JOHN FRASER'S LOG HOUSE 1868

TUMBLE WEED

IRA STRONG'S LOG HOUSE 1865

JOHN WOOD'S STONE HOUSE 1870

NATIVE GRASSES.

LIZARD CATHOLIC CEMETERY.

**MEMENTOS OF PIONEER DAYS.**

THE

# *PIONEER HISTORY*

OF

# *POCAHONTAS COUNTY, IOWA,*

FROM THE TIME OF ITS EARLIEST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME, IN

## THREE PERIODS:

I. 1855-1869, PERIOD OF EARLY SETTLEMENT BY THE PIONEERS.
II. 1870-1882, PERIOD OF ORGANIZATION AND EARLY RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.
III. 1883-1904, PERIOD OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

INCLUDING

THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF EACH TOWNSHIP, TOWN AND IMPORTANT BUSINESS ENTERPRISE; BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE LEADING CITIZENS; AND AN INTERESTING OUTLINE OF THE

## EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

BY

ROBERT E FLICKINGER, A. B., B. D.
Pastor of the Presbyterian church, Fonda, 1886-1902.

AND PUBLISHED BY

GEORGE SANBORN
Editor and proprietor of the Fonda Times, 1879-1900.

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PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS, VIEWS AND THE PORTRAITS OF OVER 450 PERSONS.

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Fonda, Iowa,
THE TIMES PRINT,
1904.

GEORGE SANBORN.

Member of Co. E., 4th Wis. Inf. and Cav. January 1, 1861 to June 19, 1866; Editor and Proprietor of the Pocahontas, now Fonda, Times from November 1, 1879 to January 1, 1901.

REV. ROBERT E. FLICKINGER.

Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Fonda, Oct. 1, 1886 to July 6, 1902; Stated Clerk and Treasurer of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge, July 1, 1892 to 1904; Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Iowa, 1901–02; Director of the Iowa State Temperance Alliance for the 10th Congressional District, 1890–94; Secretary of the Pocahontas County Temperance Alliance, 1888–1902; Secretary of the Fonda Bible Society, 1889–1904; Trustee of Buena Vista College and of the Presbytery of Fort Dodge; Organizer in 1901 of the movement to secure a reasonable time limit to consent petitions under the Mulct law of Iowa.

# THIS VOLUME

IS
RESPECTFULLY
Dedicated to the memory
Of the hardy PIONEERS, who, coming from
England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Norway, Sweden,
Denmark, Germany, Bohemia and other countries or eastern
States, patiently and heroically endured the privations and hardships,
Incident to dwelling in humble CABINS, far out on the frontier, while
They converted the wild prairies into fertile fields, planted groves, established schools, BETTER HOMES AND CHURCHES; and thus
Laid the foundation of the progressive civilization that is
Now enjoyed by the happy and prosperous people of
POCAHONTAS COUNTY,
IOWA.

The busiest life is but
A chisel stroke of the Omnipotent;
Enough for thee to make the little stroke;
The Sculptor's eye is on the final touch.
Have faith and wait, and waiting know this much,
If error be not mightier than the truth,
And wrong than right, and hell than heaven, then truth
And right and heaven shall win; else God wills not
To have them win. It must be the
Omnipotent will yet demonstrate His
Omnipotence, when once His will has stamped
Its die upon the page of history.

—T. NIELD.

# PREFACE.

We will not wait until your heart shall cease
To throb with human hopes and cares and fears,
Before we wish you all the joys of peace
And happiness, to crown your ripening years;
No! While your heart is warm, and beats with ours,
We bring our love, our friendship and our flowers.

—MRS. MCVEAN ADAMS.

THE author, after passing through a couple of periods of illness from which recovery seemed doubtful, has lived to see the completion of the Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, while a number, some of whom were valuable helpers in the preparation of this work at the beginning, have completed the period of their earthly existence and passed to the enjoyment of their eternal reward. The preparation and publication of this volume have required many times the time, labor and expense anticipated, when it was undertaken. That which was undertaken as a pleasurable and useful employment for spare moments in pastoral and presbyterial work, has detained him as a resident of the county two years after the close of a delightful and honored pastorate of sixteen years at Fonda. But if the task has been long—a severe test to the author's patience, perseverance and power of endurance—the opportunity of placing so many of his fellow travelers through this world in a pretty historic setting has been greatly appreciated, and the work has constantly enlisted his best endeavor to make it a complete and worthy tribute of loving affection, to the memory of the hardy pioneers of Pocahontas county.

### Things That Endure.

It is delightful to have an opportunity of doing something in this world that will endure longer than our short and uncertain lives. All have the longing desire to be kindly remembered. "If we work upon marble," said Webster, "it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds, if we imbue them with principles—with the just fear of God and love of our fellow men—we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity." Some things quite evanescent, may yet leave an enduring impression. A rose has but a brief existence and yet it may leave a touch of beauty on the hearts of those who behold it. Charles Kingsley wrote, "Never lose an opportunity of saying anything beautiful. Welcome beauty in every fair face, every fair sky and every fair flower; thank Him for it, who is the fountain of all loveliness; and enjoy it as a feast, a cup of blessing." Sometimes the most transient things leave touches of beauty on the lives of others, or put inspirations toward sweeter and better living into their hearts.

It is possible to live so that many things we do shall last. In the sphere of unseen things, results are rated not according to dollars but moral values. There is no immortality to vanity and self-seeking. Only that which is inspired by love for others and is calculated to make the world better will endure. It ought to be one of the deepest longings of every heart to leave in this world something that will last and continue a source of comfort and blessing to others. Good and great thoughts are immortal. They can no more be buried than they can be burned or hanged. They are not affected by time, but are as fresh today as when they were uttered or expressed. George Eliott very truthfully writes,

Oh, may I join the choir invisible,
Of those immortal dead, who live again
In minds made better by their presence; live
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude,
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars,
And by their mild persistence urge man's search
To vaster issues; so to live is heaven.

Nearly every schoolboy knows the familiar lines that tell of the immortality of kind words.

"Kind words can never die,
Cherished and blest.
God knows how deep they lie,
Stored in the breast."

"Heaven and earth shall pass away," said Jesus, "but my words shall not pass away." A good book also possesses the essence of immortality and will survive the decay and ruin of many other things. We are passing through the world but once, and

"For me to have made one soul
The better for my birth,
To have added but one flower
To the garden of earth;
To have sown in the souls of men
One thought that will not die,
To have been a link in the chain of life,
Shall be immortality."

## The Spirit of the Pioneer.

The pioneers of Pocahontas county were principally tillers of the soil. In every country the life of the pioneer has been a struggle—a battle for life; but here, after a few short years of privation, they were more than conquerors. Here they found the bountiful earth, the teeming mother of riches. This fertile soil, splendid water, and bracing climate; these Iowa prairies—the sod of ages, full of rich, organic matter, the debris of thousands of crops of luxuriant grass—formed the prophecy and also the basis of their subsequent prosperity. Their history serves to show that it is a good policy to "stick to the farm," and that it is possible to "make the farm pay." The number of those, who have accumulated clever fortunes ranging from ten to thirty or more thousands of dollars on the farms in Pocahontas county, is many times the number of those, who have accumulated similar fortunes by embarking in business in the towns of the county.

"They also built churches where today they stand,
For all the people lent a willing hand,
And, when the sabbath bell summoned to prayer,
The worldliest put away their week-day care;
And flocked from miles around to hear the word.
And hither came a man with snowy hair;
He preached and they believed the holy things they heard.
These were the men—not men but higher powers,—
Whose hardy sinews, stiffening into steel,
Grappling with the wilderness, made it a garden bower,
And laid the sure foundation of the commonweal."

"The old pioneer days," in the language of President Roosevelt at the dedication of the building for the Lousiana Purchase Exposition, May 10,

1903, "are gone with their roughness, their hardships, their incredible toil and their wild, half savage romance. But the need for the pioneer virtues remains the same. The peculiar frontier conditions have vanished, but the manliness and stalwart hardihood of the frontiersmen can be given even freer scope under the conditions surrounding the complex industrialism of the present day. The old days were great, because the men who lived in them had mighty qualities; and we must make the new days great by manifesting the same qualities. We must insist upon courage and resolution, upon hardihood, tenacity and fertility in resource; we must insist upon the strong, virile virtues; and we must insist no less upon the virtues of self-restraint, self-mastery and regard for the rights of others; we must show our abhorrence of cruelty, brutality and corruption in both public and private life." The hardy spirit of the pioneer is manifested in the present time by a readiness to advance along every way, that will secure new conquests for truth and righteousness, blazing the path and marking the way.

"Oh, blessed is he to whom is given,
The instinct that can tell,
That God is on the field, when He
Is most invisible.
And blessed is he who can tell,
Where real right doth lie,
And dares to take the side, that seems
Wrong to man's blindfold eye."

The successful men of Pocahontas county are presented to the reader in such a way in this volume, that the story of their struggles and achievements, like a voice from the past, tells how it was done. The veil of mystery has been drawn aside and the reader is told plainly the methods adopted by those, who have achieved the highest degree of success. Here the agriculturist or farmer will learn how the best results have been achieved on Pocahontas county farms. Here the horticulturist, or fruit grower, may learn the conditions of successful fruit culture in this county. Here the one who would embark in raising fine or fat stock, poultry or even "process butter" will find the valuable experience of those who have achieved a high degree of success along these lines. Here the aspiring young teacher will find an illustrious example, and the incentives to a high degree of efficiency in that noble art.

The people of Pocahontas county have indeed caught the spirit of the West; the spirit of efficient purpose and noble achievement; a spirit that faces the facts of life courageously, hopefully and successfully; a spirit that looks forward to the future and is undaunted by present disappointments; a spirit that moves on to educate and elevate; in fine, the spirit of truth, which is mighty to prevail, constitutes the nation's hope and controls the nation's destiny.

Everything has changed but the sky. It is the same that overhung the patient ox or horse team, that drew the canvas-topped schooner across these same prairies half a century ago. The mind reverts to those times and the heart swells with pride and reverence for those hardy pioneers, who, turning their eyes toward the setting sun crossed the great Father of Waters, and braved the dangers and privations of that lonely time, while they laid the foundations of the present progress and prosperity.

## The Author's Aim.

The author in the preparation of this volume has kept constantly in view the following objects: To give an accurate narrative of the principal events in the history of this county, that should include all that was valuable to make it a complete record of the past; to avoid all partiality, partisanship and prejudice; to secure a fair representation of every interest and nationality in the county, including the pioneer women and teachers of the public schools, on its one hundred and ten pages of finely engraved portrait work; and in general to make it a volume of real interest and instruction to the young—the boys and girls in the public schools of the county—as well as to those advanced in life; and to the new settler as well as the venerable pioneer, to whose memory it has been specially dedicated.

The opening chapters, including pages 13 to 110, containing a brief synopsis of the Early History of Iowa, are intended to familiarize the reader with the important events in the history, and the public institutions and buildings, of a state, whose history and standing, among the states of the American Union, are worthy of the highest admiration.

The author, conscious that the value of this history would depend largely on the authenticity of its materials and correctness of its statements, has spared no time, labor or expense in his efforts to verify every statement. It contains many lists of proper names that have been obtained from many and very different sources;—the names of county officers from county records, names of homesteaders from the records of the United States land offices, civil and school officers from the records of each town and township, the founders and officers of churches and civic societies from their respective official records. All of these sources of information are supposed to be strictly accurate, and yet in a few instances of early pioneers, now dead or removed from the county, the variations in the spelling of the same name were so numerous, it was difficult to determine their correct form. The utmost vigilance has been constantly exercised and many letters have been written to the postmasters of the county and others to identify names that were similar, and secure uniformity in the spelling of each A few instances of variation escaped notice. Pages 793 to 808 were unexpectedly printed in the volume, without correcting the typographical errors, that had been previously marked, while the author was spending a summer vacation in Puget Sound. These and some other slight variations in names, dates and sections of land, perceived or received too late for correction, have been noted on a separate page at the end of the volume. A review of them will indicate, however, that to the general reader none of them are of any special importance. The printing of this history, as a weekly serial in the columns of the Fonda Times afforded an unusual opportunity for the correction of any matters in regard to which the author was under a misapprehension; and it is believed that the highest degree of accuracy possible in such a work has been attained.

## History and Biography.

The study of history is a study of humanity, and that not in ideal conditions but as it exists. "Truth is stranger than fiction," and history not only furnishes a literature based upon truth, but also some of the most valuable information in the world. History is philosophy teaching by example and warning; it is the unrolled scroll of prophecy. Kossuth termed it, "the revelation of Providence." To forecast the future we must understand the present, and to understand the present we must know the past. Guizot, the great French historian, philosopher and statesman, observed, "Religion opens the future and places us in the presence of eternity; but history brings back the past and adds to our own existence the lives of our fathers." The men who make history do not always have time to write it; yet nothing strengthens a nation so much as familiarity with its history. It makes amends for the brevity of life and is the complement of poetry. We cherish the knowledge of the past that we may enrich the literature of the present, and be inspired to emulate the noble lives of our predecessors.

The study of history, as a means of cultivating the mind and for its immediate practical benefits, ever since the days of Moses, who wrote the pioneer history of Israel, and of Herodotus, the father of profane history, has formed a necessary part of a liberal and thorough education. He, who is able to make the facts and events of history the basis of philosophical reflection and generalization, discovers that there is a living spirit moving through it like the force that links every effect to its cause. God is always the same in dealing with men, and human nature is an invariable factor. One may learn the sure result of certain courses today, by learning what they have been in the past, and he is foolish who does not profit by the recorded successes or mistakes of others.

An easy and excellent grasp on history is obtained by reading the lives of those who make it; and among the most interesting and inspiring books that can be placed in the hands of young people are those that tell the life-story

and achievements of the men and women, who have made and left behind them the greatest and best impress upon their church, community or country. The lives of great men are our best instructors, and biography, which is history teaching by example, is one of the most charming and useful studies. A later life may be inspired and strengthened by the principles and achievements of an earlier one. The departed constitute a cloud of witnesses, who, looking upon the living with sympathy, know that human existence is not vanity, but can be made a splendid success.

He who studies the sayings and doings of the pioneers may avoid their mistakes and profit by their successes. The men who succeed are thoughtful, progressive and are never satisfied with ordinary advancement. This volume intended to be an appropriate and an enduring memorial of those who planted the institutions and developed the resources of Pocahontas county during the first fifty years of its history, contains briefly the experience and principles of nearly every one of its leading citizens.

There are indeed many standards of success or greatness; for men's ideas differ greatly as to what constitutes a truly great and successful man. Our Lord Jesus gave utterance to the sentiment, "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted." This is the standard of Heaven, though it is not always recognized on earth. At the head of all biographies stands the Book of Books, "the educator of youth, the guide of manhood and the counselor of age." It is a series of biographies of patriarchs and prophets, princes and heroic leaders, some of whom occupied a very lowly station in common life. This volume contains the biographical sketches and portraits of many who, from the humblest beginnings, have made the world better by their noble lives and worthy achievements.

"All who labor wield a mighty power;
The glorious privilege to do
Is man's most noble dower."

### The Portraits and Other Engravings.

The hope is indulged that the numerous portraits and other engravings will prove an interesting and pleasing feature of the volume to every reader. The grouping of nine or more portraits on the same page at a nominal cost of one dollar each, minimized the space and made it possible to secure a portrait of the county officials, both past and present, and one or more representatives, either of the first or second generation, of most of the pioneer families in each of the towns and townships. The photographs used were obtained either from the persons or their nearest friends, and in a number of instances the one received was the only one in existence. Many of the first settlers in this county never had a photograph taken, and a representative of the family could be secured only through one from the second generation. In order to secure the portraits of some of the first county officials and first settlers in the older townships, it was necessary to use some old and faded photos. It was impossible for the engravers to make as pretty half-tone prints from these as from recent ones. but we did not care to omit them merely for that reason. The portraits have been printed upon fine paper, and the unusually large number of them make this volume a real treasury of human interest whose value, it is believed, will increase with passing years. Sallust says, "I have often heard that Quintus, Publius Scipio and other renowned persons of the Roman commonwealth used to say, that whenever they beheld the images of their ancestors, they felt their minds vehemently excited to virtue." It could not have been the wax nor the marble that possessed this power; but, the recollection of their great actions kindled a generous flame of noble aspiration in their hearts, that could not be quelled until they also had acquired equal fame and glory.

### Easy to Find Things.

In order that this volume might be one of easy and ready reference, the title of each chapter has been placed at the top margin of the right hand page; and the townships have been arranged alphabetically, rather than numerically, geographically, or even according to the date of their settlement. The sketches of the pioneers in each township, save a few that were

received too late, are also arranged in the same order. The index is very copious, enabling the reader to trace quickly any topic treated in the volume, and the number of the page containing the biographical sketch has been placed first after each name. Names not printed under the engravings, on account of a lack of room, may be found in the list of portraits. Family lists, repeated there, show their order according to birth.

The author has endeavored to reach the ideal of a complete, interesting and instructive county history, and if this effort has not been crowned with success, the failure has been in the execution, rather than in the aim and purpose.

He has sang the praise of Iowa,
The fairest state of all the west;
And of Pocahontas county,
Where people dwell and prosper well
On the prairie or in busy town;
Where the sun is bright, and the stars at night
Shine like jewels in Nature's crown.

A grateful acknowledgement is made of the valuable assistance rendered by many on whom frequent calls were made to verify doubtful matters, and especially to those, who freely furnished general matter for the narrative portions, in addition to those referred to in the Introductory Note: To the recorders, secretaries and clerks of townships and towns, for official lists of officers; to Mr. James S. Smith for the early history of Plover; to the late Michael Crahan for valuable contributions to the history of Lizard township; to Mr. Fred A. Malcolm for a draught of the Indian battlefield at Pilot Creek; to Messrs. C. A. Grant and C. H. Tollefsrude for photographic views of places of historic interest in the northeast part of the county; to Mr. J. H. Lighter for the free use of the plate for the insertion of his (1903) map of Pocahontas county; to the presidents or superintendents of our state institutions for the numerous and excellent cuts of the Iowa state buildings; to the Interior, Chicago, for the four plates illustrating the Story of Pocahontas; to the Des Moines Daily Capital for the cuts of Governor A. B Cummins and Senator J. P. Dolliver. Also, our indebtedness for the helpful information derived from the Plat Book of Pocahontas County, compiled and published in 1887 by the National Publishing Company. Philadelphia; and the Plat Book published by Mr. J. H Lighter, Rolfe, in 1897.

The printing of the special pages of engraved work was done partly by the engravers, the Bucher Engraving Company, Columbus, Ohio, and partly by the binders, the Regan Printing House, Chicago.

## Mr. George Sanborn.

The Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, as an undertaking or business enterprise, belongs to Mr. George Sanborn, editor and proprietor of the Fonda Times for more than twenty-one years. As it is now issued from the press, in the form of a fine royal octavo volume, it is a fitting memento and culmination of his long period of faithful and acceptable service of the people of this county and vicinity, through the columns of the Times. When he relinquished his interest in the Times to the Fonda Printing and Publishing Company, Jan. 1, 1901, he retained ownership of the Times building and of the Pioneer History, then incomplete. Whilst the author gathered the materials, prepared the copy, read the proofs and arranged the portrait work, including the printing thereof, this was done in response to the request of Mr. Sanborn. To him belongs the credit of projecting the work and of printing it so neatly from new type in the Times office. The people of Pocahontas county are to be congratulated upon the fact, that in outlining the plan and scope of this work, it was not limited to some special recognition of the readers of the Times, but was designed to be an historic tribute to the memory of all the hardy pioneers of the county. The public spirit manifested in launching and completing this work—the most important and valuable contribution to the literature of Pocahontas county—would seem to merit a high degree of appreciation on the part of those to whose memory it has been unselfishly dedicated.

Indulging the hope, that a considerate judgment will give just recogni-

tion to whatever worth this volume contains, it is now sent forth to accomplish its mission,—to perpetuate the memory of the hardy pioneers of Pocahontas county.

"May the God above
Guard the dear friends we love
In east or west.
Let love more fervent grow,
As peaceful ages go,
And strength yet stronger grow,
Blessing and blest.
Be noble! and the nobleness that lies
In other men sleeping, but never dead,
Will rise in majesty to meet thine own."

Very truly,

Fonda, July 15, 1904. R. E. F.

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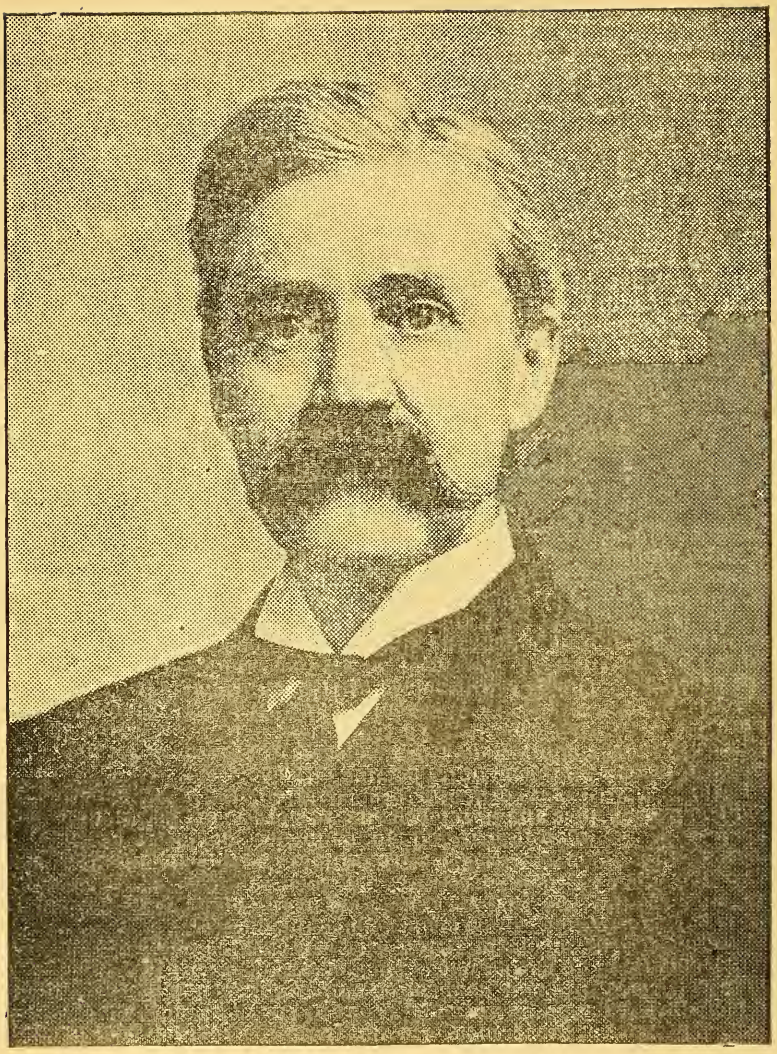


**Hon. Albert B. Cummins, Governor of Iowa.**

Per favor of Des Moines Daily Capitol.

# CONTENTS.

Preface ..... VII
List of Portraits and Other Engravings ..... XXI
Introductory Note ..... 9

FIRST PART.

