

ADMISSION OF IOWA INTO THE UNION

AN ACT FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE STATES OF IOWA AND FLORIDA INTO THE UNION.

[Approved March 3, 1845.]

WHEREAS, the people of the Territory of Iowa did, on the seventh day of October, eighteen hundred and forty-four, by a convention of delegates called and assembled for that purpose, form for themselves a constitution and State government; and whereas, the people of the Territory of Florida did, in like manner, by their delegates, on the eleventh day of January, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, form for themselves a constitution and State government, both of which said constitutions are republican; and said conventions having asked the admission of their respective Territories into the Union as States, on equal footing with the original States;

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the States of Iowa and Florida be, and the same are hereby, declared to be States of the United States of America, and are hereby admitted into the Union on equal footing with the original States, in all respects whatsoever.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the following shall be the boundaries of the said State of Iowa, to wit: Beginning at the mouth of the Des Moines river, at the middle of the Mississippi, thence by the middle of the channel of that river to a parallel of latitude passing through the mouth of the Mankato or Blue-Earth river, thence west along the said parallel of latitude to a point where it is intersected by a meridian line, seventeen degrees and thirty minutes west of the meridian of Washington city, thence due south to the northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, thence eastwardly following that boundary to the point at which the same intersects the Des Moines river, thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the place of beginning.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the said State of Iowa shall have concurrent jurisdiction on the river Mississippi, and every other river bordering on the said State of Iowa, so far as the said rivers shall form a common boundary to said State, and any other State or States now or hereafter to be formed or bounded by the same: Such rivers to be common to both: And that the said river Mississippi, and the navigable waters leading into the same, shall be common highways, and forever free as well to the inhabitants of said State, as to all other citizens of the United States, without any tax, duty, impost, or toll therefor, imposed by the said State of Iowa.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That it is made and declared to be a fundamental condition of the admission of said State of Iowa into the Union, that so much of this act as relates to the said State of Iowa shall be assented to by a majority of the qualified electors at their township elections, in the manner and at the time prescribed in the sixth section of the thirteenth article of the constitution adopted at Iowa city the first day of November, anno Domini eighteen hundred and forty-four, or by the legislature of said State. And as soon as such assent shall be given, the President of the United States shall announce the same by proclamation; and therefrom and without further proceedings on the part of Congress, the admission of the said State of Iowa into the Union, on an equal footing in all respects whatever with the original States, shall be considered as complete.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That said State of Florida shall embrace the territories of East and West Florida, which by the treaty of amity, settlement and limits between the United States and Spain, on the twenty-second day of February, eighteen hundred and nineteen, were ceded to the United States.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That until the next census and apportionment shall be made, each of said States of Iowa and Florida shall be entitled to one representative in the House of Representatives of the United States.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That said States of Iowa and Florida are admitted into the Union on the express condition that they shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the public lands lying within them, nor levy any tax on the same whilst remaining the property of the United States: *Provided*, That the ordinance of the convention that formed the constitution of Iowa, and which is appended to the said constitution, shall not be deemed or taken to have any effect or validity, or to be recognized as in any manner obligatory upon the Government of the United States.

AN ACT SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ACT FOR THE ADMISSION
OF THE STATES OF IOWA AND FLORIDA INTO THE UNION.

[*Approved March 3, 1845.*]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the laws of the United States, which are not locally inapplicable, shall have the same force and effect within the State of Iowa as elsewhere within the United States.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said State shall be one district, and be called the district of Iowa; and a district court shall be held therein, to consist of one judge, who shall reside in the said district, and be called a district judge. He shall hold, at the seat of government of the said State, two sessions of the said district court annually, on the first Monday in January, and he shall, in all things, have and exercise the same jurisdiction and powers which were by law given to the judge of the Kentucky district, under an act entitled "An act to establish the judicial courts of the United States." He shall appoint a clerk for the said district, who shall reside and keep the records of the said court at the place of holding the same; and shall receive, for the services performed by him, the same fees to which the clerk of the Kentucky district is by law entitled for similar services.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be allowed to the judge of the said district court the annual compensation of fifteen hundred dollars, to commence from the date of his appointment, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be appointed in the said district, a person learned in the law, to act as attorney for the United States; who shall, in addition to his stated fees, be paid annually by the United States two hundred dollars, as a full compensation for all extra services: the said payments to be made quarterly, at the treasury of the United States.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That a marshal shall be appointed for the said district, who shall perform the same duties, be subject to the same regulations and penalties, and be entitled to the same fees, as are prescribed and allowed to marshals in other districts; and shall, moreover, be entitled to the sum of two hundred dollars annually, as a compensation for all extra services.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That in lieu of the propositions submitted to the Congress of the United States, by an ordinance passed on the first day of November, eighteen hundred and forty-four, by the convention of delegates at Iowa city, assembled for the purpose of making a constitution for the State of Iowa, which are hereby rejected, the following propositions be, and the same are hereby, offered to the legislature of the State of

