

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative GREELEY, (Maj.) WALLACE M. Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Story County, Ames

1. Birthday and place 13 March 1838 (bio); 1840 (GAR file, near Yates, Orleans Co., NY)

2. Marriage (s) date, place  
Mary Victoria Young (1836-1914), NY; on 8 Nov. 1866, Gowanda, NY

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business banker, farmer, school teacher

B. Civic responsibilities provided Mary Greeley Hosp. for Ames;  
school board; contributed land for public library

C. Profession \_\_\_\_\_

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 29-31 CA, 1902-1908; HD2 Story Co.

6. Public Offices

A. Local Mayor, Ames 1888-1890; school board

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National Capt, A Co, 151 NY Inf; Capt/Maj. 20 US Coored Inf.

7. Death 15 Feb. 1917, at home, Ames, Ia. Bur Ames Municipal Cem.

8. Children two, died young

9. Names of parents Wallace Maur Greeley; Julia Harrington; fam farmed in NY

10. Education common schools

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Other applicable information Bio says b. 1838; GAR Post notes says 1840.

Began career as school master in NY; met future wife at teachers institute in Ellicott-  
ville, NY.

Entered Union Army as volunteer, rank sgt 24 Aug 1882. Became Capt. 151 NY Inf.  
disch 23 Jan 18674, to accpet apt as Capt. 20 US Coloree Inf. Disch as Major, but preferred  
to be called Capt. for rest of his life.

Came to Ames in Spiring 1866, using money saved from mil pay to buy farm south of  
present Ia State U campus. (The Elwood Drive, US 30 interchange is on this farm, as is  
Motels at that complex. Tjhen went back to NY to marry. Farmed until 1876. Then became  
partner in private bank; and in 1881 estab lished Union Bank, which has remained as one of  
major banks of community.

Served Ames as mayor, on school board, three terms rep. in legislature, and  
supported library and built Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital after wife's death.

He was second cousin of Horace Greeley, famed editor.

He wasuunsuccessful in campgain for senate in 1899.

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\_\_\_\_\_

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
Stork/Clingan--Legislatrers		x	sessions served
Amews Weekly Tribune, Thurs 22 Feb. 1917		x	death; bio
Ames, From Marsh to Modern City 1990		x	bioi
Story Co. Grave markers		x	ref to Greeley mausoleum
Paynew, Hist Story Co. 1911	x		but listed as rep
Allen, Hist Story Co. 1887		x	several items
Payne, H			
Bio & Hist Mewmoir Story Co., 1890		x	no bio but mentions
GAR Post records		x	
1870 Census Story Co		x	
1900 US Census		x	indicated two ch, deceased

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# MAJOR W. M. GREELEY IS SUDDENLY CALLED

"Captain Greeley is dead" was the startling word passed quickly about the streets of Ames last Thursday morning.

Such an announcement carried with it pangs of sorrow for there was not a man better known in the entire community than Capt. Wallace M. Greeley as he was so familiarly known.

He had felt indisposed as the result of a cold but there had been no alarm over his condition. In fact he seemed to be in better general health than usual and his cheery "good morning" had been answered but the day before by those whom he met on the public streets.

It is a difficult matter to express in words the life history of Captain Greeley. It provides a subject which

with the intention of making this his permanent home. His diligence on the farm called for other activities and it was not long until he came to Ames and engaged in the banking business. It was in a little place of a room where the first bank was established and the utter faithfulness of the man, his spirit of a square deal to every person caused him to become known over the entire section. The bank prospered and with the prosperity came new buildings, and doubtless as Mr. Greeley settled himself down to the hard work of preparing for the time of depression and looking out for the interests of the people who had placed their trust in him, his ideals must have commenced to form. There was an interruption in his

## CAUGHT PIGGERS WHO SOLD THE LIQUOR

Charles King and William Carr were brought before Mayor Baker Monday on the charge of illegally selling liquor. The city officers had their eye on the place where the men have made their home and when they saw a man coming from the building they seized him. He had a quart of rotten whisky and stated he had purchased it from the two men.

Their arrest followed and when they were confronted with the evidence of the man to whom they had sold the liquor they fessed up.

The men were colored and have been making their home in the shack down on Lincoln Way. Their removal cleans out the shack and it will now be kept cleaned out.

## FRANCHISE FAG WHAT PEOPLE

The interurban certainly not have secured a franchise will they have the prospect continued if they persist in selling cars under the present

So spoke Parley Sheldon at the meeting of the Civic Franchise city hall last Thursday evening. The subject was up for discussion the interurban should lose the franchise by not running their heart of the city. Cor Sheldon said:

"I have full knowledge of the situation under which the franchise was granted. When the road was constructed we got whisky for. I was active in getting to come to Ames and I am guilty about the way it has turned out. They pay me liberally and I told I did was for Ames first second and the interurban asked me to name a sum of money and I told them they pay me a cent but that was equipment and see the proper time comes I myself and there will be standing about it. I'll successfully combat anything that can be made on the interurban."

It was such a meeting forth the expressions of W. L. Allan, councilman, and took the view that should be forced to run down town or their franchise be annulled. He said this franchise that concerns all of Ames and those who come. It was his view the franchise of the interurban and understanding the people franchise. Without that people never would have streets of the city overpany. He said: "I think ban should bring their avenue or they should have franchise revoked."

