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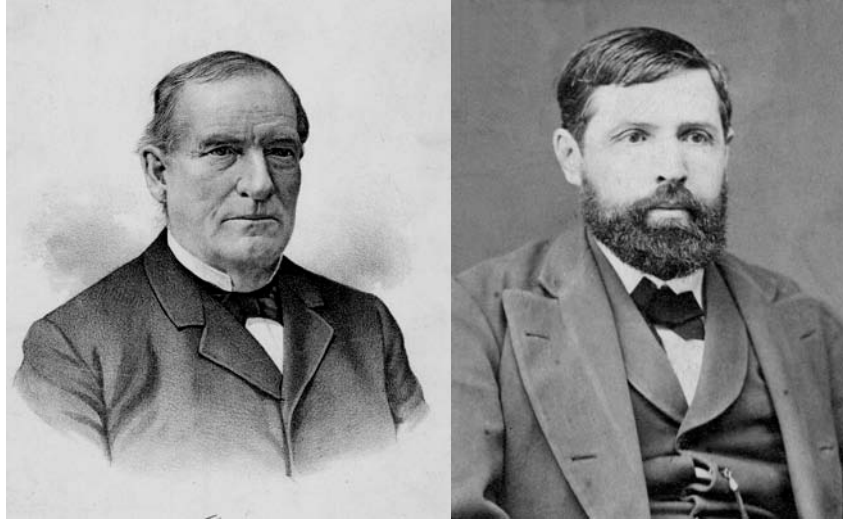
January 19, 2011

THIS WEEK: Fourteenth Iowa General Assembly

BACKGROUND: The Fourteenth General Assembly convened on January 8, 1872, and adjourned on April 23—a 107-day session. The Fourteenth General Assembly occupied the "Old Brick Capitol" in Des Moines, the site of the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument today. The House of Representatives was comprised of 78 Republicans and 22 Democrats. In the Senate, there were 42 Republicans and eight Democrats. Lieutenant Governor Henry C. Bulis presided over the Senate and the Speaker of the House was James Wilson. Cyrus Clay Carpenter was sworn in as governor on January 11, 1872. He was 42 years old. The 1870 census showed Iowa's population was 1,194,020.



"Old Brick Capitol," Des Moines, Iowa



Governor Samuel Merrill (b. August 7, 1822 – d. August 31, 1899) **Governor Cyrus C. Carpenter** (b. November 24, 1829 – d. May 29, 1898)

FOURTEENTH IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The House of Representatives Journal includes Governor Merrill's biennial address in which he mentions the work on the foundation of the present day Capitol and the ceremony for laying the corner stone on November 23, 1871. There was a resolution concerning the printing of Governor Carpenter's Inaugural address in English, German, Holland, Bohemian, Swedish, and Norwegian languages. A joint convention of the House and Senate on Tuesday, January 16, 1872, declared "William B. Allison having received a majority of the votes cast in both Houses, U.S. Senator for a term of six years commencing March 4, 1873." There was a resolution adopted instructing U.S. Senators and Representatives in Congress to "use their best efforts to secure passage of an act granting Charlotte D. Crocker, widow of the late General Marcellus M. Crocker, an increase in pension from thirty to fifty dollars per month."

The Senate Journal includes Resolutions to prevent mining underneath State property including the sites of the Capitol buildings and setting the hours of the Capitol Post Office. The Post Office was to be open "from 8:00 o'clock a.m. until 7:00 o'clock p.m. each weekday and on the Sabbath from 8:00 o'clock a.m. until 10:00 o'clock a.m." A bill for an act "requiring that there shall be attached to locomotive engines a bell or a steam whistle, and the same shall be rung or whistled when approaching any station and a place where a railroad crosses any highway or public street." was introduced. A committee was formed to "investigate the inferior and unsuitable foundation stone of the new capitol." Finally, a resolution was offered honoring the late

Representative-elect Martin E. Kaier. Senator Richards addressed the Senate as follows: "It is my pleasure and privilege to do more to pay a parting tribute of respect to the memory of one whom I mourn as a friend. I saw our brother on the fatal day on which he was frozen. He made a remark about the severity of the cold, but promised to be with us at the opening of the session...."