## Early History of Iowa.

CHAPTER I.

LOCATION AND EXTENT.

The Mound Builders—Toltecs in Mexico—Incas of Peru ..... 15

CHAPTER II.

THE INDIANS OF IOWA.

Two Great Nations—The Algonquins—The Sioux—Blackhawk War—Sioux Outlaws—Indian Battles—Western Iowa Treaty ..... 21

CHAPTER III.

THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE AND PRELIMINARY EVENTS.

Removal of Fort Dodge Military Post—Murder of Sidominadota—The Grindstone War—Other Events—Murder at Lake Okoboji, Spirit Lake and Springfield ..... 27

CHAPTER IV.

THE RELIEF EXPEDITION TO SPIRIT LAKE.

The Facts Learned—Difficulties Encountered—The Return—The Burial Party—The Captives ..... 35

CHAPTER V.

LAST INDIAN TROUBLES IN IOWA.

Later Troubles in Minnesota and Northwest—Frontier Soldiers—Sitting Bull—Gen. Custer's Sad Fate ..... 42

CHAPTER VI.

SPANISH GRANTS AND IOWA INDIAN TREATIES.

The Louisiana Province—Dubuque's Treaty and Grant—Girard Grant—Honori Grant—St. Louis Treaty—Iowa Indian Treaties ..... 48

CHAPTER VII.

THE TRANSITIONS FROM DISCOVERY TO STATEHOOD.

Fernando De Soto—Marquette and Joliet—La Salle—Louisiana Province Divided—Territory of Missouri—Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa—Early Settlements—Pioneer Legislature—Territory Named—Territorial Legislation—Territorial Governors—Old Zion Church ..... 54

CHAPTER VIII.

STATEHOOD, A HALF CENTURY'S GROWTH.

Iowa's Growth—Natural Resources—The Prairies—Rivers and Lakes—Mineral Wealth, Building Rock—Soft Coal, Iron, Zinc, Lead—Sand, Clay, Gypsum—Chalk—Water—Climate—Agricultural Resources—Commercial Facilities—Railroads ..... 65

CHAPTER IX.

THE STATE INSTITUTIONS AND BUILDINGS OF IOWA.

Iowa's Capitol—State University—College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts—Normal School—College for the Blind—Industrial Home for the Blind—School for the Deaf—Institution for Feeble Minded Children—Soldier's Orphan's Home—Soldier's Home—Industrial Schools at Eldora and Mitchellville—Hospitals for the Insane—Penitentiaries—Other State Organizations ..... 83

CHAPTER X.

EDUCATION, RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

Education—The State Board—Board of Control—Churches and Church Work—Patriotism—Succession of Governors—Cabinet Officers—U. S. Senators ..... 101

## SECOND PART.

# History of Pocahontas County.

### Pioneer Period, 1855-69.

CHAPTER I.

THE COUNTY ESTABLISHED AND STORY OF POCAHONTAS.

Act of the Legislature—Powhatan—Pocahontas—Weds John Rolfe—The Descendants of Pocahontas—Who Suggested Pocahontas?..... 113

CHAPTER II.

INDIAN BATTLE AT PILOT CREEK.

The Sioux and the Winnebagoes—The Battle—Indians along the Des Moines River—Indian Graves and Relics—Indian Mound—Indians Along the Lizard—The Sioux—Indians in Lincoln—Bellville—The Pottawattamies ..... 125

CHAPTER III.

THE SURVEY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

The Government Survey of the County—Plan of..... 137

CHAPTER IV.

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE COUNTY.

Surface Features—Soil—Limestone Beds in Clinton—Other Rock Beds in Iowa—Drift and Boulders—Glacial Period—Wood in Wells—Flowing Wells—Surface Soil..... 141

CHAPTER V.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN THE COUNTY.

The Lizard Settlement—Sketches of Pioneers—Embarrassing Events.... 155

CHAPTER VI.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN THE NORTHEAST PART OF THE COUNTY.

The Des Moines Settlement—Sketches of the First Settlers—Lizard and Des Moines Settlers..... 169

CHAPTER VII.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

1859—The First Court House—Swamp Lands—1860—Public Improvements—Roads—First Division of the County—Re arranged—Townships Organized—County Seat Re-located—Original Order for the Organization of the County..... 184

CHAPTER VIII.

THE COUNTY OFFICERS.

County Judges—Board of Supervisors—Auditors—Clerks of the Courts—Treasurers—Recorders—Sheriffs—Superintendents—Surveyors—Coroners—Drainage Commissioners—Attorneys—District Attorneys—District and Circuit Judges—Representatives—State Senators—Congressmen—General Exhibit of County Officers..... 197

CHAPTER IX.

OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS.

Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors—Newspapers—Honor Roll—First Tax Sale—Highways and Bridges—Wolf Bounty—Unity Presbyterian Church—Last Buffalo Chase—Last Indian Hunt—Grass and Mosquitoes—Trials and Priyations—Pioneer Dwellings—Lost on the Prairie—Postoffices—Trials on the Way—The Prairie Fire—Population—New Settlers 1865-69—Grove Planting—Trapping—Pre-emption

Claims—Homestead—Timber Claim—Source of Supplies—U. S. Land Offices—Railroad Lands—Other Land Grants—District & Circuit Courts—Hait's Sawmill..... 214

**Second Period, 1870 to 1882.**

CHAPTER X.

PERIOD OF RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION AND TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

The First Railroad—Fonda Founded in 1870—Cedar Township's First Settlers—Williams Township, 1868-1870—Townships Organized—Grasshoppers—Railroad Strikes of 1877—Second Period of Hard Times—Gophers—Blackbirds—Blizzards—Tree Exemptions—Prairie Wolves—Muskrats—Bees and Rabbits—Beavers—Elk—Deer—Wild Ducks, Geese, Cranes and Other Native Birds—Public Improvements—Change of County Seat—Farewell to Old Rolfe—School Lands—Out of Debt in 1876—Delegate to the Centennial—Mail Routes and Post-offices—The Pocahontas Times—Population 1859 to 1895—Census Taken—Churches Established—New Homesteaders—Era of Better Times—1878—Corn Used for Fuel—Farm Machinery and Mortgages—1881—First Democratic Convention—New Railroads—Toledo & Northwestern, and Des Moines & Fort Dodge—Des Moines & Northwestern—Boom in Land—Prohibition..... 248

**Third Period, 1883 to 1899.**

CHAPTER XI.

PERIOD OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Standard Time Adopted—Drainage of the County—Democratic Party Organized—Peoples' Party—Corn Record—Nursery of D. C. Wiliams—Farmers' Alliance—Crops of 1890—County Farm—Free Mail Delivery—Good Roads—Populist Party Organized—1893, Cyclone Year—Mulct Law—Drought—Nebraska Relief—Saloon Issue—Hog Cholera—Its Cause and Cure..... 303

CHAPTER XII.

BELLVILLE TOWNSHIP.

First Settlers—Public Schools—Teachers and Officers—Civil Officers—Emmanuel German Church—First Birth and Death—Bellville Creamery—Other Early Settlers—Biographical Sketches—County Officers—Palmer—Blanden Stock Farm—Signs of Progress—Tornado of 1878... 335

CHAPTER XIII.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP.

Civil Officers—School Officers and Teachers—Marvin—Fonda—Town Officers—Cemetery—High School—Teachers and Graduates—Railway Agents—Postmasters—Churches—G. A. R. Post—Fraternal Organizations—Big Four District Fair—Fonda Creamery—Northern Telephone Co—Tornado of 1882—Fonda in 1900—Personal Sketches—First Death—First Wedding—Public Officers..... 360

CHAPTER XIV.

CENTER TOWNSHIP.

Early Settlement—Officers—School Officers—Pocahontas in 1900—Churches—Wooing a Railroad—Newspapers—Shannon and Charlton Ranches—Creamery—Pocahontas Point—First Sunday School—Public Officers—Leading Citizens—Case Sisters' Section ..... 452

CHAPTER XV.

CLINTON TOWNSHIP.

General Features—Officers—Rolfe in 1900—Town Officers—No Saloons—Cemetery—Historic Incidents—Agents and Postmasters—Schools Teachers and Graduates—Public Spirit—Park—Good Roads—Banks—Churches—County Mutual Insurance Association—County Bible Society—Egg Packing House—Telephone Company—Mill—Newspapers—Cuban Soldiers—Sketches of Pioneers—Assessment in 1870.. 481

CHAPTER XVI.

COLFAX TOWNSHIP.

First Settlers—Organization and Officers—Schools, Officers and Teachers

—Creamery—Swede Churches—Sketches of Pioneers—Sod Shanties—Purgatory Slough—County Officers..... 534

CHAPTER XVII.

DES MOINES TOWNSHIP.

Surface Features—Pre-emptors and Homesteaders—Officers—Civil War Volunteers—Old Rolfe—County Officers—Families in 1880—Coopertown—Leading Citizens..... 559

CHAPTER XVIII.

DOVER TOWNSHIP.

First Settlers—Officers—Cemeteries—Varina in 1901—Churches—Leading Citizens—First Death ..... 571

CHAPTER XIX.

GRANT TOWNSHIP.

Early History—Summary of Progress—Recent Growth—Rusk—Creamery—Officers—Schools—Church—Uniformly Republican—County Officers—County Farm—Wellington Farm—Elk and Deer—Pioneer Women—Leading Citizens—Rake's Salve..... 595

CHAPTER XX.

LAKE TOWNSHIP.

General Features—Settlement—Organization and Officers—Schools—Gilmore City—Newspapers, Banks and Churches—Rural Free Delivery—Leading Citizens—Captain Beers' Wheelboat and Early Exploits on the Des Moines River..... 619

CHAPTER XXI.

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

Henry C. Carter—First Settlers—Officers—Schools—Church—County Officers—Leading Citizens ..... 638

CHAPTER XXII.

LIZARD TOWNSHIP.

General Features—Pioneer Settlers—Severities and Hardships—Fear of Indians—Settlers After the Civil War—Officers—County Officers—Schools—Young People—Postoffice—Cemetery—Churches—Oxen and Horses—Leading Citizens—The Irish in Lizard Township..... 649

CHAPTER XXIII.

MARSHALL TOWNSHIP.

General Features—Thornton, Greene & Co. Farm—Early Settlement—Officers—Schools and Teachers—Groves—Incidents—County Officers—Leading Citizens..... 679

CHAPTER XXIV.

POWHATAN TOWNSHIP.

Powhatan—Early Settlement—Interesting Events—Historic Addresses—Difficulties and Trials—Officers—Schools—Plover in 1902—Churches—Poultry Yard—County Officers—Leading Citizens—Brodsky's Fine Stock Sales—Old Abe, the War Eagle—Gandertown—Powhatan—Postin Day Contest—Other Election Contests..... 692

CHAPTER XXV.

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP.

General Features—Early Settlement—Officers—Schools—Interesting Events—Ware in 1902—Bank—Creamery—Public Officers—Leading Citizens..... 732

CHAPTER XXVI.

SWAN LAKE TOWNSHIP.

General Features—Early Settlement—Stock Farms—Postoffices—Officers—Schools—Public Officers—Incidents—Laurens—Great Fire of 1898—Officers—Churches—High School—Noble Opera House—G. A. R. Post—Banks—Elevator Companies—Poultry Dealers—Mill—Process Butter—Rural Telephones—Newspapers—Laurens in 1902—Leading Citizens..... 747

## CHAPTER XXVII.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

General Features--Early Settlement--Officers--County Officers--Schools --Havelock--Great Longevity--In 1882--Officers--School and Churches --In 1902--Banks--The Item--Creamery--Rural Free Delivery Routes and Carriers--Rural Telephone--Williams' Nursery--Old Soldiers' and Settlers' Reunions--Leading Citizens--Clinton Farm ... ..... 787

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

Alphabetically Arranged..... 815

## CHAPTER XXIX.

GARFIELD TOWNSHIP.

Organization and Officers..... 844

## CHAPTER XXX.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Their Development--Report for 1903—Consolidation—Teachers' Institutes and Normal Training Schools—Teachers' Library..... 846

## CHAPTER XXXI.

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS.

Physicians--Attorneys—Druggists--Editors—Sunday Schools—Temperance Alliance..... 851

## APPENDIX.

Public Officers from 1900 to 1904—Spanish War Volunteers—Church Growth—Material Growth..... 862
History of Elections..... 867
Index..... 880

## ADDENDA.

Pocahontas County Farmers' Institute..... 901
Fonda and Palmer Rural Mail Routes..... 901
Pocahontas Graduates, First, 1904..... 902
Legend of Pocahontas County..... 903
Work Reviewed and Commended..... 905

# LIST OF PORTRAITS

## And Other Engravings, Alphabetically Arranged.


Adams, Minnie, Haffele..... 376
Agricultural College, Main Building..... 64
Agricultural College, Morrill Hall 68
" " Farm Barns 72
Ainslie, George H. Rev..... 415
Allen, Charles S..... 761
" Charles S., Residence..... 741
" Daniel J..... 760
" Joseph H..... 456
" Joseph H. Residence..... 457
Anderson, Robert ..... 697
Apples, Patten's Greening..... 900
Atkinson, William F. & Mrs..... 681
Avery, Oscar F. Mrs..... 168
Barron, Port C. & Mrs. Mary E... 465
Barthel, O. H. Dr..... 452
Beam, W. W. Dr..... 303
Beard, Edward L..... 408
Beers, Percy M..... 624
Beneke, Diederic & Family: Henry, John, Diederic, Mrs. Beneke, William and Mary... 640
Beneke, Rudolph, Residence & Family: Anton, August, Rudolph, Henry, Mrs. & Annie, Mr. & Mary, Barbary..... 345
Beswick, Robert F..... 428
" Robert F., Residence... 581
Bissell, Hiram W..... 196
Blake, D. O..... 456
Blomberg, Andrew G. & Family.. 617
Bollard, Joseph B..... 441
" May Ella..... 196
" Richard D..... 196
Bott, William..... 428
Boyd, Simon P..... 536
Bradshaw, Zenas C. Rev..... 329
Brennan, J. F. Rev..... 372
Brick School House, Old Rolfe.... 216
Bridges, William F., Mrs., William C. & John..... 404
Bruce, James J..... 488
" James J., Mrs..... 489
" Marion..... 302
Bruce & McEwen's Store..... 216
Brower, George L. & Mrs..... 249
Brown, Orlando & Roana..... 405
" R. P.....516, 505
Budolfson, B. C..... 453

Burnip, Robert, Rev..... 440
Busby, Jean, Mrs..... 249
Butler. Stephen, Rev..... 625
Byrne, Matthew..... 360
Calligan, Maggie..... 665
" Thomas J..... 453
Campbell, William E. & Mrs..... 489
Carroll, James A..... 408
" Joseph, M. D., Mrs, Alma & Flora..... 752
Carroll, P. J., Rev..... 329
Capitol, Iowa State..... 14
" Old One, Iowa City....60, 112
Carpenter, John D..... 388
Carstens, Jacob..... 594
" Jacob & Residence..... 664
Catholic Cemetery, Lizard..... 1
" Church, Gilmore City... 625
" " Rolfe..... 501
" " Sacred Heart, Pocahontas, Dedicated Nov. 6, 1902..... 459
Chapman, Harriet Clemens..... 441
" Joseph..... 866
Charlton, Charles A..... 196
Children's Chorus,* Presbyterian Church, Fonda..... 377
Christeson, Ole E..... 453
Clark, W. S..... 456
Clifton, Charles W., Rev..... 855
Coal Region Mississippi Vailey... 150
Colfax Township. S. P. Boyd..... 536
Collins, William J..... 665
Condon, Ellen..... 665
Conroy, Frank M..... 360
Cooper, Beriah..... 480
Core, George W..... 513
County Asylum & House..... 200
" Seat, Old Rolfe..... 201
" " Pocahontas..... 473
" Officers, R. D. Bollard.... 196
" Supervisors, M. A. Hogan 197
Court House. Old Rolfe..... 279
" " †Pocahontas & County Officials in 1896..... 200
Craft, George G..... 441
Crahan, Michael & Family..... 512
Crahan, Michael, Residence..... 513
" " Store Block..... 512
Crilly, Rose Ann..... 665
Crummer, John A. & Mrs..... 594
Cummins, Albert B..... xiv
Curkeet, William J. & Mrs.. ... 580
Dart, Amos..... 409
Davis, Arthur W..... 328
Deaf, State Industrial School, 92, 99..... 168
Des Moines River Valley..... 217
Detwiller. John..... 408
DeWolf, Merton E..... 761
Donahoe, Rose Ann..... 665
Dorton, George M..... 408
Dower, T. J. Dr..... 373
Doyle, Terrence..... 197
Dunn, Alexander..... 360
Duty, George H., Rev..... 415
Eaton, Adelia..... 376
" Harvey..... 409
" Jennie..... 376
Edgar, David W., Dr..... 303
Ellis, Edward, Mrs. & Maud (Dahlin)..... 404
Elsen, Charles..... 197
" " Residence..... 648
Elsen, Charles B..... 664
England, Llewellyn E..... 481
" L. E., Mrs..... 489
Enright, Thomas F. & Mrs..... 665
Fairburn, George..... 248
" George, Mrs..... 249
" George, Residence..... 233
Ferguson, Duncan..... 516
" Duncan, Residence..... 558
" Ward..... 524
Fish, Romeyn B..... 216
Fitzgerald, William..... 373
Flickinger, Robert E., Rev..... 5
" Mary A., Mrs..... 440
Flint, Charles W., Rev..... 460
Fonda, Brick & Tile Works..... 389
" Presbyterian Church .... 375
" Presbyterian Manse..... 232
" Public School Building... 861
" Times Office..... 289
Fonda & Vicinity, A. B. Wood... 249
" " Dollie Wykoff... 376
" " Geo. B. Sanborn. 440
" " Harvey Eaton... 409
" " J. B. Mackey.... 408
" " Maud Jordan.... 441
Ford, Walter..... 664
Fraser, Charles E. & Mrs..... 525
" John..... 480

*Third Row: Rev. R. E. Flickinger, leader; Minnie Haffele, organist; Rosa Selzer, Florence Ellis, Carrie Busby, Mary Cartlidge, Florence Farley, Edna Dunn, Sarah Weaver, Bessie Karr, Jessie McDermott, Rena Busby, Edith Haffele, Mrs. Flickinger.

Second Row: Bert Forbes, Robert Beswick, Alma McMichael, Madge Hughes, Hazel Wilde, Mata Bergren, Minnie Swenson, Ethel Dunn, Velma Brown, Theo Stevens, Pearl Eaton, Valley Heflin, Roy Longnecker.

First Row: Arthur Messenger, Harrison Busby, Gracie Blizzard. Erma Rule, Charlotte Busby, Mazie Ellis, Laura Sargent, Ruth Sargent, Gertrude S. Eaton, Lolo Nichols, Lilly Selzer, Bessie Beswick, Linn Forbes, Newell Forbes, June Bollard—42.

†County Officials: F. G. Thornton, auditor; Michael Bartosh, citizen; F. L. Dinsmore, county attorney; Michael A. Hogan, supervisor; O. P. Malcolm, deputy treasurer; J. J. Bruce, chairman, supervisors; F. H. Plumb, clerk; R. D. Bollard, recorder; May Ella Bollard, deputy recorder; Terrence Doyle, supervisor; C. A. Charlton, treasurer; J. A. Crummer, sheriff; J. W. Wallace, deputy sheriff; H. W. Bissell, surveyor; C. M. Hunt, deputy auditor.

" John, Mrs..... 697
" John, Log House..... 1
Fuchs, Joseph & Mrs..... 372
Garlock, Abram O..... 414
" Abram O., Mrs..... 415
Garrison, Brick Block..... 180
" Charles F..... 505
Geological Formations..... 146
Gilchrist, Fred C..... 761
" James C., Prof..... 740
Gill, Samuel H..... 786
" Samuel H., Residence..... 787
Gilmore City, Catholic Church... 625
Gottfried, Della A..... 376
Grant, Cyprian A. & Mrs..... 516
" Cyprian A., Residence .... 517
" Twp. Group, Mrs. H. L. Norton..... 616
Grapes, Fluke's Seedling..... 904
Grasses Native, Frontispiece, (1) Prairie or Panic 3½ feet; (2) Fine Slough, or Fresh Water Cord, 7½ feet; (3) Wild Rye.... 1
Greene, Rufus & Mrs..... 680
Gunderson, Charles L. & Family. 595
Hakes, Montague..... 761
Hait, William H. & Mrs..... 168
" William, Residence..... 389
Hamble, Philip & Mrs..... 712
Hamerson, John, Rev..... 440
Hancher, Barney, Mrs..... 697
Hanson, Leonard E..... 196
" Niels..... 536
Harvey, Ora & Mrs..... 216
Havelock, Public School Building 787
Hawkins, B. K..... 360
" Joseph..... 408
Hawley, Charles A. & Mrs..... 681
Hazlett, William..... 460
Heald, George A..... 452
Healy, William H..... 329
Henderson, George..... 697
" George W..... 505
" James & Mrs..... 713
Hersom, Samuel T. & Mrs..... 420
Higgins, J. W., Dr..... 753
Hogan, Michael A..... 197
Holmes, John A. & Mrs..... 544
Hronek, Frank E..... 472
" Frank & Mrs..... 472
Hubbell, Alexander F. & Mrs.... 580
" Frances M., Mrs..... 580
Hubel, William A. & Mrs..... 713
Hudek, Joseph..... 453
Hughes, George & Mrs..... 360
" George, Residence..... 421
Hunt, C. M..... 197
Hunter, Robert..... 453
Ibson, Peter G..... 409
Indian Battle Field, Pilot Creek. 126
" Massacre, Gardner Home.. 31
" Massacre Monument..... 41
Iowa Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument..... 109
Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines.. 14
" State Capitol, Iowa City.... 112
" State Hospital for Insane... 106
" State Institution for Feeble Minded..... 94
Iowa State Normal School..... 90
" State School for Deaf, 92, 99, 168
Iowa State University Buildings: Medical, Old Capitol, Library, Science Hall, 60; Chemical Laboratory, 100; Close Hall, 78; Medical Hospital, 162; Natural Science Hall... 84
Jarvis, Henry & Mrs..... 489
Johnson, Claus..... 197
" George F. & Mrs..... 752
" J. R..... 409
" M. Sophia, Dr..... 440
Jolliffe, John B..... 697
Jordan, Maud Marshall..... 441
Keenan, M. J..... 196
Kelleher, James J..... 453
Kees, John A., Rev..... 460
Kelley, Maud Sargent..... 441
Kelly, Charles J., Dr..... 665
Kennedy, John..... 440
" William C..... 481
" William C., Mrs..... 489
Kent, John B., Col. & Mrs..... 484
Kerr, Samuel H. & Mrs..... 525
" Samuel H. Residence..... 558
Kezer, Charles & Mrs..... 344
Lange, Louie E..... 302
Larson, Torkel, Helen Mrs., Horace, Ira, Iva, Cora & Ella. .. 617
Laurens, M. E. Church..... 753
Leithead, Calvin P..... 505
Lemp, John..... 428
Lenihan, Thomas M., Rev..... 372
Lieb, Louisa, Mrs..... 610
" Louie J. & William C..... 616
Lighter, Joseph H..... 524
Lind, Niels A., Shorthorns..... 559
Lindell, John P, Rev..... 545
Linnan, Michael W..... 373
Lizard, Catholic Cemetery..... 1
" Twp. & Vicinity, Rose Ann Donahoe..... 665
Lothian, John W., Rev..... 524
Loughead, George N..... 697
Lowrey, Gad C. & Mrs..... 536
" Jason H..... 536
Lucas, David C., Mrs., Jennie, Mabel, Eben, Howard..... 388
Lynch, William & Mrs..... 409
Mackey, John B. & Mrs..... 408
MacVey, Frank L. & William Lee 696
" Thomas L. & Mrs..... 480
" Thos. L., Pioneer Home 712
Malcolm, Augustus H..... 481
" Ora P..... 196
Mallison, Joseph, Capt. & Mrs.... 249
Manse, Presbyterian, Fonda..... 232
Marmon, Henry C..... 624

