanimously that the proprietary tender to the district the house at its cost, as exactly as can be ascertained.

Voted that W.J. Gates & Jesse West be a committee to ascertain & report the cost of the school house at the next school meeting, & to this committee S.H. Adams was subsequently added.

Moved by G.B Gaston that the avails of the school house be appropriated toward building another house. After some remarks, the motion was withdrawn.

The above minutes being read & approved, the meeting adjourned sine die. J.Todd Secretary

## School Meeting of District No. 16

At a school meeting called June 4, 1857, the committee appointed as above recorded, reported that the first subscription paper only could be found, & after adding to it all of the second as far as the persons present could remember, the whole amount to \$512.30. – The recent seating cost \$71.53, which being added to the foregoing

amounted to \$583.83. The District then voted to purchase the house for \$600 & the lot for \$100, authorizing the directors to tax the district to that amount, as much more as may be needed to complete repairs, furnish outhouses & fence the lot.

The owners of the stove & pipe voted to donate the same to the district. The following is a copy of the first subscription paper referred to in the records above.

### First Subscription to Build a School House

We the undersigned agree to pay to the district Board of School District No. 16 of Fremont county in cash or its equivalent in labor or building materials, the sums severally set to our respective names, on or before the first of May next.

Tabor Feb 23, 1854.

G.B Gaston	\$50.00
J.L. Smith	50.00
O. Cummings	50.00
Wm. J. Gates	25.00
John Todd	25.00
Samuel H. Adams	20.00
Sherman R. Pearce	\$15.00
Wm. L. Clark	10.00
Jas. M. Gaston *	10.00
D.P. Matthews*	20.00
Jesse West	20.00
John Hallam*	10.00
Wm. Madison	3.80
Isaac Townsend	50.00
Elbridge Reed *	5.00
L.A. Matthews *	12.00
Joseph Munsinger *	5.00
Jonas Jones	10.00
J.L. Hunter *	10.00

Wm. L. Clark was suddenly killed on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1857.- others designated by an asterisk (\*) were absent when the vote was taken, as recorded on the preceding page to sell the house to the district.

The rest were present & voted in the affirmative, together with a member whose names were attached only to the second paper.

### **Happenings Coming Up**

On February 22, 2018, Kathy will be doing a presentation at the Regional Office of the National Park Service in Omaha on the significant part that John Todd and Tabor played in the Underground Railroad. This information is for employees of the National Park Service as a part of their ongoing education.

May 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day lunches will again be available to visitors those days at the Old Fire Station in Tabor. Free will donation. This is always a good time to see people you haven't seen for a while and to catch up. More than likely the menu will remain the same: sloppy joes, baked beans, cold slaw, potato salad, dessert & drinks. Look forward to seeing you there!!

Farmers Merchants Picnic is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. Lots of happenings this year beginning on Friday night with the movie, through the ending on Monday night with the float parade. There is a carnival scheduled for sure this year; troubles of the past have been dealt with and problems solved. Carnival for Saturday, Sunday & Monday nights.

I would like to thank all who have paid their annual dues of \$20 already. You are our life line, along with our generous donors who continue to help us keep our bills paid and our doors open!!

Please don't forget, too, that the newsletters are available by email. If you would like to receive yours by email, please email me at [TaborIowaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:TaborIowaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com).

### **Real Beauty**

By Lena McMinn

Look for the beautiful things in life  
That money cannot buy –  
The silver lining in a cloud  
And the rainbow in the sky.

Look for the beautiful sunshine  
That across your path may fall.  
Look for the moss-covered roses  
That grow by the garden wall.

Look for the beautiful sunset  
As it spreads its golden ray  
Across the twilight shadows  
At the end of a perfect day.

Look for the beautiful and the true  
In every walk of life  
Look for the good in all mankind,  
Then love will conquer strife.