He spoke of the competing transfers, which he in direct violation of the franchise. He spoke of the inconvenience to the people and the loss of the new depot, and an outrage that any one could be permitted to work upon the people.

H. C. Neyens, agent of the interurban, stated the company is not running the road to Duff avenue. Mr. Neyens was a resident of Ames for years for the town. He has statements that there had always been when the railway crossed the Northwestern a man who were employed by the company made it a point to delay cars. He said the traffic would get used to the delay and that farmers had to go to the distance after the delay with him personally. He said the Northwestern caused delay minutes at the grade crossing speaking of the matter he said that would cost \$10,000 to build one and

(Continued on page 2)

## AMES OFFERS CAMP FOR MOBOLIZATION

In case of the mobilization of Iowa recruits Ames may become the central point at which the troops would gather.

The matter was up for discussion at the Ames Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture at the last meeting, and the preliminary steps were taken that will lead the war department to consider Ames should there be a call for troops.

General Lincoln addressed the meeting. He pointed out what Ames might do if there is a call for troops. He stated the nation is perfectly helpless today, while the harbors are protected there are hundreds of places along the coast line where troops could be landed. It was his suggestion that Ames offer to furnish a mobilization camp, setting forth that here there is the adequate railway service, the proper drainage, sewers and especially an abundance of good water. In establishing such a camp it is essential that it be absolutely sanitary, stated the general. It was suggested that the government be advised as to the conditions here and if necessary send a committee down to Washington to talk with the secretary of war. The general had little use for seeking aid of congressmen. It was pointed out the cadets at the college could play an important part and the conditions were such here that they could not be improved upon.

The tract of land under consideration for such a mobilization camp lies just northwest of the city. Water and sewers extend to the limits of the ground.

The committee named to investigate and press the claims of Ames is composed of Parley Sheldon, General Lincoln, H. W. Stafford, President Pearson and Major Knapp.

## WOODMAN WITH LITTLE THOUGHT OF SPARING TREE

F. D. Edgar had no sentiment about sparing a tree and he chopped the thing down.

He had not taken into consideration in which direction the tree would fall. With the final blow of the ax the tree went over and smashed the heavy wires of the Iowa Telephone company. There was such force that seven poles were snapped off, and the entire line to the west of Ames was put out of commission.

When the telephone company went to make repairs it was found that they backed two automobile in such a position that the lights were thrown



MAJOR W. M. GREELEY

will never be completed for there was so much to the man and his activities in all channels of life covered such a varied territory that with his passing causes the good deeds and kindly thoughts to go with him.

It has always been considered in this community, where he has resided for so many years, that his life was an open book. To a certain extent it was. But there shall never be known the kindly service he has done to so many people. Mr. Greeley was a man of retirement and the assistance he has given in the past forty years to those whom he considered as deserving, must come from their lips. He told not of the assistance which he had given to the widow and the orphan. These are things which will never be known.

In the last few years he had planned for a number of improvements that could not be kept from the public eye. There was a hospital to be built. This was in line with the thought of his wife, who preceded him by death a few years

ago. There was but one choice and that was Captain Greeley. He has served the community in every department of the school board, and the state has had the benefit of his knowledge for he was elected representative from Story county. It was fitting that the day following his passing the Iowa house and senate stopped in their grind and paid a tribute to his memory by the adoption of proper resolutions.

The photograph appearing with this article shows the real Captain Greeley as taken but a few days before his death. He is standing on the east side of the Union National bank. It is a characteristic picture of him, for when the photographer asked him to life his hat, there came back the reply, "Wait for?" It is noticeable the picture is taken as the shadows were lengthening that January afternoon. Captain Greeley but little did we suspect it.

## ANCE OJZE SALES

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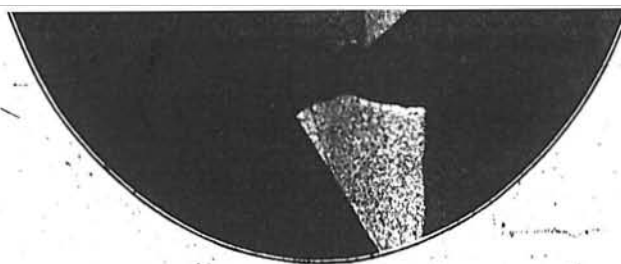
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In the last few years he had planned for a number of improvements that could not be kept from the public. First was his ambition to see his city have a hospital. This was in line with the thought of his wife, who preceded him in death a few years ago. The hospital was built, finished completed in every detail and turned over to the city. Following this was the erection of the Masonic Temple which is one of the finest buildings in the city. The Masons, though he is not a member of the order, have a lease free for the entire upper floor for the coming ninety-nine years. The beautiful bank building also stands as a monument to his business career in Ames, and there are many and many other things which slip the memory.

Mr. Greeley was known in Ames as "Captain" Greeley. In truth he was discharged from the United States service with the title of major. He preferred to be called "captain" and it was thus the people saluted him.

Born in western New York, Mr. Greeley saw the hard knocks of the farm life. It was during the summer time that he worked on the farm and during the school year he taught school. Then came the call for volunteer soldiers. Mr. Greeley was just budding into manhood where he could carry out aspirations he had made, and he laid them aside and went down in Dixie land. He had entered the service as a private and rapidly rose from the ranks and was discharged as a major.