Map, Coal Region, Mississippi Valley ..... 150
Map, Pocahontas County 1861.... 194
" Pocahontas County 1903.... 905
" Supervisors' Districts. ..... 204
" Townships & Sections ..... 140
Martin, Samuel S..... 408
Mathers, Ellen W. Struthers..... 489
Maxwell, Alexander & Mrs..... 536
McCaffrey, D. F., Rev ..... 373
McCartan, Thomas F..... 453
McCaslin. R. R..... 453
McComb, David S., Rev..... 219
McEwen, Alexander & Mrs..... 697
" William D., Esq....169, 504
" William D., Mrs..... 415
" William D., Residence. 181
" Will D..... 456
" Will D., Residence..... 457
McKinney, Samuel W..... 536
McManus, F. W,, Dr..... 624
Medical Hospital, State..... 162
Mercer, Effie, Nellie, Celina, May & Cora..... 377
Mercer, James & Mrs..... 429
Metcalf, Fred A., Rev..... 696
Methodist Church, Laurens..... 753
" Church, Pocahontas... 461
" Church, Rolfe..... 497
Miller, Maud Fuller..... 441
Mitchell, William L..... 453
Monument, Iowa Soldiers'..... 109
" Spirit Lake..... 41
Mulholland, David..... 624
Mullen, John P. & Mrs..... 420
Nelson, Swan & Mrs..... 344
Nichols, John C. & Mrs..... 361
Norton, Herkimer L., Mrs..... 616
Nowlan, David, Dr..... 787
Olsson, Carl E., Rev..... 545
Onken, William & Family..... 649
Osburn, Benjamin F., Mrs..... 440
Pape, W. A., Rev..... 458
Parrish, Charles E..... 616
" Felix W. & Mrs..... 616
Patterson, Michael F., Dr..... 303
" Clarence M. (at right of Manse)..... 232
Perkins, Charles, Rev & Mrs... 545
Peterson, Alexander & Mrs..... 544
" Alexander, Barn..... 648
Pfeiffer, Godfrey & Mrs ..... 408
Pilot Creek Battle Field..... 126
" " & Des Moines River Valleys..... 201
Plumb, Frank H..... 196
Pocahontas, Buelah Avenue,*1896 473
" Indian Princess..... 117
" M. E. Church..... 461
Pocahontas Public School Building 473
" Sacred Heart Catholic Church..... 457
Pocahontas & Vicinity, Joseph Hudek..... 453
Post, Nathan..... 376
Powhatan & Vicinity, Robert Anderson..... 697
Powhatan's Grave..... 115
Presbyterian Church, Fonda..... 375
" Manse, Fonda..... 232
" Church, Rolfe..... 498
Public School Building, Fonda. 861
" " " Havelock.... 787
" " " Old Rolfe.... 216
" " " Rolfe..... 491
" " " Pocahontas.. 473
Quinn, Mary..... 665
Ralston, William C..... 464
Ratcliff, John..... 196
Reamer, Thomas..... 594
Reniff, Garrett R , Ella B , Elhanan & Catherine..... 405
Richey, Alfred H..... 197
Rigby, Lulu Sanborn..... 440
Robinson, Guy S..... 452
" Joseph P..... 329
Rolfe, Catholic Church..... 501
" M. E. Church & Parsonage 497
" Presbyterian Church..... 498
" Public School Building.... 491
" & Vicinity, Mrs J.J Bruce 489
" Old, Brick School House... 216
" " Bruce & McEwen's Store..... 216
Rolfe, Old, County Seat View.... 201
" " Court House..... 279
Russell, Mamie..... 376
" Michael T..... 665
Sanborn, George..... 4
" George, Mrs..... 440
" George B. & Lulu..... 440
" George, Residence..... 232
" George, Pioneer Residence..... 879
Saylor, Christian M. & Family: Herbert B., William J., Mr., Mrs. & Calvin B..... 641
Schoentahl, Henry..... 409
Schultz, Alva L..... 302
Shaw, Prentice J..... 696
Silvers, M. J..... 360
Slosson, David..... 216
Smith, George, Mrs..... 616
" John, Capt..... 119
Snyder, Pearl Sayre..... 376
Spielman, David..... 361

*Buelah Avenue: At left, Hronek's store, Fred Southworth's harness shop, J. W. Dougherty's barber shop, S. C. Jones' (blind) drug store, Fred Chalstrom's furniture store, Breitenbach residence, bank of McEwen & Garlock; at right, old Bissell hotel, Burkhalter's (burned 1896) harness shop, W. H. Joner's blacksmith shop, Garlock & McEwen's residence, Record office, L. C. Thornton's office, Court House.

Spirit Lake Massacre..... 31
" " Monument..... 41
Starr, F. M..... 196
State Savings Bank, Rolfe..... 189
Stegge, John H ..... 472
Steinbrink, Carl & Family ..... 649
Steiner, Rose..... 441
Stewart, Robert C. & Mrs..... 536
Strong, Dora..... 697
" James C., Mrs., Alva A., William, Jason, Mary, Myrtle Luella..... 786
Strong, Oscar I..... 505
Struthers, Robert ..... 169
" Robert, Mrs..... 168
" William E., Ellen W.. 489
Swenson, Gustave T. & Edith Busby..... 376
Swingle, Fred & Mrs..... 429
Tabor, Edward B..... 428
Taylor, Emma Pfeiffer..... 441
" Robert W., Rev..... 460
Thatcher, Isham C..... 197
Thomas, Henry, Log House, Erroneously Credited to Ira Strong..... 1
Thompson, Cyrus..... 441
Thornton, Albert M & Mrs..... 680
" Alonzo L. & Mrs. Emily R. 465
" Alonzo R..... 302
" Lottie Tollefsrude..... 616
" Lucius C..... 464
Times Office, Fonda..... 289
Tishenbanner, Frank J..... 625
Tobin, William & Family: Mary, Bernhart, Ann, Henry, William, Catherina, Mrs. Tobin & Minnie..... 640
Tollefsrude, Christian H. & Mrs. 484
" Christian H., Residence 485
" Elisha M..... 616
" Hans C. & Mrs..... 616
Tower, Old Church, Jamestown.. 123
Tumble Weed, or White Pig Weed (Amaranthus albus... 1
University of Iowa, View from the Southeast Corner of the Campus, Showing at the Left the Medical Building, Old Capitol, Library, & Science Hall..... 60
University, Chemical Laboratory 100
" Close Hall..... 78
" Medical Hospital.. .. 162
" Natural Science Hall 84
VanAlstine, Sewell..... 481
Vance, Ulyses S..... 452
Wallace, George & Mrs..... 536
" John W. & Mrs..... 464
Weaver, James B..... 409
Whelan, Maggie Calligan.. ..... 665
White, Frank..... 388
" Frank, Poland China Pigs 537
Whitney, Charles R., Dr.. ..... 363
Wood, Alpheus B. P. & Mrs.. .... 249
" Adelbert S., Residence.... 581
" John, Stone Dug-out..... 1
Woodin, David M. & Mrs..... 360
Wright, Charles G., Rev..... 524
" Lew R..... 376
Wykoff, Dollie..... 376

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

"The pleasant books, that silently among
Our household treasures take familiar places,—
And are to us, as if a living tongue
Spake from the printed leaves or pictured faces!"

The gathering of the materials for the following pages has been the work of spare moments on the part of a busy pastor, principally during the last twelve months. The preparation of this volume is an humble effort, undertaken by special request, to place in grateful remembrance the exploits and achievements of those hardy sons and daughters of toil, the pioneers of Pocahontas county, who, seeking and establishing homesteads or abodes in these once western wilds, have developed their material resources, devised and built up their educational and religious institutions and thereby transformed them into a land of plenty, a paradise of beauty, the home of the happy and prosperous.

This history of Pocahontas County has been undertaken with the conviction that such a volume would meet an oft expressed desire on the part of many of the old settlers. At various times in the past leading citizens of the county have prepared, and, in some instances, read on public occasions, valuable papers on the early history of the county or of particular townships, and these have appeared and a few of them re-appeared in the public press of the county, especially in the Pocahontas (now Fonda) Times, the Pocahontas Record and Reveille.

There are yet living, in or near the eastern part of this county, a few of the first residents in it who are connecting links that bind the present with the past; and as one and another of their former number have "gathered about them the drapery of their couch," and been carried to their last earthly resting place the wish has oft been expressed that some one might perpetuate in some suitable and convenient form the story of their early experiences.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Statehood of Iowa at Burlington, Dec. 28, 1896, turned anew the public mind of the state to histor-

ic research and under the impulse of this movement George Sanborn, one of the very first to locate on a homestead in Cedar township (1869), editor and proprietor of the Pocahontas (now Fonda) Times since November 1, 1877, decided soon thereafter to undertake the publication of a brief history of Pocahontas County as a matter of public spirit and called upon the writer to see if he would not be willing to arrange and prepare the copy for publication. This request found us wholly engrossed with other engagements and though our assent was given a few weeks later, months passed before we were permitted to enter vigorously upon the work of gathering the necessary material.

In the early part of the year 1876 Governor Kirkwood issued a proclamation urging all the township officers that year to compile histories of their respective townships to that date, and that they be made a matter of record at the ensuing Centennial anniversaries of that year, in order that they might form a true and accurate basis for future records of advancement and progress. In accordance with this request the history of Grant and Powhatan townships were compiled in an admirable manner, the former by Mr. C. H. Tollefsrude, the latter by Messrs. P. J. Shaw and Thomas L. Mac Vey. An account of the last Indian battle in it, and a brief outline of the general history of the county were prepared at the same time by Wm. D. McEwen, Esq., who, as an officer of the county from 1866 to 1887, with the exception of two years, 1884 and 1885,—a period of twenty years of public life,—had excellent opportunity of doing this work very efficiently.

We would make grateful acknowledgment of the valuable contributions of these gentlemen to the matter contained in this volume and for their very cordial co-operation. Others who have favored us with more recent contributions are, John M. Russell, the complete history of Lizard township; Messrs. Marion Bruce and A. R. Thornton, editors of the Reveille, copies of that papaper containing their own articles on the "Aboriginal Inhabitants" of this country, "Indian Graves and Relics" by Fred A. Malcolm, "The Relief Expedition to Spirit Lake" by A. H. Malcolm and the "Topography of the County" by Lute C. Thornton; Port C. Barron, editor, for files of the Pocahontas Record, April, 1884, to April, 1891, that contained the historic papers, with one exception, of the first three contributors named and a number of others of real value, of which we may note the "Drainage of the County" by the late County recorder, Alonzo L. Thornton, and successful "Fruit Culture" in this section by the late D. C. Williams, nurseryman; Geo. Sanborn for files of the Pocahontas Times from April, 1876, to date, with their numerous articles of historic value, especially McEwen's account of the "Last Indian Battle" and the weekly letters of Hon. J. J. Bruce giving the development of the northeast part of the county previous to 1884 and an account of the "Swamp Lands" of the county. We would express our obligations also to the county officials for access to the county records, to Hon. Robert Struthers, Swan Nelson, Wm. Brownlee and the many other friends who have so kindly aided us in the work of gathering the materials for this volume in their respective localities.

The work has been embellished with the portraits of nearly two hundred of the leading men and women that have been, or are now, residents of the county, and with many beautiful views of the fine residences and buildings in the towns and rural districts. This feature was not included in the original plan of the work, but is the development of an after-thought on the part of the writer that has had for its object the beautiful setting of some represent-

ative of every family of the early pioneers in a place where they might be held in living, loving and grateful remembrance.

The fact that we have been enabled to afford this opportunity to so many persons, and, throughout the entire edition of this work, to insert, in finely printed form by the engravers, the portraits of all those who have entrusted to us the privilege of securing their plate work, and that, too, at rates so nominal as to represent merely the ordinary cost of good plates, has been to us a source of great satisfaction. The ready acceptance of this opportunity of recognition, on the part of so many of those to whom it has been extended, shows that it has been highly appreciated. These illustrations add very much to the attractiveness and permanent value of the volume.

The biographical or family sketches herein contained are confined either to those who have come into greater or less prominence as pioneer settlers of the County, or by dint of their industry, energy and perseverance have made a commendable success in their particular calling, or have specially identified themselves with some public or private interest worthy of grateful mention. No one has paid or promised any consideration for this recognition. The sketches of leading individuals have been prepared to illustrate the achievements of the early settler in a rural district and to convey to others their methods of attaining the highest degree of success in their particular calling. It is believed that interest in these personal sketches will increase as the years go by.

History deals solely with the past and its aim is to preserve the annals of the past and the foot-prints of those who have been leading actors. The leading men of all countries have been those who have best represented the ruling ideas of their times and by the aid of the people, brought them into prominence and success. It is not incumbent on the historian that he should pass judgment upon the persons and the events he reviews, and try them by his own standard; but it is his privilege to trace the origin and development of particular events and if possible, show their influence upon succeeding ones. He should be a careful observer and a correct reporter of the past. Abraham Lincoln observed, "If we could first know where we are and whither we are tending we could better judge what to do and how to do it." Every fact in history has a bearing on the future and to those who are gifted with foresight the history of the past becomes a prophecy of the future.

The loss already of the earliest records of the oldest townships and some others belonging to those more recently organized, together with the fact that a number of others have been kept at times in a fragmentary manner, made it impossible for us to obtain the full succession of officers in the various townships from the township records, the natural sources of information. The effort to complete these lists through two other lines of research involved an expenditure of time and labor that was wholly unexpected.

That this volume might be one of easy and ready reference, the histories of the several townships, including their respective towns, have been arranged in the alphabetical, instead of the numerical, or even chronological order; and the biographies at the end of the volume have been arranged in accordance with the same rule.

In view of the greatly increased size of the volume, due to the insertion

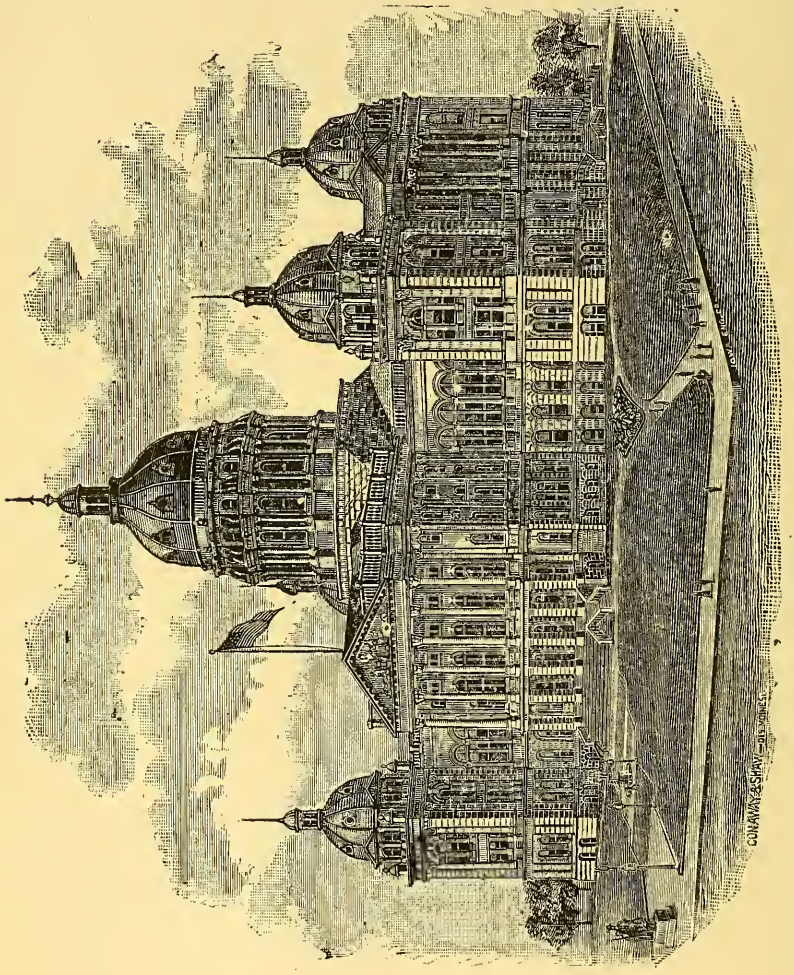
of so many pages of illustrations and a desire on our part to give it a reasonable degree of completeness, its publication has involved an expenditure of funds many times greater than was at first contemplated, and in consequence, the completed volume, instead of being presented to friends as a souvenir, as originally intended by the publisher, will be offered for sale and at a price so reasonable as to place it within the reach of all.

The strictest accuracy has been steadily kept in view in the preparation of this volume, and the highest degree of this, it is trusted, has been attained that could be expected, in view of the loss already of so many of the township records. That it is not free from imperfections we are only too conscious, yet we feel assured it has this advantage, that its value and interest as a record of the past, instead of being lessened, will be greatly increased with the flight of years.

The hope is therefore expressed that copies of this humble volume of pioneer history will be preserved in the home, the school and public libraries of the county, and that it will become the basis upon which the historian of Dec. 28, 1946, the first Centennial of Iowa, will find his record of early events for Pocahontas County.

R. E. F.

FONDA, IOWA, Aug. 1, 1898.



THE IOWA STATE CAPITOL, DES MOINES.

# EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

MOTTO—"Our Liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain."

## I.

### LOCATION AND EXTENT.

"Let me sieze the pen prolific,
While the muses guide me on,
Let me chant the song seraphic
Of Iowa, land of corn."

THE name of this beautiful prairie state, like Ohio, "The Beautiful River," is of Indian origin and signifies "The Beautiful Land" or "Land of Beauty." It became identified with this section of country from the name of a tribe of Indians, who, previous to 1840, occupied the territory along the Iowa River. The name of this tribe has been perpetuated in the name of this river, a county and a city of the State, and the latter was the first seat of the State Government. To this wandering tribe of Indians must be accorded the discovery of the fact that is now so richly realized by the sturdy yeomanry of Iowa that "This is the place"

"You ask what land I love the best,
The fairest land of all the West,
From yonder Mississippi's stream
To where Missouri's waters gleam:
'Tis Iowa, fair Iowa."—Byers.

The State of Iowa has an out-line figure very nearly resembling a rectangular parallelogram, the northern and southern boundaries being nearly due east and west lines and its eastern and western boundaries are determined by rivers that flow in a southeasterly direction—the Mississippi on the east and the Missouri, together with its tributary the "Big Sioux," on the west. The northern boundary is upon the parallel of 43 degrees, 30 minutes, and the southern is approximately upon that of 43 degrees, 36 minutes,

north latitude. The distance from the northern to the southern boundary, not including the small angle at the southeast corner, is a little more than 200 miles, and the extreme width from east to west is a little more than 300 miles. The area of the State is 55,044 square miles or 35,228,200 acres.

The whole state may be regarded as a part of a great plain situated near the center of the Mississippi Valley and having a gentle slope to the southeast where it is only 444 feet above the level of the sea. The average height of the whole State is not far from 800 feet, although it is located more than 1000 miles from the nearest sea coast. Iowa is also centrally situated in the American Republic, its southwest corner being very near the geographical center of the territory of the United States, not including Alaska.

### THE MOUND BUILDERS.

In many places, not only in Iowa, but throughout the valley of the Mississippi and its tributaries, the Ohio and the Missouri, there may yet be seen the remains of the works of an extinct race of men who seem to have made advances in civilization far beyond the tribes of the red men discovered here by the first European adventurers. These remains consist chiefly of mounds of earth, or of earth and rock, sometimes in the form of pyramids, but frequently in the form of ramparts that enclose areas of greater or less extent, and that have manifest regularity and similarity of form. The walls or ramparts of these enclosures vary in thickness and height and sometimes enclosed areas that ranged from 100 to 400 acres. They were usually placed upon elevations or upon the banks of streams and the area enclosed sometimes bore no proportion to the relative labor bestowed on them. In the State of Ohio, where it is estimated there are 10,000 of them, in one instance an area of not more than 40 acres is enclosed by circular mounds a mile and a half in circumference.

The smaller mounds, having the form of low pyramids, appear to have been used at times as burying places for the dead, but the larger ones built in the form of a hollow square or circle must have served either as temples for worship or castles for defence.

Wisconsin, the meeting grounds later of the Algonquin and Sioux Indian tribes, is noted for its large number of mounds, the work of the Mound Builders. They were located along the rivers and lake banks, and were two to six feet high and frequently two hundred feet long. There were found in the ramparts there brick built into a regular wall, and in the smaller mounds a very large collection of pre-historic implements of copper.

### MOUNDS IN IOWA. *

"The mounds in Iowa are not so large or elaborate as those found in the Ohio Valley, but they present the same characteristics and in them are found the evidences that they were erected by the same people. They are scattered over the entire State and are of two classes, elongated or oval, and round. The former are in some instances 600 feet in length and are usually flat on top, resembling those found in Mexico and Central America. Their height varies from two to thirty feet, those of small area being usually the highest, and in some instances they have contained stone sepulchers or vaults for the dead.

A considerable number of these mounds are scattered along the valley of the Des Moines river the and are usually found in groups. There are several on the banks of Lizard creek in Webster county and others in the vicinity of Fort Dodge. Some of the latter when opened were found to contain the remains of human beings, the fairly preserved parts of skulls and

*Reveille.

teeth, together with pieces of charred wood and ashes. Others in this vicinity appear to have been fortifications; they are built of earth, and their arrangement discovers considerable knowledge and skill in the use of the strategic art for self-defense.

On the second bottom of the Raccoon river, near Sac City, there is a group of eight that range from two to six feet in height and from thirty to ninety feet in diameter. Along the Little Sioux river there are a number of them, especially in Cherokee county, and in these there were found pieces of ornamented pottery. In others in Woodbury county earthen pots and jars were found covered with hieroglyphics, or figures, and many of them appear to have been glazed."

THEIR BUILDERS.

In view of the number and extent of these mounds, it must have required the labor of a numerous population that had both the leisure to undertake and the energy to carry to completion, operations so vast. The question therefore presses, to what people must we ascribe the construction of these vast works? They cannot with certainty be attributed to the ancestors of the North American Indians, for they never made any use of them, and their disinclination to work, especially in the ground, has ever been proverbial. They had even lost the story of them. Neither can they be attributed to the early Norwegian Colonists of Iceland and Greenland of the Ninth Century, for they were few in number and seem never to have passed westward of the Alleghanies.

