

Pigheadedness prevailed as referendum called on livestock

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day, and in fact all days of public demonstration, their services are seen as necessary and are always given in such hearty good will."

The remarks about meal catering may have been a veiled threat, but the letter writer underscored her viewpoint with several points designed to get the councilmen to reconsider their repeal of the hog ordinance. She pointed out that the meandering animals make Bloom-

ington look silly in the eyes of visitors. ("Consider the impressions the appearance of our city will have upon strangers who come here during the year. Do we want to be numbered among the old fogies of the state?")

Another argument used by the female letter writer was that of the prevailing lack of incentive to keep up lawns and gardens. "(It is to the ladies' influence that much of the good taste displayed in every town and city is due, and much more could be brought out in ornament-

ing yards, making them beautiful and inviting with elegant plants and shrubbery, if they were perfectly sure they would be undisturbed by the intolerable nuisances.")

As for the councilman who claimed that a majority in his ward favored allowing the hogs to run loose, the letter writer had this to say: "We think that councilman badly mistaken. We know of a great many in his ward who do not want the law repealed and who have not found any new beauties in these

filthy animals continuing to run at large, disputing the sidewalks and holding high carnivals (especially through the summer months) in their yards and gardens, destroying everything within their reach."

It is likely that the civil rights of hogs (or rather their owners) were discussed across many a Bloomington dinner table. Caught between hog entrepreneurs on the one hand and angry females on the other, the council did what any red-blooded American all-male council would

do. They called for a referendum on the issue.

On May 10, 1884, under a headline which said, "Goodbye My Lover, Good Bye!" and a silhouette drawing of a hog, the *Bloomington Telephone* informed its readers that the hog referendum had created more excitement than the candidates. "There was little electioneering, but the result was 'no' by 56 majority . . . The City Council at their next meeting will take action, demanding all stock to be penned, within the city limits."