At the close of the war he headed west and came to Ames, settling on a farm a few miles from what is the present city. He worked long hours and hard and then he made the trip back east and returned with his bride. One cannot help but compare the long line of automobiles that served as an escort at the funeral to that time when he walked the many weary miles, drove oxen and it took days to send a letter back that he was coming. He has lived to see more happen for the country in the last fifty years than had happened in five centuries before.

When he came to Ames he came

daily life for the city needed just such a man as mayor. There was but one choice and that was Captain Greeley. He has served the community in every department of the school board, and the state has had the benefit of his knowledge for he was elected representative from Story county. It was fitting that the day following his passing the Iowa house and senate stopped in their grind and paid a tribute to his memory by the adoption of proper resolutions.

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His passing was the way he would have had it. He had retired Wednesday night after a hearty "good night" to those in the household. The following morning he did not appear at the breakfast table. When there was an attempt made to call him, it was found his door was locked. A little later others were called in and when the door was forced Captain Greeley had passed from life, the usual cheerful smile on his face and a contentment appearing that can only come to those whose mind knows no trouble.

It is said of Mr. Greeley that he was an ancestry of the noted editor, Horace Greeley. Back in the early days when the men talked these things over it was known that the Ames Mr. Greeley could trace his ancestors back to the original Horace Greeley tribe. Mr. Competine, who had seen Editor Greeley and who was a resident of Ames, noted the expression that both men carried and it was thru him the relationship became known.

And Sunday afternoon the home was filled with friends, of all stations of life, who had gathered to pay their last homage to a man who was near and dear to them. Rev. Hawley of the Congregational church, had charge of the exercises. Eulogies were paid by Dean Stanton, Hon. Parley Sheldon and Hon. Ben Edwards. The music was by a trio composed of Mesdames Maxwell, Judsch and Tilden, while the floral offerings came from all over the country.

The funeral cortege passed slowly down the streets of his beloved city, the cemetery gates were ajar and the body was placed in the mausoleum beside that of his wife, and there went with the final services the thought of the beautiful life Mr. and Mrs. Greeley had passed here in Ames, and the full knowledge that long before the body had been placed away there had been a reunion on the other shore where sorrows never come.

terurban that no motorman, conductor, fireman, police, or other official can be carried on the line unless they have on a uniform.

The order means the agent of the interurban must walk down to the city just the same as the rest of us.

In establishing such a camp it is essential that it be absolutely sanitary, stated the general. It was suggested that the government be advised as to the conditions here and if necessary send a committee down to Washington to talk with the secretary of war. The general had little use for seeking aid of congressmen. It was pointed out the cadets at the college could play an important part and the conditions were such here that they could not be improved upon.

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When the telephone company went to make repairs it was night time and they backed two automobile in such a position that the lights were thrown upon the places where they had to work.

The damage, which Mr. Edgar settled, was about \$100.

### INSURANCE MEN WILL GATHER IN AMES

The Northwestern Life Insurance company agents will hold their convention next year in Ames.

Such an announcement was made at the close of the meeting in Dubuque the latter part of the week. The invitation had been extended by Harry Brown, Northwestern agent for this county, and the committee quickly agreed that this was the proper place for such a meeting.

At the time of the 1918 meeting it is expected there will be 400 agents who will come to the city and who will remain for two or three days.

Miss Caroline Rice of Boone visited last week at the S. C. Kurtz home.

### STUART WALKER'S LITTLE THEATRE

The appearance of Stuart Walker's Little Theater in the college gymnasium next Saturday evening, should attract the people of Ames to that building.

Stuart Walker's Portmanteau show is world-wide and has appeared only in the larger cities. The fact that they were compelled to vacate an opera house in Chicago for two weeks caused them to make a western tour for that length of time, and among the places selected was Ames.

They have been playing in New York to packed houses and come to Ames with a small admission that will cause the people to fill the gymnasium.

It is one of the oddities in the theater line and will prove to be most interesting to all who attend.

pany. He said: "I think it ban should bring their car avenue or they should have chise revoked."

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Northwestern caused delays minutes at the grade cro speaking of the matter of he said that would cost th \$10,000 to build one and

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### OLD EYE SORE IS TO BE RE

The old wooden fence b buildings on Main street i moved and in place there concrete wall on which shal ed a slightly iron fence.

