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Westwars to Iowa

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Within four years after Moses established himself in a small house near Front Street, the population was 1,300.

There was much work for a skilled carpenter in this new land. In his spare moments, Moses made brooms. His willingness to work and his growing reputation as an honest craftsman kept him comfortably busy. The creation of the Territory of Iowa in 1838 pleased him, for he knew nothing could now stop the flood of people who would need his services. When Iowa became a state in 1846, Moses, for the first time in his life, was financially secure. He and his wife were among the earliest communicants of Old Zion Church and had played a quiet role in civic affairs. Their home was far more elaborate than many of their neighbors, and Moses could look forward to a prosperous middle age. He thought he had conquered the itching in his feet and that never again would he pioneer on another frontier. But in 1848, gold was discovered in California, and soon all Burlington was buzzing with the news. When Moses heard that a group of Iowans was planning to go to California to "see the elephant," he was unable to resist.

PHILIP D. JORDAN