Iowa, for their acceptance or rejection; which, if accepted, under the authority conferred on the said legislature, by the convention which framed the constitution of the said State, shall be obligatory upon the United States:

First. That section numbered sixteen in every township of the public lands, and, where such section has been sold or otherwise disposed of, other lands equivalent thereto, and as contiguous as may be, shall be granted to the State for the use of schools.

Second. That the seventy-two sections of land set apart and reserved for the use and support of a university, by an act of Congress approved on the twentieth day of July, eighteen hundred and forty, entitled "An act granting two townships of land for the use of a university in the Territory of Iowa," are hereby granted and conveyed to the State, to be appropriated solely to the use and support of such university, in such manner as the legislature may prescribe.

Third. That five entire sections of land, to be selected and located under the direction of the legislature, in legal divisions of not less than one quarter section, from any of the unappropriated lands belonging to the United States within the said State, are hereby granted to the State for the purpose of completing the public buildings of the said State, or for the erection of public buildings at the seat of government of the said State, as the legislature may determine and direct.

Fourth. That all salt springs within the State, not exceeding twelve in number, with six sections of land adjoining, or as contiguous as may be to each, shall be granted to the said State for its use; the same to be selected by the legislature thereof, within one year after the admission of said State, and the same, when so selected, to be used on such terms, conditions, and regulations, as the legislature of the State shall direct: *Provided*, That no salt spring, the right whereof is now vested in any individual or individuals, or which may hereafter be confirmed or adjudged to any individual or individuals, shall, by this section, be granted to said State: *And provided, also*, That the General Assembly shall never lease or sell the same, at any one time, for a longer period than ten years, without the consent of Congress.

Fifth. That five per cent. of the net proceeds of sales of all public lands lying within the said State, which have been, or shall be sold by Congress, from and after the admission of said State, after deducting all the expenses incident to the same, shall be appropriated for making public roads and canals within the said State, as the legislature may direct: *Provided*, That the five foregoing propositions herein offered are on the condition that the legislature of the said State, by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by the convention which framed the constitution of the said State, shall provide, by an ordinance, irrevocable without the consent of the United States, that the said State shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil within the same by the United States, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers thereof; and that no tax shall be imposed on lands the property of the United States; and that in no case shall non-resident proprietors to be taxed higher than residents; and that the bounty lands granted, or hereafter to be granted, for military services during the late war, shall, while they continue to be held by the patentees or their heirs, remain exempt from any tax laid by order or under the authority of the State, whether for State, county, township, or any other purpose, for the term of three years from and after the date of the patents, respectively.

AN ACT TO DEFINE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE STATE OF IOWA

[Approved August 4, 1846.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following shall be, and they are hereby, declared to be the boundaries of the State of Iowa, in lieu of those prescribed by the second section of the act of

the third of March, eighteen hundred and forty-five, entitled "An Act for the Admission of the States of Iowa and Florida into the Union," viz. Beginning in the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi River, at a point due east of the middle of the mouth of the main channel of the Des Moines River; thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines River, to a point on said river where the northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, as established by the constitution of that State, adopted June twelfth, eighteen hundred and twenty, crosses the said middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines River; thence, westwardly, along the said northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, as established at the time aforesaid, until an extension of said line intersect the middle of the main channel of the Missouri River; thence, up the middle of the main channel of the said Missouri River, to a point opposite the middle of the main channel of the Big Sioux River, according to Nicollet's map; thence, up the main channel of the said Big Sioux River, according to said map, until it is intersected by the parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes north latitude; thence east, along said parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, until said parallel intersect the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi River; thence, down the middle of the main channel of said Mississippi River, to the place of beginning.

SEC. 2. * * * * *

SEC. 3. * * * * *

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That so much of the act of the third of March, eighteen hundred and forty-five, entitled "An Act for the Admission of the States of Iowa and Florida into the Union," relating to the said State of Iowa, as is inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be and the same is hereby repealed. [9 Stat. L. 52]

AN ACT FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE STATE OF IOWA INTO THE UNION

[Approved December 28, 1846.]