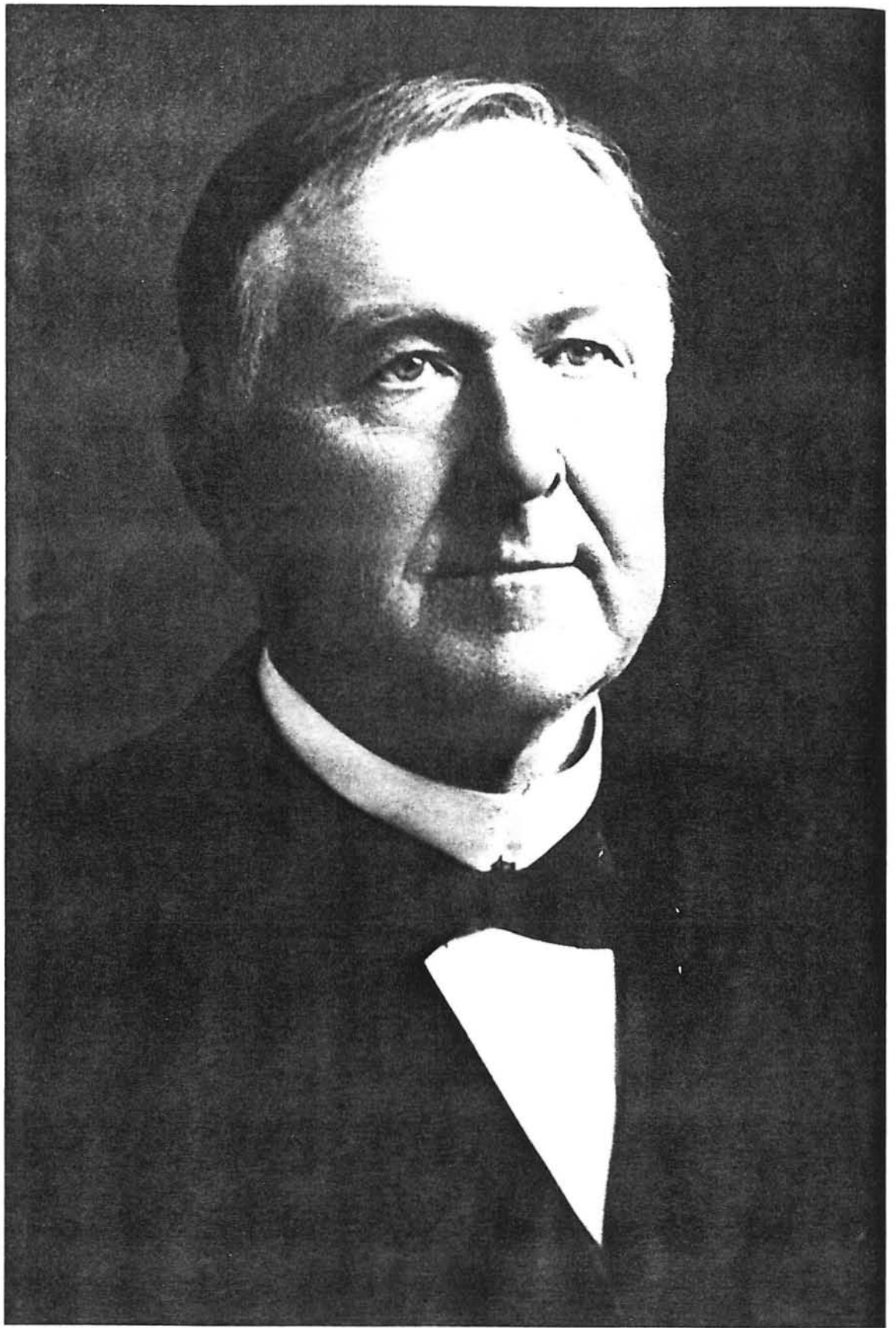
The council had the mat discussion Monday night i agreed that the twelve should be opened in the r buildings and the city sho a better view to the thou gain only the impression is a disreputable looking they pass on the cars.

Several of the buildings to the railway grounds and necessary to remove them ley will be opened from Duff avenue and will be t in width for the entire fe improvement will cost the neighborhood of \$1,200 and is to be completed during 1917. This improvement is lines as proposed by the No months ago and will be a c to the people, let alone add looks of the city.

There are 2,88 automobl by people in Story county to a report just made by retary W. S. Allen. The rej there are 198,587 machin state and the tax derived j is \$1,679,924.

### THE GARAGE MEN ENTER COME

Garage men of Ames are i a kick about the city hall l as a storage garage for au They claim that there are machines stored in the s aside for the use of the f ment and that so many ma a great inconvenience to i teer firemen when an alarm ed. One of the automobile er a police patrol while t a c stored in the rite w without any reason. One o age men says it is a case o



*Wallace M. Greeley 1838 - 1917.*

## Chapter 12

# Captain Wallace M. Greeley

Captain Greeley, founder and donor of the original wing of the Mary Greeley Hospital, was born on a farm in Orleans County, N.Y. in 1838. His parents were hard-working farm people. Growing up on a New York farm, educated in the common school of his day, he early acquired the frugal habits and earnest ambitions that determined his direction in life.

He began his career as a school master in N.Y. It was at Elicottville, N.Y., that he met Mary Victoria Young when both were attending a teachers institute. They were married on November 8, 1866, at Gowanda, N.Y. Young Greeley had entered the Union Army as a volunteer in 1861, and war's end, had attained the rank of major. He preferred, however, to be called "Captain," and was always referred to as Captain Greeley by his associates and friends.

When Greeley arrived in Ames in the spring of 1866, the population of our town was but a few hundred inhabitants. Captain Greeley's capital when he arrived in Ames, consisted of his Union Army pay received during the four war years, which he had religiously sent home to his father for safe-keeping. Greeley first purchased a farm a short distance south of the Iowa State campus where they farmed until 1876 when the Greeleys purchased the home on the west side of Douglas at the Eleventh Street corner. In 1882 they built the home that is today the Adams Funeral Home.

Captain Greeley's interests drew him to the banking business. In 1881 he founded the Union Bank, the first corporate bank in Ames. His great loyalty to the cause of the Union Army of 1861-1865 is said to have been the root of his selecting the name "Union" for his bank which has become the present day United Bank and Trust of Ames.