Beyond the works themselves to which we have alluded, and similar ones found in other parts of the American Continents, no trustworthy information has come to us in regard to these Mound Builders, save a curious tradition through the Iroquois tribe to the effect that when the Lenni Lenapi the common ancestors of the Iroquois and other tribes, whose language is still widely spread among the Indians, advanced from the North-West to the Mississippi, they found on its eastern side a great nation more civilized than themselves, that lived in fortified towns and cultivated the ground. This people at first granted the Lenni Lenapi leave to pass through their territories to seek an eastward settlement, but afterward treacherously attacked them while crossing the river. This conduct gave rise to inveterate hostilities in the end of which the fierce and war-like Indians overcame and forced southward the Mound Builders, thereby acquiring their lands, but none of their refinements or arts. This tradition, though imperfect, is not wholly improbable, and is likely to be all that we shall ever learn of the people who built the mounds that now excite our surprise.

The origin of the aboriginal population of America is a problem that yet remains to be solved. In Europe it is known that man was in existence at a very remote period; and there are some facts that lend some support to the view that man has been a resident of America for many centuries. Portions of the human skeleton and fragments of human handiwork, associated with the bones of mammals which now have no existence, have been found under circumstances that imply great antiquity. In most instances, however, it is not certain that these relics are of the same age of the deposit in which they have been found.

Human skeletons and bones in a fossilized state or associated with bones of extinct mammals have been found in Missouri, Kansas, near Natchez, New Orleans, in the Florida reefs and in California. Some of these have been referred to a very distant period ranging from 10,000 to 50,000 years.

The histories of these communities generally agree that civilization was

introduced by persons who first appeared as strangers amidst the people already in possession of the country. Hence the question has a two-fold aspect, namely, the origin of the earliest uncivilized as well as that of the earliest civilized tribes. It is possible, as the traditions suggest, that people have arrived upon the shores of America from different quarters and at different times.

### EARLIEST AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS.

In relation to this subject, it will no doubt be of interest to note that the earliest American civilizations are those of Yucatan, Peru and Mexico, including the intervening points along the line of the Andes.

### TOLTECS IN MEXICO.

On the testimony of Humboldt and others, the history of Mexico is traced as far back as the year 544 of our era, when the Toltecs left their original location (Chic'-o-moz-toc) far to the north or west, and, after a long journey, in the year 748 invaded Mexico which was then occupied by wandering hordes. About the year 895 a very formidable rebellion occurred and one of the chiefs leaving the country with a few chosen attendants founded a new Toltec Empire further north, the ruins of which are yet seen near the city of Pueblo. This Toltec population later penetrated further south, but after the lapse of a few centuries, having been reduced by famine, pestilence and unsuccessful wars, disappeared from the land as silently and mysteriously as they had entered it.

After the fall of the Toltec Empire there commenced the great movement of the northern tribes toward the south, a movement that continued through the 11th, 12th and 13th Centuries. This movement consisted of a succession of migrations, and its starting point appears to have been in New Mexico and California, which region was evidently the seat of a semi-civilized Empire. Among these invading tribes there was one that subsequently rose to high importance, namely, the Aztecs, or Mexicans proper, who, living at Atz-lan, a country described as being surrounded by water, and where the usual occupation of the people was that of boatmen and carriers of wood, (believed to have been Lower California,) commenced their journey to Mexico in 1090, reached Chic'-o-moz-toc, the original home of the Toltecs, in 1116, An-a-huac in 1177, and laid the foundation of the city of Mexico in 1325. The series of Mexican Kings that commenced in 1352, was continued through eight monarchies to Montezuma, who, in 1519 surrendered to Cor-tez.

Prescott in the "Conquest of Mexico" calls attention to the following, among other points of resemblance, between the Aztecs and the nations of Europe, as indicating their European origin.

1. Their traditions and religious usages; the former including a reference to a great deluge that a man and his wife, together with a dove and some pairs of animals, survived, and the latter, the use of the Sacraments instituted by Christ, namely, the communion and baptism, the latter by touching the head and lips of the infant with water.

2. The analogies of science. Their annals were kept by means of hieroglyphics, or picture writing; the year had 365 days, divided into months, and of the twelve signs of the Zodiac, eight were represented by creatures or designs identical with those in present use.

3. Their own traditions point to a western or northwestern origin and their physical features, such as their reddish complexion, approaching a cinnamon color, their straight glossy hair, high cheek bones, eyes obliquely directed towards the temples, narrow forehead and prominent nose, all simi-

lar to the inhabitants of eastern Asia, confirm these traditions.

INCAS OF PERU.

Humboldt, in speaking of the ancient empire of the Incas of Peru, more extensive than Mexico since it occupied a seacoast of 2500 miles in extent, says, "Although they had no money, and no knowledge of iron or glass and no animals fitted for draught, yet they had utensils of copper, and, like the ancient Egyptians, they understood masonry and mechanics sufficiently to dress and move stones thirty feet in length into the walls of their fortresses, and their architecture displays a remarkable uniformity not only of style but plan. The ruins of immense structures, apparently never completed, exist on the southern shore of lake Tit-i-ca-ca that appear to have been erected by powerful sovereigns with unlimited command of labor, and their unfinished state seems to indicate the overthrow of the government that conceived them and which must have held sway over the whole of this lost, pre-historic empire.

According to their traditions, about the year 1000 of our era Manco Capac, with his wife and sister Mama Ocello, persons of majestic appearance, appeared as strangers on the banks of lake Tit-i-ca-ca and announced themselves as "Children of the Sun" sent by their beneficent parent to reclaim the tribes living there, from the miseries of savage life. Their injunctions, addressed to a people who probably worshiped the god of day, were listened to by a few who settled around them and founded Cuzco. By degrees the surrounding tribes were induced to renounce their wandering habits and give attention to agriculture and religion. Huay'-na (woi'-na) Capac, the twelfth in succession from the founder of the dynasty, occupied this throne when the first party of Spaniards visited Peru in 1520 and the empire was then still in a state of progress.

The following points of resemblance between these ancient people and the people of China, as suggestive of a Chinese origin, have been noted.

1. In both, the emperor assumed the title of the "Father of his people" and affected to have sprung from ancestors, who sprung from heaven like the "Children of the Sun."

2. Both extended an ostentatious patronage to agriculture by celebrating an annual festival in its honor.

3. Both constructed roads for the use of pedestrians and erected storehouses or places of refreshment at proper distances, on precisely the same plan.

4. The bodies of the dead, instead of being interred, in both were placed on the ground and a tumulus or mound raised over them.

5. The Peruvians made coarse pottery, an art in which the Chinese excelled.

6. Both built suspension bridges, made of ropes, over deep ravines. This is a remarkable coincidence as these suspension bridges have been found only in China and the neighboring country of Thibet.

7. Both, while displaying a little taste in agriculture, had the power of cutting and moving immense masses of stone and the same uniformity of style pervades their structures of every size and description.

These and other points of similarity, that might be named, suggest that the ancient Incas, the Mound Builders of Peru, had been imbued with a civilization by persons who derived their ideas from China.

YUCATAN.

The earliest traces of civilization in America, however, if the native traditions are to be credited, originated in Yucatan and the neighboring districts in Central America, where it is

said, "Vo-tan′ and his companions, wearing long flowing garments arrived in large ships about the year 955 B. C." They found the whole of the country from Darien to California "occupied by a barbarous people who used the skins of wild beasts for clothing, caverns and huts made with branches of trees for shelter, and wild fruits and roots with raw fish for food." Vo-tan', it is said, wrote an account of the origin of the Indians and of their immigration into America, attempting to prove "that they were descendants of Imos of the race of Chan, or the Serpent." The forest covered ruins of Mexico and Central America present so many different architectural styles that it seems very probable they were built at different periods of time and by people of different civilizations.

Iceland was discovered about 860 and was colonized in 874; and that land had been occupied by the Irish Culdees, a monastic order, many years before. Red Erik, a resident of Iceland, arrived in Greenland in 986, a colony of Norwegians settled there sometime afterward, christianity was introduced and Arnold appointed the first bishop in 1126, a stream of emigration set in and in 60 years 4000 homesteads had been occupied, and in 1261 a form of colonial government was established there under Hakon Hakonsen, King of Norway. This settlement of Norwegians became extinct about the end of the 15th century and for a period of 200 years following, Greenland was neglected and forgotten. But when the first persons arrived in Iceland and Greenland they found these most northern parts of America already inhabited by the Es'-ki-mo, or, as they called themselves the In'-nu-its which signifies "The People."

America, in view of the traditions and facts above stated, must have been known to the barbarous tribes of eastern Asia for hundreds and even thousands of years, and it is singular that it should have been visited by one of the most enterprising nations of northern Europe five centuries before the time of Columbus without awakening the attention of either the statesmen or philosophers.

These mounds, and the things found in them, indicate that their builders were much further advanced in civilization than the red man, known as the North American Indian. Their numerous fortifications suggest that they resisted the encroachments, but were unable to cope with their ferocious invaders. It is believed that the ruins of the immense temples, monuments, highways and other astonishing achievements of engineering skill found in Mexico, Central America and Peru, are the handiwork of these same Iowa Mound Builders developed to a higher degree of proficiency.

# II.

## THE INDIANS OF IOWA.

"Such of late
Columbus found the American, so girt
With feathered cincture; naked else, and wild
Among the trees, on isles and wooded shores."—MILTON.

### TWO GREAT NATIONS.

DURING the occupancy of this territory by the mound builders, who were an agricultural or shepherd race rather than hunters, game became very plenty. The Indians who relied upon the chase for a livelihood, learned of these delightful hunting grounds and took possession.

There came from the St. Lawrence region, the Algonquin or Delaware stock that embraced the Delawares, (sometimes called Lenni Lenapi,) the Chip′-pe-was, Shaw′-nees, Ottawas, Pot-ta-wat-tamies, Nar-ra-gan′setts, Illinois, Pow′-ha-tans, (a confederacy of thirty-three tribes) Sac and Fox and other tribes to the number of thirty or forty. All of these spoke dialects of the same language and occupied the territory that extends from the upper Mississippi to the Atlantic, and from South Carolina as far north as Hudson's Bay. From the northwest there came a more savage horde known as the Sioux (Soo) or Dakota (allies as they called themselves) families that included the Dakotas proper, the Assiniboin (rebels because they withdrew from the confederacy about 1600 and settled in the Assiniboin river district,) the Win-neba′-goes, (parent stock of the Iowas, Kansas, Quappas or Arkansas, Omahas, Osages and other tribes of the lower Missouri district,) and others whose domain extended over the western prairies between the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains and from the Sas'katch′-a-wan to the Red river of Texas.

These two great streams of savages came first against each other in the valley of the upper Mississippi and then turned southward. The Algonquins from the east seem to have outflanked the Sioux and began to occupy that part of Iowa that lies south of a line extending from the mouth of the Iowa river in Louisa county, to the mouth of the Big Sioux near Sioux City; and the Sioux occupied the territory north of this line.

### I—THE ALGONQUINS.

The Algonquins were represented on Iowa soil by the Chippewas from the Lake Superior region, the Sac and Fox tribes from the vicinity of Green Bay, Wisconsin; the Ottawas and Pottawattamies from the country south of the Great Lakes, and the Illinois from the Illinois river district.

The Chippewas were a powerful tribe that ranged formerly over most of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota and were constantly at war with the Sioux and others of their neighbors. They took sides with the English in the Revolutionary war of 1776

and again in 1812. They number at present about 20,000 and are located on thirteen reservations in the above named states and are making gratifying progress in civilization.

The Ottawas in 1650 were driven by the Iroquois, (at one time the most powerful confederation of Indians on the American continent and sometimes called the "Six Nations,") beyond the Mississippi only to be forced back a little later by the Sioux. They then settled near Mackinaw, Michigan. They aided the French in their war with Great Britain in this country, known as the French and Indian War of 1754, and aided the English in the Revolutionary War. The tribe has been reduced to a mere handful and they have been moved to Indian Territory.

The Pottawattamies were driven from Michigan into Wisconsin by the Iroquois. They were allied with the French in their wars against the Iroquois and participated in the Indian conspiracy led by Pontiac, chief of the Ottawas, who besieged the city of Detroit for eleven months in the year 1769. In the wars of the colonists with Great Britain they aided the latter. In 1838 most of them were removed to a reservation in Kansas. Most of these became citizens and abandoned the tribal relation. Of the others, some are in Kansas, some in Indian Territory and the remainder became wanderers.

The Sac and Fox tribes were united about the beginning of this century. They originally occupied the southern part of Wisconsin, especially the Fox river district, and also the Rock river district in Illinois. In 1832 they were conducted across the Mississippi and united with the Iowas. A little later all were removed to the Sac river district, Missouri, but subsequently were located on special reservations, one in Indian Territory, the other in Tama Township, Tama County, Iowa. The latter is a part ofthe original hunting ground of the Iowas. These Indians number about 450, and this year (1898) have harvested for their own support, 1,000 bushels of wheat, 2,000 bushels of oats and 20,000 bushels of corn.

II—THE SIOUX (SOO) OR DAKOTAS.

The Sioux or Dakotas, the other great family, were represented in Iowa by the Dakotas proper, from the upper Mississippi region, the Winnebagoes from the country west of Lake Michigan, the Iowas identified with the Iowa River district, and the Otoes (now united with the Missouries,) the Omahas, Sissetons and Yanktons.

The Omahas after a fatal visitation of small pox that greatly reduced their numbers, wandered westward to the Niobrara river and together with the Otoes have been located on reservations in eastern Nebraska.

The Yanktons in 1803, when Lewis and Clark made their remarkable tour of discovery through the northwest, were found in northwest Iowa. The description given by them of these Yanktons is that they were "strong, well-proportioned, bold and dignified." They found a brotherhood among them consisting of a chosen few, the bold, athletic ones, who vowed they would never say die or give up a purpose formed, for anything. They camped and held their pow-wows separate from the balance of the tribe. In council their word was law. While making a trip to the Black Hills they met the Kites, and eighteen of the twenty-two that formed this brotherhood, licked the dust in an engagement that ensued.

The Sioux nation, for many years, has been the most powerful of all the Indian tribes of North America. The chiefs and warriors of this tribe have been noted for their "fine physique, great personal courage and great skill in warfare." Though slow to adopt civilization their intellectual powers

compare favorably with those of most other tribes. Their number at present is about 40,000, divided into twenty-one sub-tribes that are more or less independent of each other. Their reservations include 108,450 square miles and they range over most of the unsettled portion of the Dakotas, eastern Montana and north-eastern Wyoming.

The history of the Sioux has, from the first, been one of war, and their name a terror to their Indian neighbors, as well as to the whites. In their progress toward the east they encountered the Chippewas, who at that time formed a tribe sufficiently powerful to cope with them. After a long continued warfare with the Chippewas they were driven back into Minnesota.

In 1857 a band invaded the settlements along the Little Sioux river in this state committing depredations at first, but murder at Lake Okoboji and vicinity, known as the Spirit Lake Massacre. Again in 1862 the bands in Minnesota fell upon the white settlers and a terrible massacre ensued. As a result of these outbreaks they were placed on reservations in the Dakotas.

The bands inhabiting the country farther west were in a state of almost constant hostilities with the whites until 1877 and the protection of the border settlements required almost constant presence of large bodies of troops. In 1875 and 1876, the chief, Sitting Bull, at the head of a large body of warriors maintained a successful resistance against all the troops that were brought against him and finally escaped across the boundary line into the domain of Canada with the bulk of his followers.

The Winnebagoes at the time of the advent of the whites, formed the vanguard of the eastward migration of the Sioux and were found in the vicinity of Winnebago Lake and Green Bay, Wisconsin. They also aided the French in their early wars with the English, and the latter in the time of the Revolution and the war of 1812.

The Winnebagoes, some time previous, or about the time of their removal to Iowa, seceded from the Confederacy of the Sioux and became the allies of the Sac and Fox tribe. This placed them on bad terms with the Sioux, their neighbors on the north, in the northeastern part of Iowa, and trespassing on each others' hunting grounds afforded pretext for continued war between them. To remedy this difficulty, on the 15th of July, 1830, the United States Government entered into a treaty with the above named tribes by which each of them ceded to the Government a strip of land twenty miles in width along their line of division from the Mississippi, (vicinity of Prairie du Chien,) in a southwesterly direction to the mouth of the Boone or head waters of the Des Moines river. This strip, forty miles in width, was called the "neutral ground" and both parties were to have the privilege, in common, of hunting and fishing upon this broad division line.

### THE BLACKHAWK WAR.

"Far from the tumult fled the roe,
Close in her covert cower'd the doe,
Till, far beyond her piercing ken,
The hurricane had swept the glen."

For a number of years previous to 1825 the Winnebagoes and their neighbors, the Sac and Fox tribe, had possession of and worked the lead mines in southern Wisconsin. These mines had been known from the earliest days of exploration by the French, and had attracted a mining population of considerable extent. The encroachments of the whites led to hostilities with the Winnebagoes in 1828 and as a result the entire lead region was ceded to the government and the Indians agreed to occupy the territory west of the Mississippi.

These Indians were reluctant to

leave their villages and the hunting grounds they had occupied for several generations, and their removal by the government was immediately followed by the Black Hawk War of 1832.

Black Hawk was a brave and noted chief of the Sac and Fox who aided the British at Detroit in the War of 1812, and, until he was completely subdued, never had a friendly feeling toward the government of this country. The principal village of his tribe was located on the Rock River, three miles above its mouth or near the present city of Rock Island.

Having been removed to Iowa in 1831 without his consent, in the spring of the following year he re-crossed the Mississippi with a band of 200 warriors and on May 14, 1832, won a victory over the first force that was raised against him. But in three different engagements with United States troops at Galena, June 24th, at Blue Mounds July 21st, and a little later near the Mississippi, he was defeated and his power completely broken. He fled but was captured by the Winnebagoes and delivered to the government. After an imprisonment in Fortress Monroe for a year, he was taken to several of the principal cities of this country that he might see the folly of contending against the whites. When released to go to his countrymen, he was deeply moved, as he passed the village where he was born, where he had lived so happily, and where he hoped to die, for he found it occupied by another and himself a wanderer. He passed the remainder of his days with his tribe in Iowa, and died in 1849.

### SIOUX OUTLAWS.

The Sioux, in an early day, had no chief. This was an unnecessary luxury with them until they had dealings with the British which required a spokesman and Wah-ba-shaw was the first to hold this position.

They were entirely different from the other families of Indians in customs, language and almost everything. Schoolcraft, the great Indian authority says, their feasts, sacrifices, burnt-offerings and supplications to the Great Spirit, etc., remind him of similar customs and observances among the Asiatic tribes before the Christian era. Another authority claims they have descended from the Tartars of Asia. They have often been alluded to as the Arabs of Western America and their fondness for war has been proverbial.

When the cabin of the white settler began to break the monotony of the prairies of northern Iowa this tribe sought less molested hunting grounds in Dakota and Minnesota, but a band of Sioux outlaws, chiefly from the Sisseton tribe continued to roam over this section of country. Having murdered an aged chief, they had been expelled from the main tribe, but had drawn strength from other tribes until they numbered about 500 at the time when settlements were first made in Webster, Cherokee and Woodbury counties. They were then under Si-dom'-i-na-do-ta, (Two-Fingers) and as wanderers moved from place to place without regularity. As Pocahontas county was slow to receive settlers, they spent much of their time in this county.

These Indians were in league with another band of desperadoes, who resided along the St. Peter's river in Minnesota, of whom Young-Sleepy-Eyes was the chief. These two bands lived in a state of almost constant outlawry upon other tribes and sometimes united in waging war against the Pottawattamies in the southwest, or the Sac and Fox tribes in the southeast part of the state. The early settlers tell of battles fought by them at various places, as at Adel, Mud Lake, Hamilton county, and along the banks of the Cedar, Skunk, Iowa, and upper Des Moines rivers, and Pilot Creek

in Pocahontas county.

INDIAN BATTLES. *

"The battle at Adel occurred in the year 1841, at which time the Sac and Fox tribe was encamped in the vicinity of Des Moines. A party of twenty-four Delawares who were returning from Nebraska to visit the Sac and Fox tribe, with whom they were on friendly terms, were followed by a band of these Sioux, overtaken in the vicinity of Adel and in the bloody conflict that ensued, there fell twenty-three of the former and twenty-six of the latter. The only Delaware that survived through concealment in the grass, hastened to the Sac and Fox village, related the terrible fate of his companions and immediately five hundred warriors under Pa-she-ta-ho, then eighty years of age, mounted their ponies, started in hot pursuit of the ruffians, and, overtaking them about 100 miles north of Adel, completely routed them, killing many, and sustaining a loss of seven of their own number.

Another battle that occurred six miles north of Algona on the east branch of the Des Moines river is of historic interest. When in 1869 A. R. Fulton visited this spot he found "portions of skeletons mercilessly indented with tomahawk marks, and other relics of the battle." His account of the battle is in part as follows: "In April, 1852, a portion of the Musquakie (Fox) tribe, then and still residing in Tama county, under the leadership of Ko-ko-wah, went north by the way of Clear Lake to what was then called the Neutral Ground. While encamped at Clear Lake, their scouts brought information that a band of their old enemy, the Sioux, were encamped over on the east branch of the Des Moines. Ko-ko-wah with sixty warriors proceeded to attack them. They arrived in the night and concealed themselves in the timber, a mile above the Sioux encampment, where, unperceived, they learned the exact position of the enemy.

In the morning, after many of their warriors had gone on a hunt, they swooped down upon the unsuspecting Sioux when they were not prepared to make a successful resistance. For a short time the conflict was desperate, but the advantage was all on the side of the attacking party, and the Sioux were completely vanquished. Sixteen of them were killed, including some women and children. The Musquakies lost four braves. They charged into the village after the first fire and a noted warrior was killed by a squaw, who sent two arrows through his body. But few of the Sioux warriors escaped and all their dead were left unburied. After the fight the Musquakies hastily returned to their village in Tama county."

Si-dom-i-na do-ta's band was engaged in battle with the Pottawattamies at Twin Lakes and on the South Lizard, where they were victorious and the war between these two tribes was at an end in Iowa.

We next hear of this notorious band of Indians in 1848 in Webster county, a short distance south of Fort Dodge, where they notified a party of surveyors who were establishing a correction line across the state, not to go west of the Des Moines river as that was their territory. After serving this notice they departed and the surveyors continued their work, but when they had proceeded a short distance west of the river the band returned and surrounded the surveyors. They broke their instruments, stole their horses and provisions, and destroyed their landmarks, thereby convincing them they had better go no further into their territory. After this, Si-dom-i-na-do-tas' band again comes into notice by

*Reveille, Feb. 20, 1890.

reason of their frequent robberies of the new-comers who had located above Boone and were waiting for the new lands west of the river to be opened for settlement or purchase. The military post at Fort Dodge was opened in 1850, the time had come for the advancement of the whites and these outlaws could no longer prevent the occupation of the territory by them."