WHEREAS, the people of the Territory of Iowa did, on the eighteenth day of May, anno Domini eighteen hundred and forty-six, by a convention of delegates called and assembled for that purpose, form for themselves a constitution and State government — which constitution is republican in its character and features — and said convention has asked admission of the said Territory into the Union as a State, on an equal footing with the original States, in obedience to "An Act for the Admission of the States of Iowa and Florida into the Union," approved March third, eighteen hundred forty-five [5 Stat. L. 742, 743.], and "An Act to define the Boundaries of the State of Iowa, and to repeal so much of the Act of the third of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five as relates to the Boundaries of Iowa," which said last act was approved August fourth, anno Domini eighteen hundred and forty-six [9 Stat. L. 52.]; Therefore—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the State of Iowa shall be one, and is hereby declared to be one, of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatsoever.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That all the provisions of "An Act supplemental to the Act for the Admission of the States of Iowa and Florida into the Union," approved March third, eighteen hundred and forty-five [5 Stat. L. 788-790.], be, and the same are hereby declared to continue and remain in full force as applicable to the State of Iowa, as hereby admitted and received into the Union.

Approved, December 28, 1846. [9 Stat. L. 117.]

AN ACT AND ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSITIONS MADE BY
CONGRESS ON THE ADMISSION OF IOWA INTO THE UNION AS A STATE

[Approved January 15, 1849.]

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted and ordained by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa*, That the propositions to the State of Iowa on her admission into the Union, made by the act of Congress, entitled "An act supplemental to the act for the admission of the States of Iowa and Florida into the Union," approved March 3, 1845, and which are contained in the sixth section of that act, are hereby accepted in lieu of the propositions submitted to Congress by an ordinance, passed on the first day of November, eighteen hundred and forty-four, by the convention of delegates which assembled at Iowa City on the first Monday of October, eighteen hundred and forty-four, for the purpose of forming a Constitution for said State, and which were rejected by Congress: *Provided*, The General Assembly shall have the right, in accordance with the provisions of the second section of the tenth article of the Constitution of Iowa, to appropriate the five percent. of the net proceeds of sales of all public lands lying within the State, which have been or shall be sold by Congress from and after the admission of said State, after deducting all expenses incident to the same, to the support of common schools.

SECTION 2. *And be it further enacted and ordained*, as conditions of the grants specified in the propositions first mentioned in the foregoing section, irrevocable and unalterable without the consent of the United States, that the State of Iowa will never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil within the same by the United States, nor with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in such soil to the bona fide purchasers thereof; and that no tax shall be imposed on lands, the property of the United States; and that in no case shall non-resident proprietors be taxed higher than residents; and that the bounty lands granted, or hereafter to be granted, for military services during the late war with Great Britain, shall, while they continue to be held by the patentees or their heirs, remain exempt from any tax laid by order or under the authority of the State, whether for State, County, Township, or other purposes, for the term of three years from and after the dates of the patents respectively.

SECTION 3. It is hereby made the duty of the Secretary of State, after the taking effect of this act, to forward one copy of the same to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, who are hereby required to procure the consent of Congress to the diversion of the five per cent. fund indicated in the proviso to the first section of this act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect from and after its publication in the weekly newspapers printed in Iowa City.

IOWA*

Iowa was organized as a Territory by Act of June 12, 1838, effective July 3, from a portion of Wisconsin Territory. The limits were defined as follows in the Act¹ creating it: all that part of the present Territory of Wisconsin which lies west of the Mississippi river, and west of a line drawn due north from the headwaters or sources of the Mississippi to the Territorial line.

The approximate position of the outlet of Lake Itasca, which is generally accepted as the source of the Mississippi, is latitude 47° 15 1/3', longitude 95° 12 1/2'. The river runs north-westward for about 6 miles before it turns east. The north-south boundary line across the western part of the Lake of the Woods is in longitude 95° 09' 11.6" (p.14).

The following clause from an Act passed in 1839 is supplementary to the Act above quoted:²

That the middle or center of the main channel of the Mississippi shall be deemed, and is hereby declared, to be the eastern boundary line of the Territory of Iowa, so far or to such extent as the said Territory is bounded eastwardly by or upon said river.