Captain Wallace M. Greeley did much for the developing city of Ames. Often his contribution was of the less visible nature. Many a vital cause received his support at a critical moment. He was Mayor of Ames in 1888-1890. Always promoting education, he served on the Ames School Board and together with his wife, Mary, contributed the

original site for the Ames Public Library. He served three terms in the Iowa Legislature, where his knowledge and experience were highly respected.

The Greeleys lost their two children in infancy, and when Mary Greeley's death occurred in 1914, it became Captain Greeley's great desire to see Ames have a hospital. On July 29, 1915, he announced his plan to build that hospital. He relied upon expert consultants and local physicians to select the site at Twelfth and Douglas, one that they felt offered room for future expansion.

Plans for the hospital were drawn by Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen of Des Moines. Bids were opened on December 20, 1915, with the contract going to the Arthur Newman Company of Des Moines, the same contractor was then also building the Collegiate Presbyterian Church near the I.S.C. campus. On December 29, 1915, site preparation was begun.

On September 24, 1916, when the Mary Greeley Memorial Hospital was dedicated, 2,000 people were said to have been present. At that dedication, Captain Greeley spoke with feeling of how the hospital represented the affection that Mary Greeley held for the Ames community. "It affords me great pleasure, more than words can express, that I can contribute something toward the welfare of not only those now in need, but also for those who will be here long after we have passed away," he concluded.

Captain Wallace M. Greeley died on February 14, 1917, leaving much evidence of his long-held interest in the welfare and development of our city.

Captain Greeley was a second cousin of the famous New York editor, Horace Greeley (1811-1872). The captain's youngest brother, Horace A. Greeley, was named after their famous cousin. The younger Horace Greeley also lived in Ames for many years, and his daughter, Blanche Greeley, married Charles A. Wilson of Ames. Wilson was associated with Greeley's banking business for a time. The Wilsons later lived in Chicago.

*April 28, 1986*

# Captain Greeley Builds a Hospital

The following is transcribed from the tape of a talk given Oct. 21, 1987, at a noon luncheon for the McFarland Clinic wives, held at Green Hills.

I have been asked to talk for twenty to twenty-five minutes about what was going on in Ames, and especially in the area near the hospital, the year it was being built. Ames was still a small town with its population something less than five thousand, in 1915 when Wallace M. Greeley announced his plans to build a hospital for Ames.

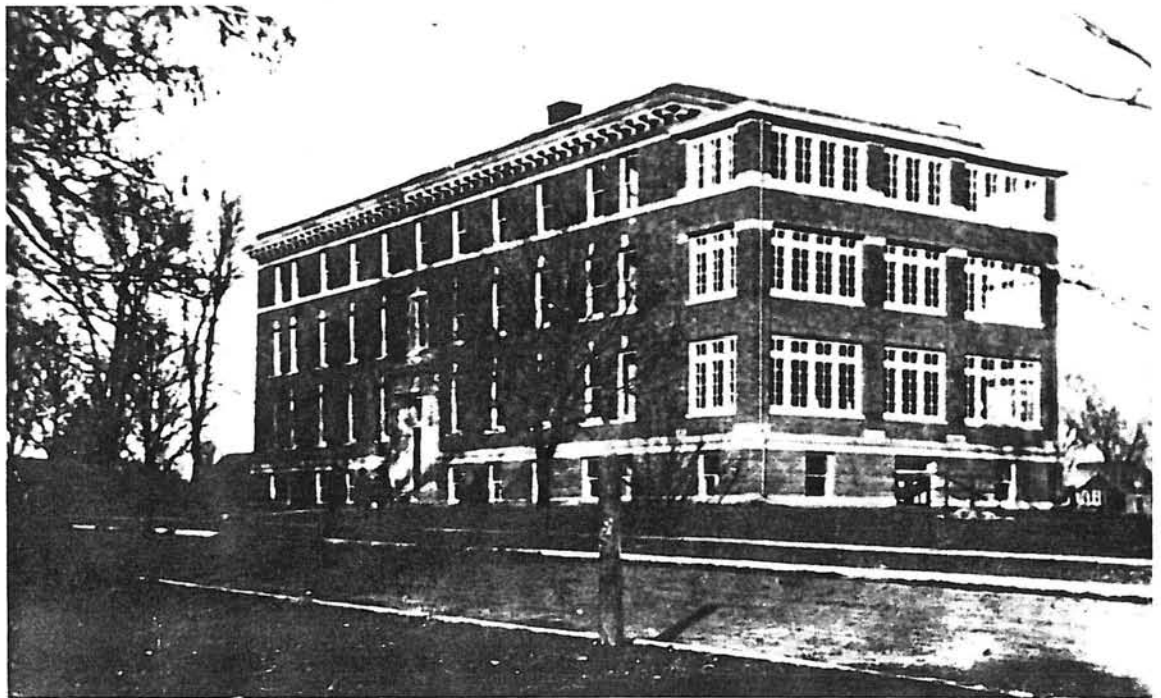
There had been a small hospital on the college campus since 1885. An Ames physician, Dr. David S. Fairchild, had spent half days on campus caring for sick students and faculty, but prior to 1916, the town had no hospital facilities for its citizens. The nearest hospital available to Ames people was the Nevada Sanitarium, operated by the Seventh Day Adventists Church at Nevada.