WESTERN IOWA INDIAN TREATY.

Western Iowa was ceded by the Indians to the United States on July 15, 1830. The Sac, Fox, Western Sioux, Omaha, Iowa and Missouri Indians sold this large tract of land to the Government and in consideration therefor, they received as follows: Sacs, $3,000; Foxes, $3,000; Sioux, $2,000; Yankton and Santee bands of the Sioux, $3,000; Omahas, $2,500; Otoes and Missouris, $2,500; total, $16,000. This amount was paid to the Indians in annual installments for ten years, and provision was made for farm implements for the Indians and schools for their children.

This treaty was negotiated and completed on behalf of the Government by William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and Col. Willoughby Morgan, of the first United States Infantry. The boundaries described in the treaty were as follows: "Beginning at the upper fork of the Des Moines river, and passing the sources of the Little Sioux and Floyd rivers, to the fork of the first creek that falls into the Big Sioux river, or Calumet, on the east side; thence down said creek and Calumet river to the Missouri river, thence to the Missouri state line above the Kansas; thence along said line to the northwest corner of the state; thence to the high lands between the waters falling into the Missouri and Des Moines, passing to said highlands along the dividing ridge between the forks of the Grand river; thence along the highlands that form the dividing ridge, separating the waters of the Missouri from those of the Des Moines, to a point opposite the source of the Boyer river, and thence in a direct line to the upper fork of the Des Moines river, the place of beginning."

This treaty went into effect on February 24, 1831, by proclamation and the settlement by the whites began at once, though at first but few families had the daring to take up their homes in this wild country at that time.

At the time of this sale western Iowa abounded in buffalo, elk and deer, and the streams abounded with fish. The Indians lived off the game and were loath to give up their fine hunting grounds. They made no further claim to the lands after the treaty, but there were frequent outbreaks of the different tribes, and several times it became necessary to call the Federal Troops to the assistance of the organized companies of pioneers. Reservations were set aside for the Indians, but it was with considerable trouble for many years that they were kept within bounds.

The location of troops at Fort Dodge in 1850 awed the Indians in the northern part of the state and settlers east of the river were not molested, but in 1853 the troops were unwisely removed and the Indians very soon afterward inaugurated a reign of terror among the settlers as far east as the Cedar river.

# III.

## THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE AND PRELIMINARY EVENTS.

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its Way."

### I—REMOVAL OF FORT DODGE MILITARY POST.

WHEN the military post was established at Fort Dodge in 1850 the Indians deserted the east side, and the majority of them fell back from ten to twenty miles on the west side of the Des Moines river to a region which at that date was as yet comparatively unexplored, an Indian territory. Although they were occasionally seen on the opposite side of the river, apparently to observe the movements of the troops, it was nearly nine months before any intercourse could be had with them. By the treaty of 1851 they ceded the last of their lands in Iowa to the Government, but as in the case of previous treaties, they were permitted to occupy them for hunting and fishing until the arrival of white settlers upon the domain thus ceded. In 1852 some robberies were reported on the Boyer river and a detachment of troops from Fort Dodge overtaking the culprits, held Ink-pa-du-ta and Um-pa-sho-ta, two of the chiefs, a few days, until the stolen property was returned.

In the summer of 1853 the garrison at Fort Dodge was transferred further north to a new post on the Minnesota river in Minnesota. On the removal of this garrison, Major William Williams, who had been a member of it, remained, and in partnership with John Lemp, purchased from the state of Iowa the section of land on which the garrison had been stationed; and in March of the following year, 1854, platted thereon the town site of Fort Dodge, at which time, there were on the ground, only two other men, James B. Williams and John M. Hefley, and one family, that of Wiliam Miller, besides himself.

After the removal of the troops the Indians became more impudent and annoying in their depredations, and for the protection of the frontier settlers, who now began to arrive in considerable numbers, Governor Hempstead, in 1854, and also his successor Governor Grimes, empowered Major Williams to keep them in check, and to raise men for this purpose if necessary. The roving bands that inhabited this portion of Iowa became very friendly to the Major, his word to them was law, and he succeeded in keeping them peaceably disposed until Henry Lott, a desperate character of Webster county, waylaid and shot Si-dom'-i-na-do-ta, chief of the Sissetons or Sioux out-laws, and murdered his squaws and children.

### II—MURDER OF SI-DOM'-I-NA-DO-TA.*

"Twas not as when, in rival strength,
Contending nations meet,
Or love of conquest madly hurls
A monarch from his seat."

"Henry Lott, as the first settler,

*Centennial History of Webster county.

erected the first cabin in Webster county near the mouth of the Boone river, where in 1846, he was found by the pioneers "selling whiskey to the Indians, stealing their ponies and running them off to the south." In his dealings with the Indians he was so unfair that they finally became suspicious of him, threatened his life, and in the winter of 1846 drove him from his cabin, but did not meddle with his family. His two sons, fearing for the safety of their father, followed him, became lost, separated, and one was frozen to death near Elk Rapids. In November, 1853, he and his son began to occupy a claim near Lott's creek in Humboldt county and laid in as a winter's supply—three or four barrels of whiskey and some goods, as he said, "with a view of trading with the Indians."

In January, 1854, Lott and his son went to the camp of the old chief, Si-dom-i-na-do-ta, who was then living on the creek a mile west of Lott's cabin, and telling him there was a drove of elk feeding on the bottom lands, induced the old Indian to mount his pony and go with them. Lott and his son followed, and when a safe distance from his camp, treacherously shot and killed him, and that night, disguised as Indians, attacked the chief's wife, his mother and six children, and murdered all but two, a little girl aged ten, who hid in the bushes, and a boy of twelve years, whom they thought they had killed, but who regained consciousness and recovered."

The murderded chief and family were discovered about ten days after the tragedy by a party of Indians, living on Lizard creek, who, starting to hunt, called on their way and expected to see their friends. They found the little boy and girl and reported the affair at Fort Dodge. The settlers, on making an investigation, found also that the cabin of Lott had been burned and that he and his son, taking with them the pony of the Indian chief, had left for parts unknown. At a coroner's inquest, the jurymen being Indians, the children so testified and the jury so decided, that the chief and his family had been murdered by Lott and his son (or step-son?). Subsequently the report became current that Lott had been killed on the plains on the way to the Pacific coast.

After this outrage, and especially in view of the fact that Lott had not been captured and punished, the Indians became sullen and suspicious, and in fact behaved in such a manner as to cause all the settlers to fear that they would retaliate on the whites. For some time they threatened the whites with destruction if they did not capture Lott and give him up to them. The only course possible was to promise them he should be taken and continue manifest efforts to capture him until they had time to prepare for defence.

### III—THE GRINDSTONE WAR.

About this same period, an incident of real interest occurred in the vicinity of Clear Lake that finds a place in the annals of that period under the title of the "Grindstone War," that led to the abandonment for a time of the frontier and spread alarm far into the settlements.

A party of Indians were passing the cabin of a settler by the name of Dickerson on a begging expedition and seeing a handsome rooster, a young redskin in chasing it around the premises in the effort to capture it, knocked over the grindstone, broke it to pieces and started off with the largest piece of it. Dickerson followed him, jerked the grindstone away, sent the Indian sprawling on the ground and when he rose knocked him insensible with a piece of the grindstone. The Indians demanded $100 in reparation, but were for the time appeased by Mrs. Dickerson giving them what money she had

($6.00), some quilts and other articles.

The day following, the settlers at Clear Lake, Mason City and vicinity, to the number of twenty-five, mounted and well armed, determined to drive the Indians out of that section. The latter awaited the onset until they were within gun-shot, when the chief advanced with a flag of truce in one hand and a great pipe—the pipe of peace—in the other. The articles received of Mrs. Dickerson were returned, the pipe of peace was mutually smoked; but the treaty so unexpectedly made did not allay the fears of the settlers, all of whom were seized with a panic soon after and fled for a short time as far east as Nora Springs.

### IV—OTHER EVENTS. *

"In the summer of 1855, settlers began to push their way up both branches of the Des Moines river and the Lizard fork from Fort Dodge. Their pre-emptions were made where groves dotted these streams, that timber might be obtained for erecting rude homes and for fuel. The foundations of many pioneers' homes were made that season, though a majority of the founders did not remain, but returned with their families and effects the following spring to make their permanent homes. It was during this influx that Pocahontas county received its first settlers. Some settlers, more venturesome than others, journeyed along the Lizard to its headwaters, crossed over to the Little Sioux and located their claims at or near what is now Sioux Rapids.

The winter that followed was one of remarkable severity, but with the return of the warm spring sun and the disappearance of the snow there came those conditions that were so peculiar to this section in early days. Spring in those days came as a pardon from the Great Executive of the Universe, releasing prisoners from their impregnable walls of snow, causing general rejoicing and a desire to gambol even as the lambs. Such was the spring of 1856, and the return of those who had visited the country the previous summer, together with the new-comers, inaugurated a veritable boom.

This was the year when settlements were made in northwestern Iowa on a permanent basis. From every patch of timber along the streams came the sound of the axe as it was sturdily plied in felling timber for the log cabin, or in cutting crotched poles with which to make a shelter for a few cattle. It was during this summer that the banks of the beautiful Iowa lakes, known as Spirit and Okobojis, became dotted with a few cabins. It was late when these settlers arrived, and with hard work they barely had time to erect their homes before a winter set in that was a winter, indeed. Northwestern Iowa had become generally settled this season, and yet during the severe winter the settlers were as isolated as if separated by mountains of granite.

During the time of these settlements, Ink-pa-du-ta's band of Indians occasionally made their appearance and usually frightened timid settlers, but no general scare was inaugurated. The greater part of their time was spent on the plains of Dakota, whither they had followed the buffalo and other game. In February, 1857, this band of Indians appeared on the Sioux in the northwestern part of Woodbury county, and a quarrel was precipitated with the whites, but with no serious results. The Indians claimed to be on a hunting expedition, but doubtless their real object was to beg, rob and plunder. They were sullen and abusive as they passed up the Little Sioux, and doubtless the lives of several families were saved by the exercise of forbearance.

In Buena Vista county they robbed

*By A. H. Malcolm, a resident of Clinton Township. a reprint from the Reveille, March 19, 1896.

the house, shot the cattle and shamefully abused a family by the name of Weaver. In Clay county, near the present town of Peterson, their outrages on two families—Mead and Taylor—were even more bold and villianous. Finally, on March 7, they reached the Okoboji Lakes, when their pent up savagery became an insatiate thirst for blood. They had found their rich hunting grounds pre-empted and no doubt felt that they were being driven to the land of the setting sun. Ink-pa-du-ta, brother and successor as chief of Si-dom-i-na-do-ta, doubtless saw an opportunity to strike a last terrible blow at the whites and thereby avenge the death of his brother and mother before quitting the soil of Iowa."

MURDERS AT LAKE OKOBOJI, MARCH 8, 1857.*

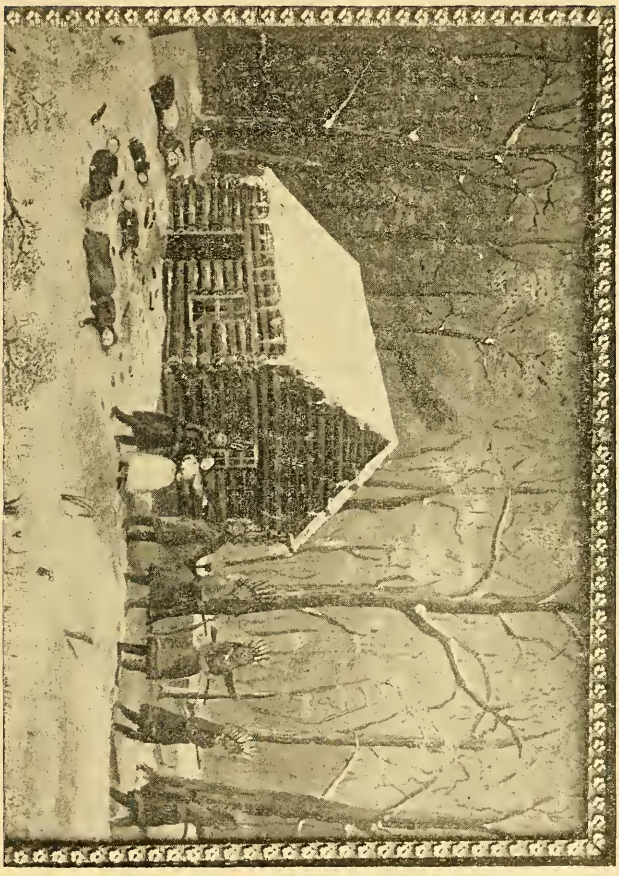
"Oh, bloodiest picture in the book of time;
Sarmatia fell, unwept, without a crime."

"On the morning of March 8, just as the Gardner family were about to breakfast, an Indian entered the cabin. He professed friendship and the Gardners shared their breakfast with him. He was soon followed by several more with their squaws and papooses, led by Ink-pa-du-ta himself. The family shared their scanty stores with all these hungry visitors. After they had eaten they began a series of insolent and menacing interferences with the family and their household goods. One demanded ammunition and when Mr. Gardner was taking some from a box to give him, he snatched the box; another attempted to take the powder horn from the wall, but was prevented by Mr. Luce, a son-in-law of Mr. Gardner.

The Indians staid about the house until nearly noon, and finally left, after shooting some of the cattle and driving others before them. They went in the direction of the Mattock cabin, near which was the cabin of three young men, Dr. Harriot and Messrs. Granger and Snyder. In the judgment of Mr. Gardner, who had learned something of Indian character by his experience with them while living at Clear Lake, there was no longer any doubt as to the hostile purpose of the Indians. The situation was hastily discussed, and at the request of Mr. Gardner, the two young men at his home, Luce and Clark, started for the homes of the other settlers to notify them of the danger and summon them to the home of Mr. Gardner for mutual defence. They never returned from this perilous mission and their bodies were found on the lake shore the following summer.

About an hour after they had gone, several gun shots were heard by the Gardners in quick succession, and in the direction of the Mattock cabin. This convinced them that the work of of death had begun. Later they discovered several Indians approaching the cabin. The impulse of Mr. Gardner was to barricade the door and sell his life as dearly as possible. But his wife, feeling the hopelessness of any attempt at defense dissuaded him with the argument that if there was any hope for the family, it was in trying to conciliate them. Meanwhile, they reached the house and coming in, asked for flour, and when Mr. Gardner turned to get it, they shot him through the heart. Then one leveled a gun to shoot Mrs. Gardner. Mrs. Luce, her daughter, grabbed the gun and pulled it down, when the Indians seized both mother and daughter and beat them to death with the butts of their guns. Then they snatched the helpless babe of Mrs. Luce from the arms of the girl of thirteen,—now Mrs. Abigail Gardner Sharp,—to whom were clinging with the instinct of terror, not only the babe, but her six-year-old brother and another little child of Mrs. Luce. Snatching all

*Ex-Gov. C. C. Carpenter, in Midland Monthly, July, 1895.



**The Massacre at the Gardner Home—Abbie Taken Captive.**

Mrs. Sharp's Recollection of the Tragedy, as Embodied by her in an Oil Painting.—Midland Monthly.

three of these helpless little ones from the dazed and paralyzed girl, they carried them outside the house and beat them to death with sticks of wood. They ransacked the cabin, taking such things as curiosity or their wants prompted, and then led away Abigail, a helpless captive, from this appalling scene to the Mattock cabin.

At the Mattock cabin the dead bodies of the family were found scattered over the ground, the cabin was in flames and two of the household had been left to perish in the fire. Here there had been an attempt at defense, but they had become conscious of their danger too late for organization. Near the house Dr. Harriott was lying dead, his gun still being in his hands. Snyder, also dead, was lying in the vicinity, indicating that when the attack was made upon the Mattock family, these two young men had, undoubtedly, crossed the straits to aid in the defense of their friends and had died with their faces to the foe. It was now evening and with savage intuition they celebrated the carnage of the day with an Indian war-dance at this place.

MURDERS AT EAST OKOBOJI, MARCH 9.

The next morning the savages, with appetites sharpened for blood, sallied forth on the war path for the cabins on the east side of East Okoboji. Here were living the families of Howe, his son-in-law, Alvin Noble, and Thatcher with whom was stopping a young man Ryan, another son-in-law of Mr. Howe, and all were entirely ignorant of the fate of their neighbors and of the presence in the neighborhood of Ink-pa-du-ta and his band.

Mr. Howe, having started on an errand to the Gardner cabin, was met and shot a short distance from his home, and his head severed from his body. The savages then went to the cabin and murdered the remainder of the family, comprising his wife and six children, a young man, a young woman and four younger children.

They next visited the Noble cabin, in which were Noble, his wife and infant child, his brother-in-law Ryan, and also Mrs. Thatcher and infant child. As usual they feigned friendship on entering the house, and as soon as opportunity was afforded they shot both Noble and Ryan. Seizing the two infant children from their mothers' arms, they dashed their brains out against a tree at the door. After plundering the house, shooting several of the cattle and killing the poultry, they left with their booty, dragging the two helpless and horrified women—Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Thatcher—into captivity. On the route to their camp, which was near the Mattock place, they stopped at the cabin of the Howes where Mrs. Noble was still more horrified on seeing the dead bodies of her mother, brothers and sisters.

MARBLE GROVE, SPIRIT LAKE, MARCH 11

On the tenth of March they moved westward across West Okoboji, and the next day northward to Marble Grove at Spirit Lake. Here another opportunity presented itself to slake their thirst in blood. Living alone, far from neighbors, were these two young people, Mr. and Mrs. Marble. Before they were aware of the presence of a human being besides themselves, the Indians were in and around their cabin. As usual they pretended to be friends and made signs of good will. They invited Marble out to shoot at a mark. After a few shots, when his gun was empty, the target fell and they motioned him to set it up. His wife sitting at a window, with a woman's instinct divined their purpose, and, as she suspected, when he turned his back to set up the target, they shot him through the heart. His wife in horror sprang from the house to run to his relief, but was led to their camp a captive. Before leav-

ing Marble's Grove they again repeated the fiendish orgies of the war dance.

AT SPRINGFIELD, MINNESOTA.

After these events, the Indians moved northwestward with their four captives and booty. On March 26th, they were encamped at Heron Lake, about fifteen miles northwest of Springfield, Minnesota, and thither they started early in the morning of that day.

Their arrival here was, in some measure, anticipated. The day on which they had visited the Howe and Noble cabins, Morris Markham had gone fifteen miles east, to the Des Moines river, for a stray yoke of oxen. Returning to the Gardner cabin late in the evening and finding it a scene of destruction, he believed it to be the work of Indians and started for the Mattock place, where he was diverted from running into the Indian camp—located within the timber and brush—by the barking of the Indian dogs. Thence he hastened to the Howe and Noble cabins—the latter his own home—only to find them desolate, or strewn with the mangled remains of former friends. Having traveled thirty miles that day, without food or rest, he remained in the timber until daylight and then hastened to Springfield, eighteen miles north, where, half-frozen and half-starved, he delivered his startling message.

On hearing Markham's story, several families assembled at the home of James B. Thomas, (father of Sylvester P. Thomas, of Havelock,) the largest home in the place and resolved to defend themselves to the end. They also dispatched two young men, Henry Tretts and Mr. Cliffen, to Fort Ridgely for troops. At first there were twenty-two persons, old and young, in the Thomas house, and here most of them remained for seventeen days.

About three o'clock on the afternoon of March 26th, a little eight year old son of Thomas, who had been playing in the yard, rushed to the door, saying, "the boys are coming," refering to the two young men who had gone to Fort Ridgely and who were hourly expected. Quite a number of the people in the house came to the door, several stepping outside, when in an instant there sprang from behind the stable and the neighboring trees a score of Indians, who immediately fired a volley into the group of persons that stood in and around the door. The little boy, William Thomas, who had been deceived by an Indian dressed in a white man's suit, and who had called them to the door, fell mortally wounded in the head. Mr. Thomas was wounded in the wrist, causing the loss of an arm; David Carver was wounded in the left arm and Miss Drusilla Swanger in the shoulder. But in the excitement and rush for the door, none of them realized that they were wounded, and little Willie, who had fallen unnoticed, was left outside, where he soon died of his wound.

Now began a fight for life. There were three men, Jareb Palmer, Bradshaw and Markham, that were not wounded. The two latter seized each a gun, and, knocking the chinking from between the logs to get sight of the enemy, began firing. Palmer, assisted by Mrs. Thomas, barricaded the door, pulling up puncheons or timbers from the floor to strengthen it and protect the inmates from the shower of bullets that came against it. Miss Swanger, though wounded, and Miss Gardner, a sister of Abbie, rendered efficient service during the siege by casting bullets. Mrs. Louisa Church not only assisted by loading guns, but stood at a port-hole and fired at every Indian head she could see. It is believed that she fired the only shot that really killed an Indian.

While this battle was in progress at the Thomas house, a detachment of

Indians attacked the store, killing William and George Woods, the proprietors, and carrying away their goods. Others went to the Stewart cabin, where they killed Stewart, his wife and two children, one little boy of eight years saving himself by flight and hiding behind a log. Two cabins—that of Wheeler, where there were two men, Henderson and Smith, lying with frozen limbs, and that of Sheigley, where he and his little son were momentarily expecting an attack, were overlooked and left undisturbed.

The assault on the Thomas house was vigorously maintained and as vigorously resisted, till nearly sunset, when the Indians ceased firing and were seen throwing clubs at the horses that were running loose around the stable, to drive them beyond gunshot from the house. About dark little Johnnie Stewart was seen approaching the house, creeping on the snow amid the timber; and a little later Sheigley arrived, wholly unconscious of the tragic events that had been transpiring."

### FLIGHT FROM SPRINGFIELD.

Having no knowledge of the plans for their relief, and fearing the Indians would fire their dwelling under the cover of night, about nine o'clock it was decided to leave the place. Finding a yoke of oxen left in the stable, they hitched them to the sled and the seventeen persons that were there, three of them having wounds undressed, taking no baggage and no clothing except what they had on, and leaving the body of little Willie where he fell, sadly and silently started in the darkness of the night on a perilous journey down the valley of the Des Moines to Fort Dodge, seventy-five miles distant. They arrived in the course of time, in a forlorn and destitute condition, having tarried two nights and one day at the cabin of George Granger, the nearest settler on the Des Moines, where is now the city of Estherville, meeting the Fort Dodge volunteer relief company on the afternoon of March 30th, and stopping at the Irish settlement, fifteen miles north of the mouth of Cylinder creek, on the way.

The Indians, finding that a detachment of troops from Fort Ridgely had arrived the next day after the battle at the Thomas cabin, having killed thirty-three persons at the Okoboji lakes, one at Spirit Lake and seven at Springfield—total, forty-one*—fled immediately with their four captives, Abbie Gardner, Mrs. Marble, Mrs. Noble and Mrs. Thatcher, to the country west of the James river in Dakota.

The reason why the foregoing tragic events have always been called "The Spirit Lake Massacre," when Marble alone was killed near that particular lake, is due to the fact that at this early period, this whole lake region was known abroad as that of Spirit Lake.

