

Pieces of Iowa's Past, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

April 9, 2014

THIS WEEK:

**Issues Addressed by the Legislature
on This Date in History**

BACKGROUND:

April 9, 2014, is the publishing date for this article. It may be interesting to compare what the Iowa General Assembly was working on in previous years on April 9th.

**Issues Addressed by the Legislature
on This Date in History**

All journal entries have been edited.

The Thirteenth General Assembly in 1870 was the first General Assembly to meet on April 9th. Previous General Assemblies finished before that date.

April 9, 1870, was a Saturday. The following are some of the reports filed in Journal entries from the House of Representatives on that day. A petition was presented asking that the establishment of the independent school district of Lawler, in Chickasaw County, Iowa, be legalized.

Internal Improvements Committee: creating a fund for dyking or leveling portions of certain rivers and streams within this state to prevent overflow and inundation and to reclaim certain lands.

Claims Committee: translating the Governor's Message into the Bohemian language and printing the same, report the same back, and recommend that he

be allowed \$30 for the translation and \$235 for paper, printing, binding, boxing, and drayage on the same.

Claims Committee: the claim of Webster and Brother, for an organ for the use of the Sabbath school at the Penitentiary have had the same under consideration.

Schools Committee: authorize counties to establish and maintain high schools, report the same back to the House.

Incorporations Committee: creating an insurance department.

Districts Committee: introduced an act apportioning the state into Representative districts.

The Twenty-third General Assembly was the fifth General Assembly to meet beyond April 9th. The Twenty-third General Assembly convened in 1890. The following are some of the Senate Journal entries from Wednesday, April 9, 1890:

Legalize the granting of a franchise for electric light by the city of What Cheer, Iowa.

Legalize the action of the city council of the city of Keokuk, granting to John C. Hubinger and to his successors and assigns the privilege to such in the streets and alleys of said city the necessary poles, wires, and conduits to properly maintain and operate an electric system for furnishing electric light and power to the inhabitants of the city of Keokuk.

Mines and Mining Committee: protect miners and allow them just and commensurate damages for injuries sustained by the mismanagement, negligence, or willful wrongs of their employees or officers. We believe that the laborer who toils in the damp and dangerous caverns of the earth should have reasonable protection from the willful wrongs and negligence of their employees or officers.

Purchase of property for the purpose of holding old settlers' meetings, and to keep the same in repair.

Legalize the incorporation of the town of Gilmore City, in Humboldt and Pocahontas counties, Iowa, and a subsequent annexation thereto and the ordinances and the official acts of the town council thereof.

Appropriating \$440.70 to defray the expenses of certain members of the 22nd General Assembly appointed by the Governor to attend the "Beef and Pork Combine" convention at St. Louis.

The Thirty-third General Assembly actually adjourned Friday, April 9, 1909. The following are entries from the House of Representatives Journal on that date:

Reports of Committees

Appropriations Committee: provide for the inside finishing and completion of the Historical, Memorial, and Art Building and making an appropriation.



Historical, Memorial, and Art Building

Appropriations Committee: creating the Capitol Grounds Improvement Commission and defining its duties and making an appropriation.

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Until July 1, 1911, the number of employees of various offices at the seat of government, unless otherwise provided by law, shall at no time exceed the number named herein, and their compensation shall be amounts herein fixed.

A vote of thanks be extended to the members of the press for the uniform fairness in which they have reported the proceedings of the session.

The Fortieth General Assembly, the Sixteenth General Assembly to work to or beyond April 9, met in 1923. The following are Senate Journal entries from Monday, April 9, 1923:

House File 395 regarded washhouses in mines. Petitions were presented from miners and wives of miners of Wanlock* endorsing the bill. Senator Mantz presented petitions from miners and wives of miners of Zook Spur** also endorsing the bill.

The ownership and title of wild game, birds, and fish, and providing for the ownership of mussels, clams, and frogs.

Regulating the sale of livestock remedies; defining same; providing for their registration, labeling, inspection, and analysis; prohibiting the sale of fraudulent or adulterated remedies; providing for guaranties regarding ingredients; providing for the affixing of labels or stamps to the package thereof as evidence of the registration and guaranty thereof, providing for the collection of an inspection tax from the manufacturers of or from the dealers in these remedies; providing penalties for the violation of the provisions of this act; and repeating all laws or parts of laws in conflict therewith.

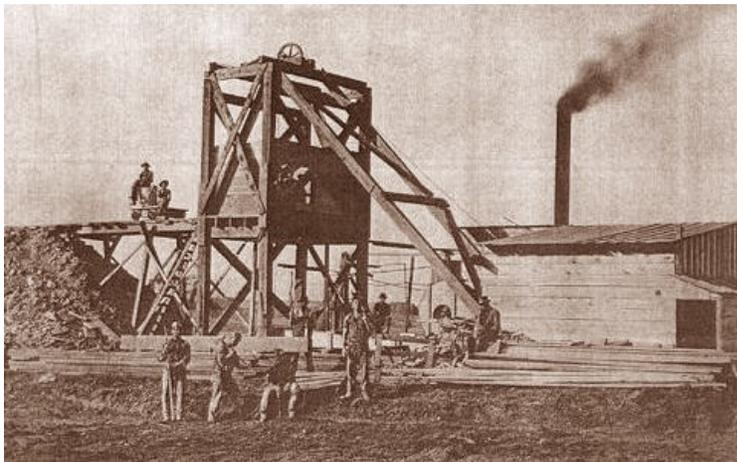
Regulate telephone companies, and to require any telephone company operating in this state to make connections between its toll lines and the lines of other telephone companies, and giving the railroad commissioners authority to determine and fix the terms upon which such connections shall be made, and providing a method for the enforcement of any order of the railroad commission, with report of committee recommending passage, was taken up, considered, and the report of the committee adopted.



Scott's Grave on the grounds of the Iowa State Capitol

Provide for a marker and fence at the grave of Willson Alexander Scott and providing an appropriation therefor. (W. A. Scott donated the land for the Capitol. Scott's grave is the only grave on the Capitol grounds)

The 57th General Assembly was the first to meet into May. They adjourned May 3, 1957.



Monroe County mine

**One of the last mines to be opened in Monroe County was that established in 1917 by the Maple-Coal Company, headed by Hugh Shuler, president. More familiarly known as Maple, the place was named Wanlock by Shuler, after the Scottish town in which his mother had been born. The mine was sunk especially to furnish coal for the Northwestern Railroad, and was equipped to produce only locomotive coal.*

***Zook Spur was a Coal Company Town. It was close to Madrid, Iowa. It no longer exists, but there is a sign at the area where it was located.*



Coal mine—Madrid, Iowa