## Some Background Developments

Let's begin a little further back in the history of the town, long before the hospital was built. I would like to tell you just a little bit about Captain Greeley, as well. Then I'd like to conclude with some of the interesting goings on in Ames right while the hospital was being built.

You probably know that the Mary Greeley Hospital was built in 1915 and 1916. You probably also know a great deal about the Mary Greeley Hospital that is not known to me. So I am not going to try to verge into much of the story about the hospital itself.

The story begins in 1866. That year there were two pioneers who came, among others, to our town. Others will be mentioned as we go along. One of them was Henry May. You may have heard about him as our first school teacher. The other one was Captain Wallace M. Greeley. Both of these men



*Mary Greeley Hospital when new.*



arrived in the spring of 1866. Each had something to do with this story.

Henry May bought the 11.5 acres of bare prairie that lay between what is today ninth and thirteenth streets, and between Douglas and Duff Avenues. He paid \$346.20 to Alexander and Cynthia Duff for that land. Why did I beam in on that? Henry May comes to mind because the Mary Greeley Hospital is located just about where Mr. May built his home. Henry May was an interesting personality himself.

A highly educated man for his day, he had been with the U.S. State Department during the four years of the Civil War.

Henry May built the first house in the area. It was located about where the emergency entrance to the hospital is located today. Four years later, we find another interesting and influential gentleman coming to our town. I find him especially interest-



*Captain Wallace M. Greeley is the man in the center wearing the derby. Lon Hardin, editor of the Ames Evening Times, at left and Van Chamberlain, merchant, on steps. Photo in front of Union National Bank in 1905.*

ing because he was a doctor, a recent graduate of the University of Vermont Medical School. There is more than just that he was a doctor that might catch our attention. Dr. Richmond paid Henry May \$2,000 for that same 11.5 acres, including Mr. May's home. Two years later, he had an engineer subdivide that area and added it to the town of Ames as the Richmond Addition. That was in 1872. You will recall that the town had been incorporated in 1870.

So you see, the Mary Greeley Hospital is located in an addition to our city that was laid out by one of our pioneer medical doctors.

The population of Ames when Henry May and Captain Greeley arrived in 1866 was reported to have been 100. Perhaps it was 102 after they ar-

rived. By 1872, it had grown rapidly to possibly six or seven hundred. The Iowa Agricultural College had opened its doors in the spring of 1869.

In 1872 and 1873, in two transactions, Dr. Richmond sold all of block 2 of the Richmond Addition to D.A. Bigelow, a pioneer Ames merchant. D.A. Bigelow lived in that house that May built over on the Duff Avenue side of block 2 until he died in 1890. There, his widow continued to live for many years.

It was in that block 2, that the Mary Greeley Hospital was built. The large Bigelow family home still stood on the Duff Avenue side of the block when the original hospital was built in 1915.

Greeley never personally owned the property before he began to plan for the hospital. Having had the contact with the Bigelow estate, however, he was aware of its availability in 1915. In August of 1915, Greeley purchased the north four lots on the Douglas side of block 2 of the Richmond Addition. Then, one year later, on September 29, 1916, it was the same four lots that Greeley deeded to the city of Ames, the lots on which builders had just completed the construction of the Mary Greeley Hospital.

### Greeley's Early Years in Ames

I'd like now to say a few things about Capt. Greeley. When he arrived in the spring of 1866, the first thing he did was to purchase a farm. He is said to have saved up about \$3,200 from his Union Army pay during the Civil War. He now bought 200 acres of farm land in Sec. 16 of Washington Township. Today, the Gateway Motel, the Green Hills Retirement complex, a number of condominiums and a part of Highway 30 interchange with Elwood Drive are on that land. Greeley paid \$10 an acre for it back in 1866.

In thinking about events that preceded and surrounded Greeley's ultimate plan to build and present to the city of Ames its first hospital in 1915, these early events seem now of interest. The presence of a pioneer doctor whose name is found on that particular addition to the town, and Greeley's enterprising nature that was in evidence from his first days in the area, may be mutually independent, but wouldn't both of those men be pleased if they could see what had happened here since their day?

We come to a few questions that may be of interest. Why did Capt. Greeley build the hospital? First, there was the death of the captain's wife, Mary, on next to the last day of December, 1914, at the age of 68. Mrs. Greeley had been very much in-

volved in the social and cultural life of the town from its very beginnings. In Greeley's comments at the time of the hospital's dedication, he referred to Mary Greeley's love for the community. Together they had done many things for the town.

After Greeley bought that farm, he had returned to New York where they were married. They then had returned to live on the farm, and had remained there until 1876. By that time, Greeley's interests had turned to banking, so they bought the lots on the corner of Douglas and Twelfth Street, across from the first hospital site. In 1882, they built the home that is now the Adams Funeral Home. It was very much their town.

Mrs. Greeley, for example, had served on the first library board from its founding until her death. The Greeleys had given the lots for the original library building. As another example of Mrs. Greeley's interests, I have here a program, a musical for which Mrs. Greeley was hostess in their home. Notice that she played two piano selections on the occasion. I'm sure that the captain relived the events of his wife's life in Ames as he pondered ways to honor the memory.

Add to that background, the fact that Ames had no hospital. The captain would have been aware, from his personal experience, of the need for a hospital in the growing community of Ames. The Greeleys had lost their only two children in infancy, and this may have added to his thoughts. His options would have been many because he was probably the wealthiest man in Ames in those days. I think he was in close touch with the handful of doctors then in Ames who, likely, would have pointed out to him the far-reaching influence that the gift of a hospital would have on the Ames community.