*Major Williams' report in History of Spirit Lake Massacre.

# IV.

## THE RELIEF EXPEDITION TO SPIRIT LAKE.

"Ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito."—VIRGIL.

"Yield not to misfortunes, but on the other hand, more bravely go forward."

### THE FACTS LEARNED.*

AMONG the settlers who had located in the Spirit Lake region during the fall of 1856, there were three men from Jasper county—Orlando C. Howe, R. A. Wheelock and B. F. Parmenter—who, very fortunately, returned to their homes after locating their claims. About the first of March following they started from Newton again for the lakes, and their trials during that journey, could they be narrated, would scarcely be believed. Their wagons were drawn by oxen, which, on good roads moved slowly but when wollowing through the sloughs barely moved at all, and yet in an emergency of this kind they made as good speed as horses and more than a locomotive that was not provided with a snow-plow. When they had arrived within a few miles of the lakes, on March 15th, their oxen became completely exhausted and they felt constrained to leave them and proceed on foot. They arrived at the lakes after the shades of evening had fallen, and the darkness was increased by the gloom of the scenes of death and desolation that met their gaze. All congratulations over the completion of a perilous journey were ended. Instead of the smiles and hearty welcomes, that they had expected from the settlers with whom they had became acquainted the previous fall, they were greeted with the stony glare from the eyes of those who were cold in death.

They arrived first at the cabin of Joel Howe, and here they spent the night. In the morning they went to the Mattock cabin, a mile an a half distant, and found it in ashes and the family murdered. These were gloomy moments for these men, and, concluding that the entire settlement had been wiped out, without tarrying for further investigation, they hastened to return to Fort Dodge, where they arrived on the evening of March 21st, and delivered their startling message. A public meeting having been called, nearly every able-bodied man attended and it was determined to raise two companies of volunteers to march to the scene of the massacre for the purpose of rescuing any settlers that might have escaped, and, if possible, to overtake and punish the Indians.

That winter A. H. Malcolm worked for George H. Rogers, on Soldier creek, east of Fort Dodge. On the evening of March 23d, he went to Fort Dodge, and receiving his first information of the massacre, learned that a rescuing party was to leave in

* A. H. Malcolm, Reveille, March 19, 1896.

the morning. Major Williams had organized two companies of men from Fort Dodge and Homer, who had elected as their captains—Company A, Charles B. Richards, and Company B, John F. Duncombe. Runners had been sent to Webster City, and on this same day, about thirty men had marched across the prairie from that place to Fort Dodge and organized by electing J. C. Johnson, captain. A. H. Malcolm became a member of Company B. and Guernsey Smith, who also afterward became a resident of Pocahontas county, joined this company. The battalion numbered about one hundred men and was under the command of Major William Williams.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED.

On the morning of March 24th, with loaded teams, the expedition started upon its long, difficult and arduous campaign. As stated before, the winter had been a severe one, but on this particular morning the weather was so mild it began to thaw. The snow was about two feet deep upon the level and elevated places and often ten feet in the hollows, rendering them almost impassable. The means of transportation consisted of three wagons drawn by oxen, and three or four horses. It became necessary at times, in order to get the wagons through the snow, to form the command into two lines, separated the distance of the wagon wheels apart, and then march and counter-march until they had made a hard beaten track. Sometimes the snow would not pack and then the entire body of men, taking hold of a strong rope, would draw the wagons, and even the oxen, through the drifts by main force. When all pulled with the strength of determination then prevailing, it took more than snow to keep something from moving. Under these circumstances they made slow progress, advancing some days not more than six or seven miles.

"The experience of camping on the open prairie, one night without fire, is well remembered. We were some distance east of the present town of Bradgate. The night overtoook us at a place where there was no timber or fuel, and we camped on an elevated spot, from which the wind had blown the snow. Our feet were wet and we pulled off our boots, wrung our socks, put them on again quickly, lest they should freeze, and then to keep warm trotted around the knoll most of the night. When morning came we proceeded to McNight's Point, where we built a fire and remained the balance of that day and night. One of the men, Geo. W. Brazee, from Chicago, was court-martialed that evening for some fancied misdemeanor. He was a droll sort of a fellow, but, as we found out, nobody's fool. He plead his own case and the incident furnished no small amount of fun for the battalion.

The next morning we moved onward, following, as nearly as the snow would permit, the dragoon trail from Fort Dodge to Fort Ridgely. The experience of each day was very similar to its predecessor until the second day after we left Medium Lake (on the banks of which Emmetsburg is now located,) when we met the settlers from Springfield, Minnesota, whom the Indians had attacked after their bloody work at the lakes. They were glad to meet relief and they needed it. They had learned of the approaching Indians, barricaded themselves in the log house of Mr. Thomas and had succeeded in beating them off. Under the cover of night, these fleeing settlers had started for Fort Dodge, four days previous, and were nearly exhausted when met by the expedition. The wounded were cared for, provisions provided and the refugees sent on southward. This occurred on March 30th.

The impression now prevailed that the Indians could be overtaken, and we pressed onward the following morning with a renewed determination. Before night Granger's grove had been reached, and it was there learned that troops from Fort Ridgely had already scouted the country from Springfield to the lakes and that the Indians had fled.

The battalion was now one hundred miles from the nearest source of supplies, and had only three day's rations on hand. It was conceded that it was useless to further pursue the Indians, and inadvisable for the entire command to go to the lakes to bury the dead. Major Williams decided to send on this latter errand every fourth man, and that the main body should immediately return.

THE RETURN, CYLINDER CREEK.

"It fell to my lot to return, and the experiences of the march homeward were terrible. The day we passed from Medium lake to Cylinder creek, in Palo Alto county, it rained continually so that the creek, which was ordinarily "a mere thread meandering through a low bottom," had overflown its banks, and flooding the bottoms one-half mile in width to the depth of three feet, was ten feet deep in the channel. We arrived at the creek about three o'clock in the afternoon, having waded through sloughs and marched twelve miles in the rain. As a matter, of course, there was not a dry thread in the crowd; and what should we do, seeing that we could not cross the creek?

Various experiments were made to devise some method of surmounting this new and unexpected difficulty. It was first decided to calk a wagon-box, two or three to cross in it, and if possible, stretch a rope over the deep channel by the help of which, it was hoped, the wagon-box might be swung back and forth over the channel, and the men and teams reach it by wading across the bottoms. This experiment was made. Duncombe, Richards and Smith tore up quilts, calked the wagon-box and when they had it sufficiently tight to use as a boat, called for volunteers to cross the creek. All were loath to try it the first time, so I (A. H. Malcolm) joined them and we crossed over, "barely escaping shipwreck in the passage, owing to the swiftness of the current and violence of the wind, which had now veered to the north." We were unable to return with our rude craft, and as our clothes were wet and freezing we journeyed on to Shippey's cabin, two and a half miles south, where we obtained something to eat and spent the night."

"Major Williams*, seeing we could not return, was urged to take the wounded refugees and the best team, and return to Medium Lake, where there were four or five Irish families, and he acquiesced.

The great body of the men on the north side of the creek began to prepare for protecting themselves, as best they could, for the approaching night. They took the top off the wagon, and, placing the front and hind wheels some distance from each other, stretched over these a wagon sheet and a tent cloth, which they had with them, and pinned them to the ground on the north, east and west. The wind was sweeping down from the north, the rain had turned to snow, a blinding blizzard raged and the cold became intense, freezing the wet clothing on the bodies of the men; in short, it seemed as if the storm king had unlashed all the furies of his Arctic Empire. Thus, without food, without fire, without dry clothing, the men huddled under their improvised shelter for the night. As the snow increased, some of the more resolute went out and banked the shelter on the north, east and west. Here they

*Ex-Gov. C. C. Carpenter, in Midland.

remained not only through the night, but through the next day and the next night, when the storm abated. In the forty-eight hours of its continuance it had bridged the Cylinder, so that the entire command, including teams and horses, crossed on the ice."

On the first morning after Duncombe, Richards, Smith and A. H. Malcolm had crossed, as the storm was raging fiercer than ever, they had fears that the boys on the bank of the creek had frozen during the night. After breakfast they ventured to their boat and found the ice on the creek sufficient to carry the weight of a man, except over the channel where the current was swift. Any effort to cross the channel was attended with a great deal of risk. As no one could be seen at the camp, and it was impossible to make themselves heard across the stream, they were very much concerned. Being the lightest in the party, it fell to the lot of Malcolm to make the effort to cross over. Taking a board found in the wagon box, he laid it across the channel and carefully crawled over. He found all the men alive, but not one of them willing to risk the ice, so he re-crossed and they returned to Shippey's cabin.

On the second morning the stream was frozen hard, the ice was strong and the entire command, that had lain forty hours on the open prairie without food or fire, crossing over, proceeded to Shippey's cabin, where they were fed and otherwise cared for. Here they remained to follow at their leisure, while Duncombe, Richards, Smith and Malcolm passed on to the cabin of Mr. Evans, at McNight's Point, where they arrived some time after dinner and received some baked potatoes that were greatly enjoyed. Leaving Captain Duncombe at this place, the other three proceeded homeward, reaching Dakota City about nine o'clock in the evening and Fort Dodge the next day; and the main party arrived two days later, after an absence of seventeen days.

### THE BURIAL PARTY.

Although the hardships and sufferings of the main command were severe, they were not equal to those of the other party, that went to the lakes to bury the dead. This detachment, having proceeded to the East and West Okobojis, buried twenty-nine bodies of the dead, marking the resting place of some with piles of stone that still remain, and were ready to return on Saturday, April 4, the morning it began to rain. The majority were in favor of returning that day and started in the early morning, leaving behind R. A. Smith, Messrs. Howe, Wheelock, Parmenter and one or two others.

The party that left found a difficult and wearisome journey before them. They met the same impediments, only more difficult to overcome, that the main command met on its march from Medium Lake to Cylinder Creek. They had to wade through sloughs full of snow and slush, and cross streams on which the ice was breaking and the water overflowing their banks. In picking their way around sloughs and looking for crossings over streams, they were greatly delayed and wearied. When the mild weather of the morning turned to a pitiless blizzard, they were still on the prairie between the lakes and the Des Moines. The darkness and the storm were so intense that they knew it would be impossible to keep the right course if they proceeded, so they stopped on the prairie about eight o'clock in the evening. The stronger and more resolute kept their feet all night and constantly aroused those who were becoming drowsy. When morning came, some who had pulled off their water-soaked boots the night before, finding it impossible to get them on, had to cut their blankets and wrap their feet so they could travel.

SAD FATE OF CAPTAIN J. C. JOHNSON AND WM. E. BURKHOLDER.

They could see the timber in the distance and started on their way toward it, but coming to a slough too deep to wade, they differed as to the best route around it, and unfortunately while some went one way, others took the opposite direction. Mr. Laughlin, who first reached the timber, gathered some dry leaves from under the trunk of an old tree, loaded his musket with some paper wadding, fired it into the leaves and started a fire. The others came straggling in, one after the other, until all had reached the timber but two—Captain J. C. Johnson, of Webster City, who commanded the detachment, and William E. Burkholder, the newly elected treasurer of Webster county, who, going by themselves, were last seen about five o'clock that day two miles distant from their companions, traveling in a southerly direction. Every effort was made to find them, but without success, and their sad fate, as they were special favorites, threw a gloom over the whole company. They perished in a slough, west of the Des Moines river, in Palo Alto county, where in August, 1868, eleven years later, their remains and the remnants of their guns were found.

After the lapse of nineteen days the remainder of the burial party arrived at Fort Dodge, having suffered greatly from exposure and fatigue. Fourteen were so badly frozen that they did not recover for nearly a year, and some were maimed for life.

THE CAPTIVES.

Those who would know the whole, sad story of the captives, will turn with interest to the "History of the Spirit Lake Massacre," by Mrs. Abbie Gardner Sharp, at present, the only survivor of their number.

When the Indians fled at the approach of the troops from Fort Ridgely, the captives were made to carry heavy burdens the same as the squaws, and, after six weeks' marching through snow and slush, oftentimes waist-deep, they arrived at the Big Sioux river. While crossing this river on a bridge of drift, that consisted of a single log a part of the way, an inhuman monster, who had previously relieved her of her burden, thrust Mrs. Thatcher into the deep, seething current of the river. By a superhuman effort, she swam to the bank, and clung to the root of a tree, a short distance down stream. From this slender refuge she was thrust back with clubs and a little later perished in the swollen current. She was only nineteen years of age.

Early in May, while they were encamped at Skunk Lake, thirty miles west of the Big Sioux, two Indians from the Yellow Medicine Agency, in Minnesota, came to the camp of Ink-pa-du-ta, and, with a ransom, secured possession of Mrs. Marble, and took her with them to be, as it seemed, an adopted daughter to their chief, but a few days later she was delivered to Hon. Charles E. Flandreau, of Minnesota, for $1,000. Subsequently she became the wife of S. M. Silbaugh, and in 1885 they resided at Sidell, Napa county, California.

About four weeks after the departure of Mrs. Marble, Mrs. Noble and Abbie Gardner were purchased by a party of Yanktons, who fell in with Ink-pa-du-ta and journeyed with him further westward. But one night, when she was about to retire, Roaring Cloud, son of Ink-pa-du-ta, came to the tepee, or wigwam, where she and Abbie Gardner were together, and, seizing Mrs. Noble by the arm with one hand and a stick of wood with the other, he dragged her from the tent in a fit of madness and ruthlessly killed her in front of it.

A few days later they reached the west bank of the James river, where now is situated the town of Old Ashton, in Spink county, South Dakota, where there was an encampment of one hundred and ninety lodges of Yanktons, a powerful branch of the Sioux nation.

Mrs. Marble and her purchasers gave full information in regard to the captivity of Mrs. Noble and Abbie Gardner. Governor Medary, of Minnesota, Hon. Charles E. Flandreau the government agent, and Colonel Alexander in command at Fort Ridgely, assisted by the missionaries, Rev. Messrs. Riggs and Williamson, now put forth every effort to get some of the more friendly and intelligent Indians to go to the camp and rescue them.

On the morning of May 30th, only a few days after the death of Mrs. Noble, three Indians sent by them arrived at the Yankton camp, and by means of a ransom gained possession of Abbie Gardner, conveyed her to St. Paul, from whence she passed to Dubuque, then to Fort Dodge and later to her friends, at Hampton, Iowa, where she became the wife of Mr. Cassville Sharp. She now resides at her father's cabin, on the southeast bank of Lake Okoboji.

A magnificent monument of granite, fifty-five feet in height and of graceful proportions, has been erected upon the site of the massacre, by the state of Iowa, at a cost of $5,000, to mark this interesting spot. It was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies July 26, 1895.

**THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE MONUMENT.**

ERECTED BY THE STATE OF IOWA AND DEDICATED JULY 26, 1895.

The spot where Mr. Gardner and his family were buried, is marked by the pile of stones in the foreground, and the place where they lay, by the monument. The Gardner cabin is on the right.

# V.

## LAST INDIAN TROUBLES IN IOWA.

"But hark! the heavy sound breaks in once more,
As if the clouds its echo would repeat;
And nearer, clearer, deadlier than before!"

SOON after the commencement of our civil war, in the spring of 1861, marauding bands of Indians from southwestern Minnesota, Dakota and northern Nebraska began to cross over into Iowa and commit depredations upon the settlers along the Sioux and Floyd rivers, in Monona and Woodbury counties. Horses were stolen, cattle and other stock killed, gardens and fields were robbed.

On July 9, 1861, two citizens, Thomas Roberts and Henry Cardua, were killed by the savages, within three miles of Sioux City. They had left the town that morning for the purpose of working a patch of potatoes, three miles distant, and when found the day following, the circumstances indicated they had been fired upon by the Indians in ambush, while returning to their team from a spring in a wooded ravine, where they had eaten their dinner. Both men had families, and the tragedy awakened fear over that portion of the frontier. After this occurrence, the Frontier Guards of Sioux City, a company of citizens of that place, who had organized for the better protection of the counties of Northwest Iowa, made an expedition up the Big Sioux river, nearly 100 miles, and crossing thence to Spirit Lake, returned down the Little Sioux river to Cherokee and Sioux City. Although no punishment was inflicted upon the Indians, this expedition inspired a feeling of greater security among the scattered settlements of that region.

### LATER TROUBLES IN MINNESOTA.

On August 18, 1862, the Sioux Indians in Minnesota, under Little Crow and other chiefs, attacked the settlers at New Ulm, Mankato and other portions of that state, killing indiscriminately, the unsuspecting men, women and children. Not less than 800 persons were the victims of savage ferocity, and a vast amount of property was destroyed. This sudden and unexpected outbreak depopulated a large portion of Minnesota and spread consternation throughout the northwestern counties of Iowa.

Two small volunteer companies of armed settlers from Spirit Lake and Estherville, going twenty miles north of Jackson, Minnesota, found and buried fifteen bodies. Returning the next day to Estherville, they constructed a high stockade of heavy, sawed timber set on its end in the ground, around the court house at a distance of twenty feet, and occupying it as a military station, it continued to be so used until 1865. The first troops that occupied it was a de-

tachment of the Sioux City cavalry, and the last a detachment of Brackett's battalion of Minnesota, but in the meantime it had also been occupied by detachments of the Sixth and Seventh Iowa cavalry. During this summer (1862) a similar stockade was erected at Cherokee, and Captain A. J. Millard, of Sioux City, occupied it as headquarters for the detachments located at Sioux City, Spirit Lake, Estherville and that place.

Gen. Henry H. Sibley, ex-governor of Minnesota, raising and commanding a volunteer force, pursued, overtook and on September 23d, 1862, won a decisive victory over Little Crow and his combined force of Indian warriors, at Wood Lake. The defeated chief, accompanied by 300 of his followers and their families, fled westward, to the protection of other powerful bands of their kindred, and left their camp, occupied by more than 2000 souls and 120 white female prisoners, to be captured by Gen. Sibley, two days later. Among the captured were 500 warriors, of whom 300 having been court-martialed and sentenced to be executed, 39 of them suffered the death penalty at Mankato, Minnesota, Friday, December 19, 1862.

### LATER INDIAN TROUBLES IN THE NORTHWEST.

In May, 1863, Gen. Alfred Sully was assigned to the command of the Department of Dakota, for the better protection of the frontier. His command consisted of six companies of the 6th Iowa cavalry, under the command of Col. David S. Wilson, of Dubuque; Brackett's and Hatchet's battalions, six companies each; and the 2d Minnesota cavalry, a full regiment, making altogether about 2,500 men.

The company of cavalry, known as the 'Frontier Guards,' of Sioux City,* became his body guard, accompanied the command in the expedition of that year, and on September 3, 1863, participated in the battle of Whitestone Hill, where 136 prisoners were captured. After this battle they were consolidated with the Seventh Iowa Cavalry as Company I. On their return to Sioux City, Captain Millard, commanding the company, was assigned by General Sully to the command of a sub-district, embracing northwestern Iowa and eastern Dakota, with headquarters at Sioux City. They continued in the service until November 22, 1864, when their term of enlistment expired.

*Red Men of Iowa, by A. R. Fulton.

### FRONTIER SOLDIERS.

The following residents of Pocahontas county participated in this frontier warfare against the Indians: William Fitzgerald and A. F. Burdick, of Dover township; Chas. Whitney and Hon. James Mercer, of Cedar; Henry Schoentahl, formerly of Colfax; Henry Hayward, of Des Moines, and Col. John B. Kent, of Rolfe.

William Fitzgerald, September 29, 1862. in Allamakee county, enlisted for three years and became a member of Co. F., 6th Iowa Cavalry under Captain Scott Shattuck and Col. David S. Wilson, of Dubuque. He participated in the engagement at White Stone Hill, September 3, 1863, when they encountered 3000 Indian warriors, and in the engagement that ensued, 300 warriors and 80 soldiers were killed or wounded, and 136 warriors taken captive. In the fall of 1864, he was with a detachment of 1,500 soldiers, that met about 2,500 Indians at Killed Deer, and in a skirmish that lasted all day, many were wounded. He participated also in the battle in the Bad Lands where the Indians made an attack on the troops while on their way to Fort Union, located near the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. He was mustered out at Sioux City in October, 1865.

Henry Schoentahl enlisted at Du-

buque October 16, 1862, for three years as a member of Co. M., 6th Iowa Cavalry under Captain V. J. Williams and continued in the service until Oct. 15, 1865, when he was mustered out at Sioux City, having served three years, lacking only one day, and participated in the battles with the Indians at White Stone Hill, Hart Mound and the Black Hills.

The 6th Iowa Cavalry, which Messrs. Fitzgerald and Schoenthal joined at the time of its organization, was recruited about the first of October, Co. A. from Scott and Clinton counties; Co. B. and Co. M., Dubuque county; Co. C., Fayette; Co. D., Winneshiek; Co. E., Pottawattamie; Companies F., I. and K., Johnson and contiguous counties; Co. G., Delaware; Co. H., Linn; Co. L., Clayton county. The regiment went into camp at Camp Hendershott, Harrison street, Davenport, about the last days of November, 1862, and was mustered into the United States service January 31 and February 3, 1863.

Colonel David S. Wilson was in command until June, 1864, when he resigned and Lieut. Col. Samuel M. Pollock, of Dubuque, was promoted. Rev. David N. Mitchell, of Cedar Rapids, was chaplain.

There was a romantic idea* existing among a number of the men, that the great majority of the Indians were the real nobility of the country; that the few who had been committing the diabolical outrages at Spirit Lake, New Ulm and other places, were the offscourings of that noble race. But the first sight of a camp of friendly Indians—at the Yankton Agency on the Missouri river—dispelled that romance and every subsequent acquaintance with 'the noble red' went to emphasize the idea that "the good Indian was the dead one."

The regiment left Davenport March 16, 1863, with an equipment consisting of one wagon, drawn by six mules, for each company, and several additional ones loaded with supplies. They were to join the command of Gen. Sully at Fort Randall, D. T., make an expedition against the hostile Indians and subjugate them.

On the route through Iowa they passed Iowa City, Marengo, Des Moines, Grove City Cass county, Council Bluffs and Sioux City, where they arrived April 25th. Here they crossed the Missouri river and arrived at Yankton on May 20th, opposite Fort Randall two days later, and at Fort Pierre June 4th, where they found a detachment of the 7th Iowa Cavalry on guard.

The discovery of the camp of Sioux Indians under the command of Little Crow and Big Head, September 3, 1863, where the White Stone Hill battle was fought, was made by the Third Battalion of this regiment, consisting of companies C., F., I. and M., under command of Major A. E. House. The savages were camped on a little lake surrounded by hills that were covered with white stones. On reaching the summit of one of the surrounding hills, this band of 300 men suddenly discovered, that in front of them and only a short distance away, were hundreds of tepees and about 3,000 Indians. They deemed it unwise to precipitate an attack until the arrival of Gen. Sully with his command, twelve miles distant.