On March 3, 1845, an Act was approved for the admission of Iowa to the Union as a State, but the Act required that the assent of the people of Iowa be given to it by popular vote. In this Act the boundaries were given as follows:³

That the following shall be the boundaries of said State of Iowa, to wit: Beginning at the mouth of the Des Moines River, at the middle of the Mississippi, thence by the middle of the channel of that river to a parallel of latitude passing through the mouth of the Mankato or Blue-Earth river [latitude 44° 10'], thence west along the said parallel of latitude to a point where it is intersected by a meridian line, seventeen degrees and thirty minutes west of the meridian of Washington city, thence due south** to the northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, thence eastwardly following that boundary to the point at which the same intersects the Des Moines river, thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the place of beginning.

These boundaries were not acceptable to the people and by a popular vote were rejected.

Another constitutional convention was held in May, 1846, and Congress passed an Act, approved August 4, 1846, fixing the boundaries in accordance with the wishes of the people and described as follows:

Beginning at the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi River at a point due east of the middle of the mouth of the main channel of the Des Moines River; thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines River to a point on said river where the northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, as established by the constitution of that State, adopted June twelfth, eighteen hundred and twenty, crosses the said middle of the main channel of the said Des Moines River; thence westwardly along the said northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, as established at the time aforesaid, until an extension of said line intersect the middle of the main channel of the Missouri River, thence up the middle of the main channel of the said Missouri River, to a point opposite the middle of the main channel of the Big Sioux River, according to Nicollet's map; thence up the main channel of the said Big Sioux River, according to said map, until it is intersected by the parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes north latitude; thence east along said parallel of forty-three degrees and thirty minutes, until said parallel intersect the middle of the main channel of the Mississippi River; thence down the middle of the main channel of said Mississippi River to the place of beginning.

Iowa was finally declared admitted to full statehood by Act of December 28, 1846.

The admission of Iowa appears to have left a large area to the north and west unattached, which so remained until Minnesota Territory was organized in 1849.

The Act of August 4, 1846, directed that a long-standing dispute between Missouri and Iowa Territory regarding their common boundary*** be referred to the United States Supreme Court for adjudication. The area claimed by both was a strip of land about 10 miles wide and 200 miles long, north of the present boundary. Missouri maintained that the clause in that state's enabling Act, "the rapids of the river Des Moines," referred to rapids in the river of that name and not to rapids of a similar name in the Mississippi, also that the Indian boundary line run and marked in 1816 by authority of the United States, known as the Sullivan line,**** was erroneously established. A line claimed by Missouri was run by J. C. Brown in 1837 by order of the State legislature.

The United States Supreme Court decided in 1849 that the Sullivan line of 1816 is the correct boundary and ordered that it be resurveyed. The report of the commissioners appointed by the court to re-mark the line was accepted in 1851.

So many of the marks on this line as established in 1850 had become lost or destroyed that the United States Supreme Court in 1896 ordered that certain parts be re-established, especially those between mileposts 50 and 55. Accordingly 20 miles of line was resurveyed by officers of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1896, and durable monuments of granite or iron were established thereon. The geographic position of milepost No. 40 was determined as latitude 40° 34.4', longitude 95° 51', and that of No. 60 as latitude 40° 34.6', longitude 93° 28'.

The survey of the north boundary of Iowa on the parallel of 43° 30', authorized by congressional Act of March 3, 1849, was completed in 1852. The position for each end of the line and for several intermediate points was determined astronomically.

This is the first State thus far noted having a boundary referred to the Washington meridian. Congress by Act approved September 28, 1850, ordered:

That hereafter the meridian of the observatory at Washington shall be adopted and used as the American meridian for all astronomic purposes and * * * Greenwich for nautical purposes.

¹ 5 Stat. L. 235.

² 5 Stat. L. 357.

³ 5 Stat. L. 742.

*Reprinted from "Geological Survey Bulletin 817."

**This north-south line is a few miles west of the city of Des Moines.

***The northern boundary of Missouri had been established as "100 miles north of the junction of the Missouri and Kaw (Kansas) rivers and thence east * * *" (See 7 Howard 660 and 10 Howard 1.)

****Sullivan had disregarded the changing declination of his compass as he proceeded east; hence the southern boundary of Iowa is a curve. The following is a quotation from the commissioner's records as reported in 10 Howard (U.S.) 1,5: "We soon satisfied ourselves that the line run by Sullivan was not only not a due east line, but that it was not straight. That more or less northing should have been made in the old line was to have been expected from the fact that Sullivan ran the whole line with one variation of the needle, and that variation too great. This would account for the fact that the northing increases as he progressed east."