We had about ten medical doctors in Ames in 1915. In addition, we had two osteopathic doctors. This brings us to another question. How was the hospital site selected back there in 1915? Here, we learn something about Captain Greeley. He brought a man out from Chicago by the name of Dr. Gilmore, a medical specialist who had become nationally known as a consultant in the design and construction of hospitals.

In July of 1915, Dr. Gilmore spent a day or two in Ames, conferring with the Ames doctors that were here, looking over possible sites and discussing design plans. Among the doctors involved in those talks were Greeley's own physician Dr. C.A. Aplin, Dr. Earl Bush, Dr. Ben Budge and Dr. Henry M. Templeton, who was our family doctor when I was born. Dr. Templeton, according to his



Mary Victoria Greeley, 1847 - 1914.

grandson, had had little formal medical education. He had completed a correspondence course in medicine through the University of Kentucky and had developed his skills as an apprentice. There was Earl Rice, whose brother was Tom Rice a prominent Ames dentist. Drs. David and Jenny Ghrist were a man and wife partnership; both were medical doctors. Dr. Charles Tilden was a college physician from 1907 until the end of W.W. I. Osteopathic physicians here in 1915 included Dr. Proctor and Dr. Bertha Roberts. I can believe that all of these people were in on the discussions about the plans for the proposed hospital.

In the *Tribune* of July 29, 1915, it was reported that the Ames doctors, after conferring with Dr. Gilmore, were recommending to Capt. Greeley that he choose as a site for the hospital the lots available between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets on the east side of Douglas. Among the advantages of that site was that it would provide the opportunity for future expansion.

In that same news article, it was reported that Greeley had rejected an offer of the contribution of a site from other parties. "I will have no partners, this project is to be entirely mine," were his words. As already pointed out, Greeley did purchase the lots in question a few days later, in August of 1915. On the 29th of December of 1915, it was announced that Greeley had signed the contract for the con-

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## P. E. O. Musicale

Tuesday, February 6, 1912

Mrs. Greeley, Hostess

Kammenoi-Ostrow	<i>A. Rubenstein</i>
	Pianola—Mrs. Greeley
Blossomland	<i>Percy Elliott</i>
	Mrs. Frank L. Meeker
1. Warum	<i>Schumann</i>
2. Nachtstucke No. 4	
	Mrs. Clyde Williams
(a) Tis Morn	<i>Ellen Corbell</i>
(b) The Nightingale hath a lyre of gold	<i>B. Whipple</i>
	Mrs. Meeker
(a) To a Wild Rose	<i>Edward McDowell</i>
(b) From an Indian Lodge	
(c) By a Meadow Brook	
	Miss Lydia Brown
Flowers Awake	<i>Waldo Watson</i>
	Mrs. Meeker
Polonaisen Op. 40 No. 1	<i>Chopin</i>
	Mrs. Williams
Grand Polka de Concert	<i>Waltz</i>
	Pianola—Mrs. Greeley

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On August 6, 1915, Ames had celebrated the laying of the cornerstone for a new city hall at Kellogg and Fifth, another visible advance in the annals of our city.

The city-owned light plant, that had been the subject of considerable controversy for several years, was being greatly enlarged. The *Tribune* of August 11, 1915, used the word "spectacular" in describing that project. A new interurban depot, to be built where the I.S.U. Credit Union is located today, was just then announced.

Right close to the new hospital site, the first airplane landed at Ames. It was a dramatic event. It was in June of 1915 when a pusher-type plane made an emergency landing in an oat field near the corner of Thirteenth and Duff. Being not yet five years old, I was possibly more impressed with the ice cream wagon than that plane.

In 1915, Ames had only two paved streets. Main Street had been paved in 1910, and Grand Avenue, as far north as Ninth, was paved in 1911. The August 25, 1915, *Tribune* described Fifth Street: "Fifth Street between Kellogg and Burnett is being improved. The mud puddle on Fifth Street was improved this week when the hitching racks between Kellogg and Burnett were taken out and the street was graded and cleaned. The racks will be put up again at the end of Burnett just off Main Street." That improvement was brought about as a result of the *Tribune's* campaign for a "decent hitching place where the women from the country would not have to wade ankle deep in mud and filth in order to hitch their teams."

Ames had come a long way, it was then making major moves in the process of becoming a modern city. Very few time periods in the annals of Ames history have equalled the 1915-1916 years.

The city council was discussing paving. There were some protest meetings. Some liked the quiet dirt streets; others wanted to make sure that their street was to be included in any paving project. Finally, on December 29, 1915, the city council voted to pave about six miles of the residential streets located north of Main Street. That included all of the north-south streets as far north as Thirteenth. (That decision came the same week that Greeley contracted for the new hospital.) That project included Duff, Douglas, Kellogg, Burnett, Clark, Wilson, Grand and Hodge. The result was that the Mary Greeley Hospital was on a paved street by the summer of 1917.

One more event of 1915 must be noted. On March 16, 1915, the *Tribune* announced the organization of the Ames Woman's Club. What that

struction of the Mary Greeley Hospital. The C.A. Newman Company of Des Moines won the bid. The same contracting firm was right then building the Collegiate Presbyterian Church here in Ames.