When Gen. Sully was discovered by them in the distance, near sunset, the squaws and old men began to take down the wigwams and load the ponies with tent poles, one on each side, with a strap over the back. The pappooses were put in baskets and strapped on the poles that extended from the ponies to the ground. The wolf dogs were loaded the same as the ponies, only the loads were lighter. The young warriors, who on the arriv

*J. H. Tripp in "Three Years Among the Indians in Dakota."

al of the battalion, with a wild yell never to be forgotten, rushed to the lake and taking some blue clay marked themselves hideously for the fray, now, fully aware of their danger, undertook to retreat toward the James river. The battalion moved to the east of them to hold them in check. Then they raised their war-song and when it ceased, one of the chiefs fired the first shot, and it struck Caspar Wagner, one of the best young men of Co. F., in the forehead, killing him instantly. Wm. Fitzgerald, who stood next to him in the ranks, received at the same time a severe wound in the side.

At a signal given by their chief, the Indians rushed forth from the ravine shouting, "Get away! get away!" and throwing their buffalo robes over their heads, stampeded the horses of the battalion. By this means, and under the cover of night, many of the warriors made their escape, leaving the old men, the squaws, pappooses and dogs, all of whom, including fifty warriors, were captured and taken to Fort Sully.

This defeat was severely felt by the Indians, since they had made this camp to catch and cure their winter's meat, and the season being pretty well advanced they had a large quantity on hand, all of which was destroyed.

Charles Whitney, residing at that time in Moore county, Minnesota, at Fort Snelling, near the Falls of St. Anthony, enlisted December 28, 1862, in Co. B., 2d Minnesota. He passed first to Fort Ripley, Minnesota, where they spent the first winter, and thence in the spring of 1863 to Fort Rice, where, under the command of Gen. Sully, they tarried until the arrival of the 6th Iowa cavalry. Then they crossed the Missouri river and went through the nameless regions beyond, until they arrived at the large Indian camp in the Bad Lands, (White Stone Hill.) This camp was protected on each side by a rocky bluff, and a short distance above it was a large spring of water which, flowing out of a sand-rock, formed a large basin and thence flowed in a strong stream through the center of the Indian camp. On the approach of the Minnesota troops to which Whitney belonged, the Indians deserted their camp. Their tepees, or wigwams, were made of tamarack poles covered with dried buffalo hides. Most beautiful robes were found here and many other desirable and valuable things, but no soldier was permitted to take anything away with him. Explicit orders were given that everything must be destroyed or burned, and when after two days they departed, every wagon was searched and all contraband goods found concealed, were destroyed. Thence they moved northwest to Fort Berthold, on the north bank of the Missouri, within thirty miles of British America, and later westward to Fort Union, at the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers.

From Fort Union they returned to Crow creek, a tributary of the Missouri, and began the erection of a fort and winter quarters, afterwards known as Fort Wardworth, where there seemed to be no materials at hand suited to their needs. They began by digging a three-foot trench and throwing up an embankment around a square that was about thirty rods in length on each side, and when that was completed the men built sod shanties for themselves, covering them over with brush and earth. In these sod shanties six companies of the 2d Minnesota regiment spent the winter of 1863 and 1864. In these rude winter quarters, Charles Whitney experienced the severest blizzard of his life; one that prevented the soldiers from going out of their shanties for food during its continuance, and caused the loss of seventeen

mules and thirty horses belonging to the command at the Fort.

Henry Hayward, formerly of Des Moines township, now a resident of Rolfe, in September, 1864, became a member of Co. G., 6th Iowa cavalry, under Captain A. B. Moreland, and spent the ensuing winter at Fort Berthold, within thirty miles of British America. In June, 1865, this company returned to Fort Rice where, together with four companies of the First and three companies of the Fourth U. S. V. infantry, it was left to guard the Fort during the months of July and August, while the command under Gen. Sully was at Devil's Lake.

On July 28, (1865) the Indians in that vicinity undertook to destroy the Fort and plunder the premises. Their plan of battle covered a field two miles in extent from right to left, and the attack was made simultaneously at all points, indicating preconcerted action, and preventing the troops in one part from knowing what was transpiring in another. The operations on the field were directed by Lieut. Col. Pattee, of the 7th cavalry. Company G., of the 6th Iowa cavalry, occupied the left wing, and twelve Indians were found dead in that part of the field. The Indians were repulsed with fatal effect at all points of the line, and it was said "There is many a squaw that will bewail the brave killed on the 28th of July, 1865." A large number were killed and wounded. After one year's service on the frontier, Henry Hayward was mustered out with the 6th Iowa cavalry, October 17, 1865, at Sioux City.

A. F. Burdick, of Dover township, on October 11, 1864, became a member of Co. K., 6th Iowa cavalry, under Captain John Logan, and spent the ensuing winter at Fort Sully, Dakota territory, and accompanied the command under Gen. Sully, to the Devil's Lake region, in July and August.

Hon. James Mercer, of Cedar township, on October 28, 1864, in Dubuque county, became a member of Co. M., 6th Iowa cavalry, and spent the ensuing winter at Fort Randall, Dakota territory, and accompanied the command under Gen. Sully in the expedition to the Devil's Lake region, during the summer of 1865. Later, he spent some time at Fort Berthold and Yankton, and on October 17th, following, at Sioux City, was mustered out with his regiment, having spent one year in the service.

Col. John B. Kent, of Rolfe, in 1879, in Minnesota, enlisted in the regular army of the United States for service on the frontier, and spent the first two years in the military school at St. Paul. As a member of the 7th U. S. infantry, he served three years, 1881 to 1884, under Gen. John Gibbon, and participated in several expeditions in the northwest, traversing the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin and the territories of Colorado and Wyoming. At the time of his discharge, March 10, 1884, at Fort Laramie, Wyoming, he held the rank of First Sergeant.

On February 1, 1894, by Gov. Frank D. Jackson, he was appointed an aid-de-camp to the commander-in-chief of the Iowa National Guard, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel.

### SITTING BULL.

Little Crow, (Tah-o-ah-ta-du-ta) the Sioux chief who directed the Minnesota Massacre of 1862, met his richly merited death while making a raid with a small party in 1863, and his successor, Sitting Bull, the Bad, (Ta-tun-ka E-yo-tun-ka) became one of the most famous of the warrior chiefs of the Indians of this country, taking rank with Te-cum-seh and Black Hawk.

In 1864, when Red Cloud and Spotted Tail accepted terms of peace, Sitting Bull refused to meet the

peace commissioners and, making war on the steamboats and commerce of the upper Missouri, massacred several boatloads of returning miners and captured large quantities of gold-dust that he traded with the northern half-breeds for arms and ammunition.

In 1867 he threatened the Gallatin Valley, in Montana, and in 1868 attacked the settlement of Muscleshell, but suffered defeat and the loss of thirty-six warriors. In 1869 and 1870, he devoted his attention to the slaughter of the Crows, Shoshones and other tribes that were friendly to the whites. In 1872, one of his bands made a raid through the Gallatin Valley, massacreing a number of farmers and capturing 500 horses. In 1873, he made a night attack on Col. Baker, and the year following drove the Crows from their agency and reservation. In 1875, he captured a government wagon train on the Carroll road, and killed a number of recruits who were on their way to the Montana military posts.

He defied the government and indulged the hope he could get the entire Sioux nation to join him and he would then drive the whites back into the sea, out of which they came.

### GEN. CUSTER'S SAD FATE.

On June 25, 1876, Gen. Custer's expedition against him was literally annihilated. Gen. Custer marched up the Rosebud and thence to the Little Big Horn river, where there was an Indian village or encampment of 2,000 lodges, and immediately attacked it. With five companies he made a charge into the camp, and in a very short time every man was killed. Nothing is known of the operations of this battalion except that which was indicated by their dead bodies. The Indians received them with a murderous fire from all directions, while the greater portion of them fought on horseback. Custer, his two brothers, a nephew and brother-in-law were all killed, and not one of his detachment of 200 escaped. Major Reno, who commanded the other seven companies of his army, attacked another portion of the camp and when the Indians retreated, the battle-field which was a narrow ravine, looked like a slaughter pen. Three hundred and fifteen of the troops had fallen, and fully twice the number of Indians.

No opportunity presented itself for chastising the Indians until in May, 1877, when Gen. Miles met a force under Sitting Bull, routed them and killed fourteen of their number. After this battle, Sitting Bull and his warriors crossed to the British possessions where they remained until the summer of 1881, when he and his followers, disheartened and greatly reduced in numbers, surrendered to the military authorities of the United States.

# VI.

## SPANISH GRANTS AND IOWA INDIAN TREATIES.

"The better part of valor is—discretion."

### THE LOUISIANA PROVINCE.

THE treaty of peace between France and England at the close of the Seven Years' war, which was identical in time with the French and Indian war in America, was signed at Paris, February 10, 1763. By this treaty France relinquished her claim to the territory east of the Mississippi, and that river became the western boundary of the British Colonial possessions. When this treaty had been signed, England assigned the valley of the Ohio and the adjacent region as Indian domain, and by proclamation dated October 7, 1763, prohibited the intrusion of white settlers upon these lands. This measure, however, came too late, for a few settlements had already been made and the tide of emigration was moving rapidly to that part of the frontier.

The territory within the limits of Iowa prior to 1763 was claimed by France by virtue of the right of discovery, but in that year, with a vast extent of other territory known as the Province of Louisiana, and which included all the country from the Gulf of Mexico on the south to the British possessions on the north and from the Mississippi river on the east to the Sabine river and range of the Rocky Mountains on the west, was ceded to Spain, and in that year French power disappeared from North America. Added to her other North American Colonies, this Province gave to Spain control of more than half the continent at that time. Spain held the Sovereignty of the Province of Louisiana until Oct. 1, 1800, when it was ceded back to France. In 1803 it was sold to the United States by Napoleon for 60,000,000 francs, to prevent it from falling into the hands of Great Britain.

During the thirty-seven years that Spain held possession of it, several grants of land within the limits of the present state of Iowa were made.

### DUBUQUE'S TREATY.

September 22, 1788, at Prairie du Chien, the chiefs of the Fox tribe of Indians, who had a village on the west side of the Mississippi, near where the city of Dubuque is now located, signed an article by which they conveyed to Dubuque, who was called by them "Little Knight," a tract described in the conveyance as "147,176 acres of land situated at a place called the Spanish Mines on the river Mississippi at a distance of 440 miles from St. Louis, forming in superficies about twenty-one leagues, beginning at the heights of the little Maquoketa to the heights of the Mesquatic Manque, being in front of said river seven

leagues, by depth three leagues; the whole forming the said tract of the the Spanish Mines."

This was the first conveyance of any title to Iowa soil by the Indians to the whites, and here Julien Dubuque became the founder of the white man's first settlement in Iowa. The conveyance, however, comprehended only the right to occupy and work the mines within the limits specified.

Dubuque was regarded by the neighboring Indian tribes with great favor, and especially by the Sacs and Foxes, he having taken as a wife a maiden of the latter tribe, named Po-to-a.

### DUBUQUE GRANT.

Julien Dubuque, having in 1788 obtained from the Fox tribe of Indians, permission to work the lead mines where the present city that bears his name is situated, found his claim so valuable that he began to desire a more complete title. Therefore, in 1796, he filed a petition with Corondelet, the Spanish Governor of Louisiana and received a grant of a tract that embraced more than 20,000 acres on which the lead mines were located, and which he continued to work until his death in 1810, when they reverted again to the Indians. The latter continued to hold possession of the country in this part of Iowa until 1832, when the "Black Hawk Purchase," which included the "Dubuque Claim" with their "Mines of Spain," was made by the United States government.

### GIRARD GRANT.

In 1795, the lieutenant-governor of Louisiana granted to Basil Girard, a tract of 5,760 acres situated within the limits of the present county of Clayton. Girard was a French trader, and had been the companion of Dubuque at Prairie du Chien. He continued to occupy the land so granted during the time the country passed from Spain, and later from France to the United States. In consideration of this occupancy, the United States, July 3, 1814, issued a patent for the land to Girard in his own right. His heirs subsequently sold the entire tract for $300. The present city of McGregor is situated on the "Girard Tract."

### THE HONORI GRANT.

On March 20th, 1799, the lieutenant-governor of Upper Louisiana granted Louis Honori-Tesson a tract of land one league square where the present town of Montrose, in Lee county, is situated. On this claim apple trees had been planted by a half-breed Indian named Red Bird, as early as 1798.

### ST. LOUIS TREATY.

On November, 3, 1804, at St. Louis, four Indian chiefs and head men who were, as Black Hawk affirmed, without authority to act for their nation, entered into a treaty with the United States, by which they sold all the claim of the united nations of the Sacs and Foxes to the immense tract of country lying between the Mississippi, Illinois, Fox river of Illinois and Wisconsin rivers, comprising about 50,000,000 acres. The consideration given was the protection of the United States and goods delivered to the value of $2,234.50 and an annuity of $1,000 ($600 to the Sacs and $400 to the Foxes) forever. An article in this treaty provided that as long as the United States remained the owner of the land, "the Indians belonging to the said tribes shall enjoy the privilege of living and hunting" on said land.

This treaty it was alleged, was violated by those tribes who, in the war of 1814, took sides with the British, and on May 13, 1816, it was renewed and re-enacted with the chiefs and warriors of the Sacs of Rock river and the adjacent country.

### IOWA INDIAN TREATIES. *

1. With the Sioux, 1815.—This

*Red Men of Iowa, 412.

treaty, made at Portage, Minnesota, July 19, 1815, by William Clark and Ninian Edwards, commissioners, with the chiefs and head men of the Sioux Indians, occupying northern Iowa and Minnesota, was ratified December 26, following. It was made at the close of the war of 1812, and was merely a treaty of peace and friendship on the part of these Indians toward the United States.

2. With the Sacs, 1815.—This treaty was made September 12, 1815, at Portage, by Messrs. Clark, Edwards and Auguste Choteau, commissioners, and the chiefs and head men of the Sac tribe. This was a treaty of peace and friendship, and included a re-affirmation of the general treaty made at St. Louis in 1804.

3. With the Foxes, 1815.—The same commissioners, at Portage, September 14, 1815, concluded a separate treaty with the chiefs and head men of the Fox tribe, of similar import to the one made with the Sac tribe. In this treaty the Foxes agreed to deliver all prisoners held by them, to the officer in command at Fort Clark,—now Peoria, Illinois.

4. With the Iowas, 1815.—The same commissioners at the same place, on September 16, 1815, concluded a treaty of peace and good-will with the Iowa tribe of Indians, that was ratified December 26, following.

5. With the Sacs of Rock River, 1816.—This treaty was concluded by the same commissioners at St. Louis, May 13, 1816, and was ratified December 30th, following. In it the St. Louis treaty of November 3, 1804, was re-affirmed by twenty-two chiefs and head men of the Sacs of Rock River. Black Hawk attached to it his signature, or, as he said, "touched the goose-quill."

6. With the Sacs and Foxes, 1824.—This treaty was concluded at Washington city, August 4, 1824, by William Clark, commissioner, and ten regularly delegated chiefs and head men of the Sac and Fox tribes. By this treaty the latter for a valuable consideration sold all their title to lands in Missouri, which consisted of the northern portion of the state, extending from the Mississippi to its western boundary. By this treaty, 119,000 acres were reserved in southeastern Iowa, for the use of the half-breeds of the Sac and Fox nation, and was called the "Half Breed Tract." This tract occupied the strip of country between the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers, south of a line drawn from a point on the Des Moines river, about one mile below Farmington, east to the Mississippi river, at the lower end of Fort Madison; including Keokuk and all the land between said line and the junction of the rivers. This reservation was suggested and urged in the council by a half-breed orator of the Fox tribe, named Morgan. This treaty was ratified January 18, 1825.

7. With Various Tribes, 1825.—On August 19, 1825, a treaty was concluded at Prairie du Chien, by William Clark and Lewis Cass, commissioners on the part of the United States, and representatives from the Chippewas, Sacs and Foxes, Menemonies, Winnebagoes and a portion of the Ottawas and Pottawattamies. The principal object of this treaty was to make and preserve peace between certain contending tribes as to the limits of their respective hunting-grounds in Iowa. It was agreed that the United States should run a boundary line between the Sioux on the north, and the Sacs and Foxes on the south, as follows: Commencing at the mouth of the Upper Iowa river, on the west bank of the Mississippi and ascending said Iowa river to its west fork; thence up the fork to its source; thence crossing the fork of Red Cedar river in a direct line to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines river; thence in a direct line to the lower fork of the

Calumet (Big Sioux) river, and down that to its junction with the Missouri.

8. With the Sacs and Foxes and Sioux.—On July 12, 1830, the Sacs and Foxes in a council at Prairie du Chien, ceded to the United States a strip of country twenty miles in width, lying south of the line established in the treaty of August 19, 1825, and extending along on the south side of said line from the Mississippi to the Des Moines. In the same treaty the Sioux, whose possessions were north of this line, also ceded to the United States a similar strip twenty miles wide, extending along the north side of said line from the Mississippi to the Des Moines. At the ratification of this treaty, February 24, 1831, the United States came into possession of a portion of Iowa, forty miles in width, extending along the Clark and Cass line of 1825, from the Mississippi to the Des Moines. This was the tract that was known as the "Neutral Ground," and the tribes on either side of the line were allowed to fish and hunt on it unmolested, until it was made a Winnebago reservation, and the Winnebagoes moved to it.

9. With Various Tribes in 1830.—At the same time and place the treaty was made respecting the "Neutral Ground," July 15, 1830, the Sacs and Foxes and other tribes ceded to the United States a portion of the western slope of Iowa, the description of which appears on the 26th page of this volume.

10. With the Winnebagoes, 1832.—This treaty was concluded at Fort Armstrong, on Rock Island, September 15, 1832, by General Winfield Scott and Governor John Reynolds, of Illinois. The Winnebagoes ceded to the United States all their lands on the east side of the Mississippi, and in part consideration therefor, the United States granted to the Winnebagoes, to be held as other Indian lands were held, that portion of Iowa known as the "Neutral Ground," the exchange to take place June 1, 1833. The United States was also to give the Winnebagoes, beginning in September, 1833, and continuing for twenty-seven successive years, $10,000 in specie, establish a school among them with a farm and garden and to provide other facilities for the education of their children, not to exceed in cost $3,000 a year, for twenty-seven successive years.

11. With the Sacs and Foxes, 1832.—By this treaty, concluded September 21,1832, the United States came into possession of that portion of Iowa known as the "Black Hawk Purchase." The commissioners on the part of the United States were General Scott and Governor Reynolds, and the council was held on the west bank of the Mississippi, where Davenport is now situated. Keokuk, Powesheik, Pashepaho and some thirty other chiefs and head men of the Sac and Fox tribes, were in the council, the treaty was ratified February 13, 1833, and took effect June 1st, following.

Although this treaty was not the first by which the Indians relinquished to the United States their title to lands in Iowa, it was the first that opened up any portion of Iowa for settlement by the whites. The limits of the territory ceded in this treaty are thus described: "Beginning on the Mississippi river at a point where the Sac and Fox northern boundary line, as established by the second article of the treaty of Prairie du Chien, July, 1830, strikes the river; thence up said boundary line to a point fifty miles from the Mississippi, measured on said line; thence in a right line to the nearest point on the Red Cedar, of Iowa, forty miles from the Mississippi; thence in a right line to a point in the northern boundary of the state of Missouri, fifty miles from the Mississippi river; thence by the last mentioned boundary to the Mississippi

river, and by the western shore of said river to the place of beginning."

Out of this purchase a reservation of 400 square miles on Iowa river was made for the Sacs and Foxes, including Keokuk's village on its right bank, and it was known as "Keokuk's Reserve." Under this treaty, and in consideration of the lands ceded, the United States agreed to pay the Sacs and Foxes annually, for thirty consecutive years, the sum of $20,000 in specie, and to pay the debts of the Indians at Rock Island, amounting to $40,000, the accumulations of seventeen years.

12. With the Sac and Foxes, 1836.—This was the treaty by which the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States "Keokuk's Reserve," being 400 square miles on Iowa river. In consideration of this relinquishment, the government stipulated to pay $30,000 and an annuity of $10,000 for ten consecutive years, together with some indebtedness of the Indians. This treaty was negotiated by General Henry Dodge, as commissioner, at a council held on the site of the present city of Davenport.

13. With the Sacs and Foxes, 1837.—This treaty was made at the city of Washington, October 21, 1837, and by Carey A. Harris, commissioner. By reference to the map it will be seen that the western boundary of the Black Hawk Purchase of 1832 was very far from a straight line, and in 1837 it was proposed to make it a straight line. By this treaty the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a tract of country west and adjoining the Black Hawk Purchase, containing 1,250,000 acres. This treaty was ratified February 21, 1838, and the lands were usually called by the early settlers the "Second Purchase."

At the same time and place the Sacs and Foxes relinquished to the United States all their right and interest in the country lying south of the boundary line between the Sac and Fox tribes and Sioux, as described in the treaty of August 19, 1825, and between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, the United States paying for the same $160,000.

14. With Sacs and Foxes, 1842.—This treaty was concluded at the Sac and Fox Agency (now Agency City) October 11, 1842, John Chambers, governor of the territory of Iowa, acting as commissioner, and it was ratified March 23, 1843. In this treaty the Sacs and Foxes ceded all of their lands west of the Mississippi, to which they had any claim or title, and were to be removed from the state at the expiration of three years from October 11, 1842. A part of them were removed to Kansas in the fall of 1845 and the rest in the spring of 1846. The site of the city of Des Moines was included in this treaty.

15. With the Sioux, 1851.—In 1851, a treaty was made with the Sioux, by which they relinquished to the United States their title to all lands within the limits of the state of Iowa, that were not included in previous treaties. Under this treaty were comprised all the lands north of the Neutral Ground, east of the Des Moines river, and west of it all lands not included in the Western Slope treaty of July 15, 1830. That part of Webster county, that is west of the Des Moines river, Pocahontas and other counties of northwest Iowa continued to belong to the Sioux Indians until this treaty of July 23, 1851, when the last Indian title to lands in Iowa was extinguished and possession given two years later.

"The warrior lover woos no more
His dusky, dark-eyed forest maid,
Nor wins her heart by counting o'er
The braves beneath his war-club laid."

The Indian, who possessed the soil at the dawn of civilization, was here in his own right. He believed in the Great Spirit. He worshipped no idols nor bowed to any superior but the great "Manitou." He made no sacrifice of human life to appease the

wrath of an offended Deity. He believed in a future of rewards but not of punishments, and was ever ready and proud to sing the death-song even at the stake, that he might enter the elysian fields of the good hunting-ground. He never blasphemed. His home is where the finger of destiny points; yet his sympathies often clustered deeply around the place of his nativity and the scenes of his earlier life.

# VII.

## THE TRANSITIONS FROM DISCOVERY TO STATEHOOD.

"Arms and the man I sing,
Who, first from the shores of Troy sailing,
Driven by fate, came to Italy and the Lavinian Country;
Much was he tossed over land and sea, by the powers supernal,
While he builded his city."—VIRGIL.

### FERNANDO DE SOTO.

THE early history of the Province of Louisiana, of which Iowa formed a part near the center, is one of the most interesting chapters in the annals of our country.

