

# TOURISM, TRAVELS & TALES

Fall 2023 A PUBLICATION OF THE  
HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Dunlap's Connection to Chicago Politics - Renea Anderson

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The town of Dunlap was named after someone I'm sure most of you have never heard of—George L. Dunlap. Born in Maine in 1830, he was far from the central plains and definitely not from Chicago.

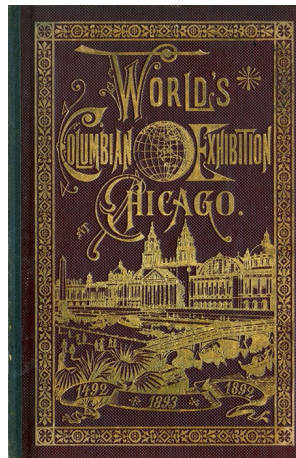
When George was grown he ended up serving in various capacities as a corporate leader. He had numerous positions with the Chicago & North Western Railway where he eventually served as general superintendent and president. When he was President in 1869, he became very interested in Westinghouse's railway air brake. Dunlap invited him to demonstrate it other railroad officials and members of the press while in Chicago. Westinghouse's demonstration trip to Chicago, was very fruitful and helped to advance the adoption of the new technology immensely. As the railroad system flourished and grew in Harrison County, the town which bears his name was platted in 1867 and incorporated in 1871.

Dunlap served as City Marshall of Chicago in 1875. This was a position which served as co-head of the Chicago Police Department alongside the General Superintendent which coincided with Dunlap's tenure as Marshall.

George Dunlap married a daughter of John Blake Rice. Dunlap's wife was principally involved in creating the Children's Building annex of The Woman's Building at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. (Continued on page 2)



Dunlap's wife 1893.



Guidebook, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893. Edward J. Orth Memorial Archives of the New York World's Fair, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, AC0560-0000058. © Smithsonian Institution



The Woman's Building at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Orcutt Co. Lithographers, 1893. Edward J. Orth Memorial Archives of the New York World's Fair, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, AC0560-0000057. © Smithsonian Institution

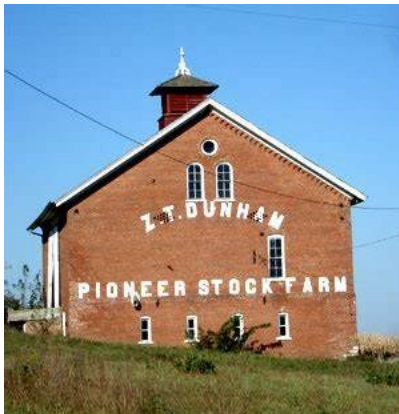
**Dunlap Landmark's**



Dunlap's Congregational Church still stands, now under a different name, "Saved By Grace" .



The original Carnegie Library



Dunham Barn  
Iowa National Historic Register



McLean Museum



Methodist Church

**THE HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS  
LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS!**

The Harrison County Historical Society works to ensure local lore and heritage are preserved for future generations. This endeavor is of the utmost important to protect historical items, buildings, first-account recollections of the past, and many other significant endeavors.

Preserving history is like reading a real map; to understand where you are going, you need to know where you've been. The Historical Society hopes you will consider joining them on their journey. The membership year begins July first each year; new members are, of course, gladly welcomed at any time during the year.

Life members and those choosing the gold, silver, or bronze levels never need to pay membership dues. With your membership comes a quarterly newsletter and other benefits; please see below for the list of benefits at each donor level.

**Membership Options:**

*Gold Membership* (1 time fee) \$200

Benefits include name plate recognition on the Historical Society Register, free admission to Historical Society activities, a recognition certificate, and the quarterly newsletter.

*Silver Membership* (1 time fee) \$100

Benefits include name plate recognition on the Historical Society Register, half-off admissions to Historical Society activities, a recognition certificate, and the quarterly newsletter.

*Bronze Membership* (1 time fee) \$50

Benefits include name plate recognition on the Historical Society Register, discounted admission to Historical Society activities, and the quarterly newsletter.

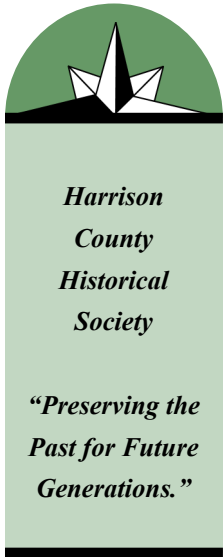
*Annual Member* (yearly fee) \$10

Each annual member receives the quarterly newsletter.)

**Remit payment to:**

Harrison County Historical Society  
c/o Mary Zahner  
1454 260th St.  
Modale, IA 51556

**Dunlap and Chicago Politics Continued— John Blake Rice**



George Dunlap may have had a town in Harrison County Iowa named after him, but his father in law was a big time Chicago politician. John Blake Rice had been born in 1809 in Maryland and became an actor by trade. This love of “acting” may have come in handy for a life of political service. As politics and a certain amount of telling people what they want to hear seem to go hand in hand, his career could certainly be seen as a benefit for Rice.

He was elected Mayor of Chicago in 1865 as a very conservative Republican. As mayor, he vetoed a plan to enforce an eight-hour work day as he was anti-labor. The City Council soon over-ran his veto and Rice and the City Council were also connected with graft, prostitution and gambling. He was easily reelected in 1867.

Rice was elected as Illinois's 1st Congressional District Representatives in the United States House in 1872. He died from cancer of the liver on December 17, 1874 and was buried in Chicago's Rosehill Cemetery.



John Blake Rice  
May 28, 1809 – December 17, 1874



Rice's grave in Rosehill Cemetery.