The dedication was held on Sept. 24, 1916, with two thousand people reported present.

### Ames Experienced Great Progress in 1915-1916

I would like to now go to a few of the ways in which Ames was progressing at this same time. Six months earlier, Captain Greeley had signed the contract for the construction of the Masonic building at the corner of Douglas and Fifth Street. The building is now known as the Octagon Art Center. The Sheldon-Munn Hotel was then under construction, another major facility for our town. Parley Sheldon, Greeley's banking competitor and another major Ames benefactor of that day, was a major participant in that project.

Sheldon and Greeley had been banking and political competitors through the years, but always cooperative when it came to the welfare of Ames. I like to think that with Sheldon building his beautiful new hotel, Greeley might well have been motivated by his competitive spirit to choose a hospital to bear the Greeley name.

meant for the future of the Ames community is obvious.

Now, it so happened that about the first project undertaken by the Ames Woman's Club was to raise the money to put a drinking fountain on Main Street. One of the bank corners at Douglas and Main was being discussed as a possible location. With Greeley's bank on the northwest corner and Sheldon's bank on the northeast corner, it was logical that these two men might be contacted. Mrs. Frank Linebaugh was chairman of the proposed project. When she discussed it with her husband, who was then the gas company manager, he volunteered to see what those two bankers might be willing to contribute.

The cost of the drinking fountain was estimated to be fifty dollars. Linebaugh knew Greeley well, so when the bank opened the next morning he approached the captain at his desk. He explained that he thought that each of the two bankers might contribute twenty-five dollars. "Which corner will they put it on?," the captain asked. Linebaugh was ready with an answer. "They talk of putting it over in front of the Story County Bank," he replied. That was Sheldon's bank.

The captain opened his check book, took his pen and told Linebaugh to leave Sheldon "out of it." "Put it over here!," he said as he handed his check for the fifty dollars to Linebaugh. That is how the first drinking fountain on Main Street was placed on the Union National Bank corner. As the story goes, Sheldon was not consulted. While I can't document that story, that is how I heard it. Many will recall that the drinking fountain remained on Greeley's corner for many years.

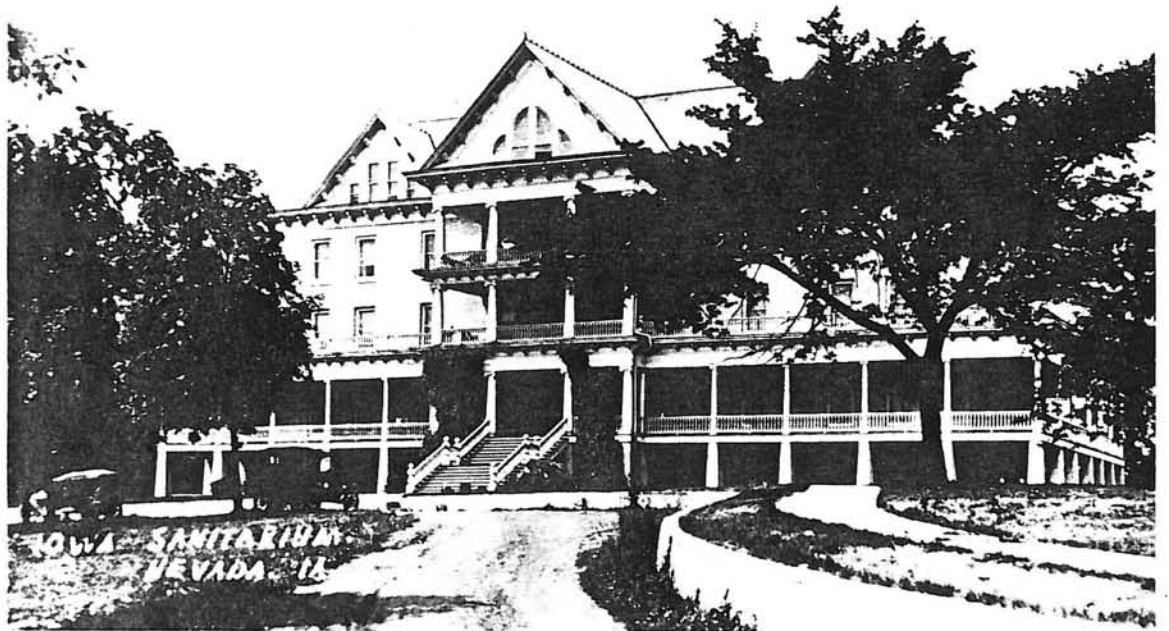
In closing, here is a short quote from Captain Wallace M. Greeley's address at the time of the dedication of the Mary Greeley Hospital on September 24, 1916:

"It affords me great pleasure, more than words can express, that I can contribute something toward the welfare, of not only those now in need, but also for those who will be here long after we have passed away."

Those were Captain Wallace M. Greeley's feelings over seventy years ago.

(Capt. Greeley died the morning of Feb. 14, 1917.)

October 21, 1987



*Iowa Sanitarium, built in 1909 at Nevada, was operated by Seventh Day Adventists. A 40 bed facility, it offered the nearest hospital services to Ames people until Mary Greeley Hospital was built. Emphasis was on disease prevention and health maintenance. It burned on January 30, 1943. Seven years later a county hospital was built in Nevada.*