It was first visited in 1541, by Fernando De Soto, a Spanish captain, who had assisted Pizarro in the Conquest of Peru, and later had been appointed by the king of Spain, governor of Cuba and president of Florida. This daring explorer, intent on finding gold, in 1539, landing on the west coast of Florida with 600 followers, made his way through pathless forests and almost impassable swamps to the Mississippi river, which he discovered early in 1541. Crossing it he passed many miles up the Washita river and there spent the ensuing winter. On his return to the Mississippi, in May or June, he died and his body was sunk in its waters.

### MARQUETTE AND JOLIET.

In May, 1673, James Marquette, a French Jesuit Missionary, and Louis Joliet, a fur trader of Quebec, started from the settlements in Canada, to find a great river that the Indians told them lay west of Lake Michigan. Making their way in birch-bark canoes to the head of Green Bay, they paddled up the Fox river to a place they called Portage—now Portage City—then carrying their canoes across, a distance of two miles, they embarked on the Wisconsin river, and on the 17th of June, 1673, re-discovered the Mississippi, the mighty stream the Indians had called the "Father of Waters." They and their companions, who consisted of five assistant boatmen, floated down the river without exploring the country or seeing any of its inhabitants, until the 25th of June, when they landed at a place near the mouth of the Des Moines river, now Lee county. Here, going ashore, they were probably the first white men to set foot on the "Beautiful Land," and, finding fresh traces of men on the sand and a path that led to a prairie, these two heroic pioneers followed the latter until they discovered an Indian village on the bank of the river and two other Indian villages on a neighboring hill. After proceeding southward to the mouth of the Arkansas river, where they were warned not to go farther, they returned, paddling their canoes against the powerful current of the river, feeling well repaid for their voyage of discovery.

LA SALLE.

Six years later (1679), the French voyager and discoverer La Salle, a man of active brain and iron will, set out from Montreal to complete the work of Marquette and Joliet. To carry the supplies for his expedition, he built on the shores of Lake Erie, not far above Niagara, the first sailing vessel ever launched on the great lakes. In the fall of 1681, landing at the foot of Lake Michigan, where Chicago now stands, he crossed over to the Illinois, and going down that river, entered the Mississippi in February, 1682. On the 19th of April following, he had reached the sunny waters of the Gulf of Mexico. There he set up a rude wooden cross on which he fastened a metal plate, bearing the arms of France. Then with volleys of musketry and loud shouts of "God save the King!" he took possession of the entire vast territory watered by the Mississippi and its tributaries. To this region of unknown extent at that time, twice as large as France, Spain and Germany united, he gave the name of Louisiana, in honor of Louis XIV, the king of France.

As stated above, this vast province was held by France until 1763, when it was ceded to Spain. In 1800 it was ceded back to France, and in 1803 purchased by the United States, and yet its western boundary was not definitely determined until the treaty of 1819 with Spain, when Florida was included and also ceded to the United States.

THE LOUISIANA PROVINCE DIVIDED.

The purchase of the Louisiana Province was a great event in American history. It was referred to as "an event so portentous as to defy measurement; it gave a new face to politics and ranked in historical importance next to the Declaration of Independence." As soon as it came into the possession of the United States it was formed into one territory, that a few months later was divided into Upper and Lower Louisiana; and the occupancy of St. Louis by the United States as a military station, was immediately followed by the important treaty of 1804, in which the Indians relinquished their title to the lands east of the Mississippi river. That year nearly all of what is now the state of Louisiana was erected into a territory under the name of Orleans, and in 1810 this territory was increased with an addition east of the Mississippi, and in 1812 it was admitted as a state under its present name (Louisiana), and with its present boundaries.

"March 20, 1804, congress provided that Upper Louisiana—that part of the province north of the 33d parallel, consisting now of Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa and southern Minnesota—should be organized into a court district and attached it to the territory of Indiana for governmental and judicial purposes." This arrangement gave rise to the term "District of Louisiana," that occurs in the early history of this part of the country, and extended from the Mississippi river to the range of the Rocky Mountains.

In 1807, for a brief period, Iowa was attached to the territory of Illinois for judicial purposes.

TERRITORY OF MISSOURI.

The first division of Upper Louisiana, to which Iowa belonged, was in June, 1812, when the territory of Missouri, including Iowa was organized. In 1818, Missouri applied for admission to the Union as a slave state. Two years of bitter controversy over her request to be received as a slave state, followed in congress, that threatened the dissolution of the Union. This controversy was settled by the adoption of the famous "Missouri Compromise," that forbade slavery in all that portion of the Louisi-

ana Purchase lying north of the parallel of 36 degrees, 30′ north latitude—the northern boundary line of Arkansas—except in Missouri.

When, on July 19, 1820, Missouri became a state, Iowa was detached and, with other territory, remained without a government either political or judicial, until June 28, 1834,—one year after it was opened for settlement,—when, because of unpunished outlawry and crime, it was included in the territory of Michigan.

### MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN, IOWA.

By an act of congress, June 28, 1834, all the country north of Missouri, that was included in the Upper Province of Louisiana "for the purpose of temporary government, was attached to and made a part of the territory of Michigan," and so continued until the admission of that territory into the Union as a state, June 15, 1836.

July 4, 1836, Iowa became a part of the newly organized territory of Wisconsin, that included the present states of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and the eastern part of North and South Dakota.

July 12, 1838, the territory of Iowa, including Minnesota and the eastern part of North and South Dakota, was organized.

December 28, 1846 after eight years of territorial government, Iowa was admitted into the Union as a sovereign state, in succession the twenty-ninth.

### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

For 113 years after the discovery of Iowa by Marquette and Joliet, it remained virtually an unknown land. In that period of slow transportation and limited reading, but of numerous discoveries of new lands, the discovery of this interior portion of the North American continent, failed to attract public attention. No effort was made to effect any settlement within the borders of what is now the state of Iowa, until the fall of 1788, when Julien Dubuque secured from the Indians the grant of land containing the lead mines, along the Mississippi, which he occupied until his death, March 24, 1810, when his lease expired.

In 1795, Basil Girard located on the Girard Tract, in Clayton county, and occupied it with others under the Spanish, French and American governments. He was finally granted a patent in his own right, by the land office of the United States.

In March, 1799, Louis Honori established a settlement upon the site of the town of Montrose, in Lee county, which he improved and occupied until 1803. Two years later this property passed to Thomas F. Roddick, and to his heirs the original title to one section of land was confirmed, making this the first and oldest legal title to lands in Iowa.

Various venturesome parties of hunters, trappers and Indian traders made temporary settlements along the Mississippi, within the limits of Iowa, from 1820 to 1830, but did not permanently remain. In 1809 a military post was established at Fort Madison, but inasmuch as it was in violation of a treaty stipulation, it was soon abandoned.

The western border of Iowa was traced in 1805, by Captains Lewis and Clark. They held an important council with the Indians, on the Missouri river bluffs in the northwest corner of what is now Pottawattamie county, and named the place "Council Bluffs." As they journeyed northward on the east bank of the Missouri, one of their men, Sergeant Floyd, died and was buried on a bluff that has since been known as Floyd's bluff, and the little river in that section has been called Floyd river.

St. Louis was founded in 1764. In 1807, Robert Fulton made his successful trial trip on the Hudson with

the "Clermont," and steam, as a motive power on American rivers, was demonstrated to be a practical force and soon had large application. In 1817, the first steamboat reached St. Louis. That trading post for Indians and hunters then passed from its primal stage to a growing and important commercial center. Steam navigation being applied on the Ohio and Mississippi brought settlers into southwestern Illinois and northeastern Missouri, and prepared the way for the settlement of Iowa.

In June, 1829, James Lyon Langworthy, resident of Galena, Ill., an energetic pioneer of Welch descent that inherited Puritan hardihood, and who, two years before being employed by the United States Government, had accompanied General Henry Dodge while negotiating the treaty with the Winnebago, Sac and Fox Indians at Portage, Wisconsin, that secured to the United States all northwestern Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin, crossed the Mississippi, at a point afterward called Dunleith (now East Dubuque) in a canoe, swimming his horse by his side, and, having obtained permission for the space of three weeks, from the Chief of the Indian village at that place, explored the whole region of country lying between the Maquoketa and Turkey rivers.

In June of the next year (1830), accompanied by his brother Lucius (father of Oscar A. Langworthy, hardwareman of Fonda, 1878 to 1883,) and others, he again crossed the Mississippi and, with the consent of the Indians, resumed work in the lead mines of Julien Dubuque, that had not been worked, except by the Indians, from the time of his death in 1810.

The first act resembling legislation in Iowa was drawn up by Mr. James L. Langworthy at this time, and consisted of an agreement regulating the claims of miners and the amount of labor necessary to hold a claim.

They continued to work successfully until the winter of 1831, when the United States Government ordered the miners to desist and remove from the territory west of the Mississippi. They obeyed and returned to Galena. In the spring following, the "Black Hawk War" occurred in that vicinity, and, at its close, Mr. Langworthy and his fellow-miners returned to their claims on the west side of the river. Their stay, however, was of short duration, for in the fall of that year they were again ordered from the west side of the river. This order was enforced by Colonel (afterwards President) Zachary Taylor, commander of the Military Post at Prairie du Chien (Fort Crawford) accompanied by his son-in-law, Lieut. Jefferson Davis, ex-rebel president.

On June 1, 1833, the Rock Island treaty went into effect and the whole eastern portion of Iowa, being thrown open for settlement, became at once the theatre of the white man's enterprise. Mr. Langworthy and his fellow-miners, accompanied by about five hundred other adventurous pioneers, crossed the Mississippi, took possession of their mining and homestead claims, made the first permanent settlement and in the village of Dubuque, near the site of the present Female Seminary, erected that same year, the first school house in Iowa.

On the opening of Iowa for settlement, in 1833, settlers rushed into the territory along the Mississippi, and the city of Dubuque was first founded. Davenport, Burlington, Fort Madison and other cities along the Mississippi were planted, from which the new settlements spread westward and the growth of the Territory and State has been rapid and steady from that time.

In 1836, three years after Iowa was opened for settlement, the population of the territory numbered 10,315. Two years later the population had in-

creased to 22,850. In the census of 1840, seven years after the territory was opened for settlement, the population numbered 43,112. Six years later it numbered 96,088; in 1850, 192,-204 and in 1860, 674,913.

The star of Empire was moving westward, the people of the timber-clad east had heard of the beauty and productiveness of this prairie-land, where a farm could be made in a season with a yoke of oxen and a plow, and were coming in by thousands to enjoy the beauty of its broad landscapes, the glory of its sunshine, the purity of its waters and the fertility of its acres. The fame of its wonderful natural meadows and the beauty and fertility of its prairies had spread not only over this country, but had crossed the seas, and the people of other countries, as well as the states in the east were crowding in to find homes in this richly inviting region of the prairie west.

### PIONEER LEGISLATION.

The first official publication in which the name "Iowa" appeared was an act passed by the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, October 9, 1829, forming the county of "Iowa" of the country south of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers in what is now the state of Wisconsin.*

The first act of legislation for Iowa was the third act passed at an extra session of the Sixth Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan at Detroit, September 6, 1834, and entitled "An Act to lay off and organize counties west of the Mississippi River." This act created the counties of "Dubuque" and "Demoine"—each consisting of one township named respectively Julien and Flinthill—from the Territory in Iowa then open for settlement, known as the Black Hawk Purchase; the boundary between them being a line running due west from the foot of Rock Island. Dubuque was named as the seat of justice of the former, while the county seat of the latter was left to be designated by its own county court. Burlington was selected as the seat of justice for Des Moines county and the first court held there was in April, 1835, in a log house on the hill on lot number 384. The laws of "Iowa county (now of the State of Wisconsin) not locally inapplicable," were extended to the two counties thus organized.

Although the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan erected the first two counties west of the Mississippi, September 6, 1834, and they were entitled to representation, no election of members to that body was held in the two Iowa counties that year, the first after settlement.

When on the third day of July, 1836, the Territory of Wisconsin, including the Iowa District, came into existence with its organic act providing that all free white male citizens should be entitled to vote, for the first time in the history of this territory was the prerequisite of tax-paying omitted from the qualifications of voters. Hence the first time the people of this section elected their law makers a property qualification to vote was not required. "In no part of the whole country east of the western line of the state of Iowa, except in Iowa and Minnesota, has it been true that the people have always exercised the right of suffrage without the prepayment of some sort of a tax." In 1836, three members of the Legislative Council and twelve members of the House of Representatives of the territory of Wisconsin were chosen by the people of the counties of Dubuque and Des Moines. The names of those first elected were as follows:

County of Dubuque:—

COUNCIL—Thomas McCraney, John Foley, Thomas McNight.

HOUSE—Loring Wheeler, Hardin Nowlin, Hosea T. Camp, Peter Hill

*Annals of Iowa, 1897, p. 224.

Engle and Patrick Quigley.
County of Des Moines:—

COUNCIL—Jeremiah Smith, Jr., Joseph B. Teas, Arthur B. Inghram.

HOUSE—Isaac Leffler, Thomas Blair, John Box, George W. Teas, David R. Chance, Warren L. Jenkins and John Reynolds.

The first session of this body was held at Belmont, Iowa county, (now in Lafayette county, Wisconsin,) and continued from October 25th to December 9th, 1836. Peter Hill Engle, of Dubuque, was chosen Speaker of the House. Congress had provided for the division of the Territory of Wisconsin into three judicial districts and the Legislature at this session constituted the counties of Dubuque and Des Moines into the second district, to be presided over by Hon. David Irvin, one of the associate justices of the Supreme Court.

The first and most noted act of local legislation was "an act to incorporate the stock-holders of the Miners Bank of Dubuque," of date November 30, 1836. The history of this bank was fruitful of incidents in the politics of the subsequent Territory of Iowa. A full set of its notes may be seen framed in the Historical Society at Des Moines.

A second and important act was to provide for "constructing a public road from Farmington, on the Des Moines river, through Burlington (Flint Hills), Wapello (Old Chief's Village) and Dubuque to the Ferry (now McGregor), opposite Prairie du Chien."

The third act divided the county of Des Moines into Lee, Des Moines, Henry, Louisa and Musquitine (Muscatine) counties, and from a strip on the south part of Dubuque county organized the county of Cook (now Scott) and attached it to Musquitine.

The second session of the territorial legislature of Wisconsin was held at Burlington, now in Iowa, November 6, 1837, and continued until January 20, 1838. Arthur B. Inghram was president of the Council and Isaac Leffler speaker of the House. At this session, Alexander McGregor appeared in place of Hosea T. Camp, deceased. A special session of the same Legislature was held at Burlington, June 11th to 25th, 1838, and Lucius H. Langworthy appeared in place of Mr. Mcgregor, who had resigned. The connection of the people west of the Mississippi with the Territory of Wisconsin terminated July 3d following, when the latter became a State and the former the Territory of Iowa.

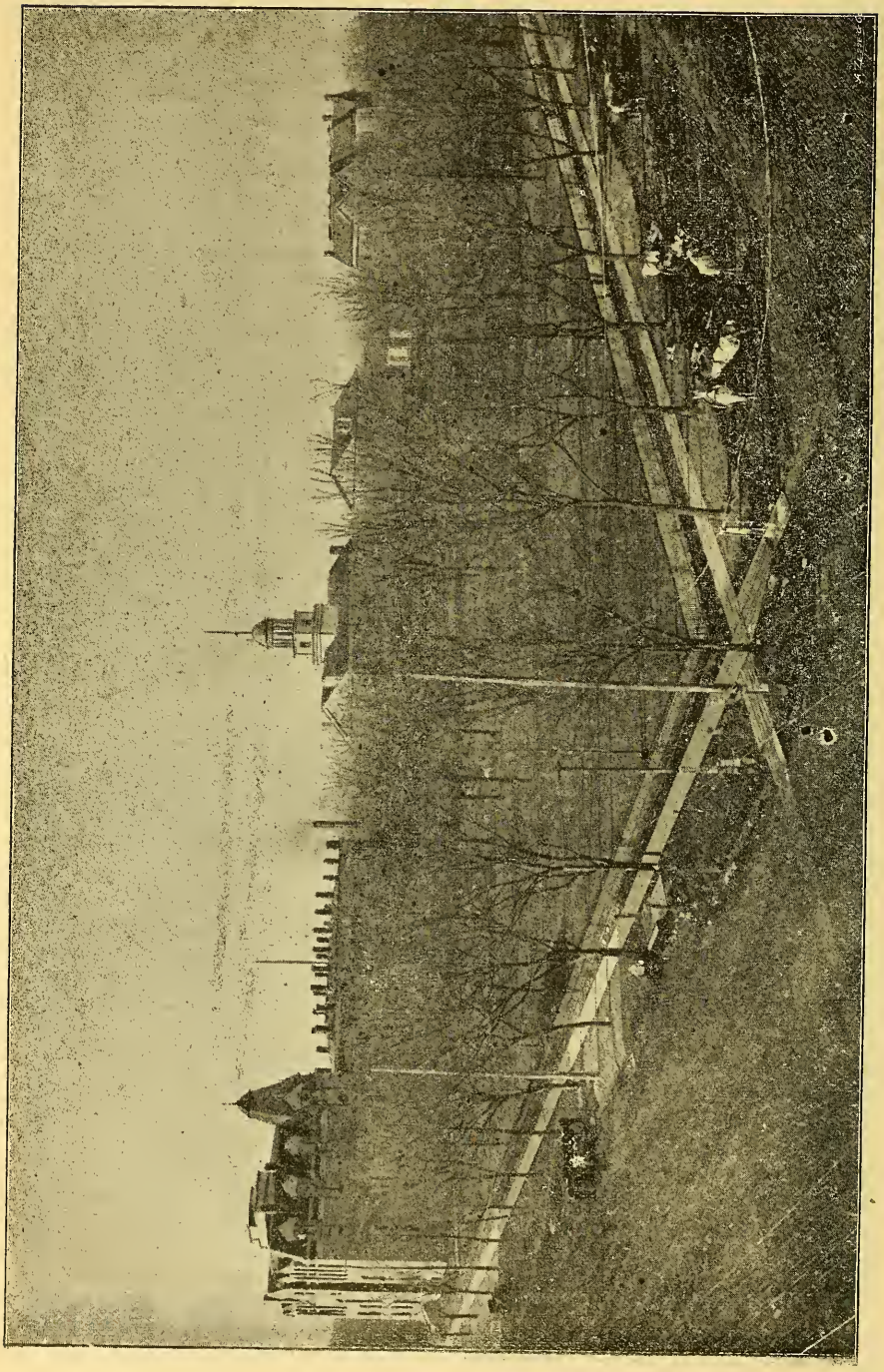
### TERRITORY NAMED.

In April, 1836, Lieut. A. M. Lea, of the United States Dragoons, published some "Notes on Wisconsin Territory, with a map," that consisted, however, of a sketch of the "Iowa District," a name he gave to the Black Hawk Purchase. In this little volume is found the following prophetic paragraph:

"Though this district may be considered, for a time, as forming a part of this Territory, yet the intelligent readers will have little difficulty in foreseeing that a separate government will soon be required for Iowa."

In three years from the time that section was opened for settlement Dubuque had grown into a village of note and on May 11, 1836, John King, Esq., issued the first number of the Dubuque Visitor, the first newspaper published in Iowa. It had for its motto "Truth our guide—the public good our aim," and for its head-line "Dubuque Lead Mines, Wisconsin Territory."

About this time a bill was introduced in Congress to divide the Territory of Wisconsin, and a writer in the Visitor, referring to this matter in an article entitled "A Vision," fancies that he hears in his slumbers the call, "The Legislature of the State of Iowa," will commence its session. These words



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA. Established February 25, 1847, at Iowa City.

served to direct public attention to the name to be given to the new Territory that was erected July 4, 1838, by the Act of Congress of June 12th, separating from Wisconsin the territory west of the Mississippi.

TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION.

On November 6, 1837, Congress passed an act to divide the Territory of Wisconsin and to establish the territorial government of Iowa. This act was approved June 12th and went into effect July 4th, 1838. This act provided for an election that was held September 10, 1838, for a House of representatives, consisting of twenty-six members and a council of thirteen members.

The first territorial officers were appointed by President Van Buren, and were as follows:

GOVERNOR—Robert Lucas, of Ohio.

SECRETARY OF THE TERRITORY—Wm. B. Conway.

CHIEF JUSTICE—Charles Mason, of Burlington.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICES—Thomas S. Wilson, of Dubuque, and Joseph Williams, of Pennsylvania.

ATTORNEY GENERAL—M. Van Allen, of New York.

MARSHAL OF THE TERRITORY—Francis Gehon, of Dubuque.

The first delegate to Congress elected by the people of the Territory was William W. Chapman.

The complexion of the Legislature that was elected on the same date was democratic.

January 25, 1836, Jesse M. Harrison, John S. David and John Claypole were chosen commissioners by the Legislative Assembly to superintend the erection of the penitentiary at Fort Madison.

January 18, 1839, Chauncey Swan, John Rolands and Robert Ralston were appointed commissioners to locate the seat of government at Iowa City.

Feb. 12, 1841, the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction was created and William Reynolds was appointed to that position, but on March 9th of the next year the office was abolished.

The Territory was represented in the 25th and 26th Congresses by Wm. W. Chapman and in the 27th, 28th and 29th by Augustus C. Dodge.

Soon after the organization of the Territory, the question of Statehood became one of discussion. In 1840, the Territorial Legislature passed an act that was approved July 31st, providing for taking the sense of the people on the question of calling a convention for the revision of the Constitution, but a majority of the people were opposed to calling the convention. February 16, 1842, an act was approved, providing for ascertaining by popular vote whether or not the people were in favor of a convention to frame a Constitution for a state government, and at the election, held August 1, 1842, the vote stood, for the convention 4,146; against, 6,868. Every one of the seventeen counties that voted gave a majority against it.

Two years later this subject was again agitated, and on February 16, 1844, an act was passed, providing for submitting the question at the township elections in April, following. At this election the people decided in favor of a convention by a large majority, the vote standing 7,221 for and 4,308 against.

This first Constitutional convention met at Iowa City, Oct. 7, 1844, and continued in session until November 1st, following. It consisted of seventy-two members, representing twenty-three counties. The boundaries of the State, as proposed in this Constitution, included a large part of the present state of Minnesota and excluded a large triangular piece, embracing more than the present counties of Lyon, O'Brien and Plymouth, in the northwest part of the state.

The boundary proposed by Congress was quite different, both on the north and west; and at an election held in April, 1845, the people, on this account, rejected the proposed Constitution. The Legislative Assembly soon afterward passed an act, over Governor Chambers' veto, to resubmit the proposed constitution at an election held August, 1845, and it was again defeated.

January 17, 1846, the legislative assembly passed an act providing for an election, in April following, of delegates to another constitutional convention. This second convention met at Iowa City, May 4th to 19th, 1846, and consisted of 32 delegates, representing 32 counties. The constitution approved by this convention was ratified by the people at an election held August 3, 1846, when 9,492 votes were cast for it, and 9,036 against it. The first election of state officers was held October 26, following, pursuant to proclamation of Gov. James Clarke, when Ansel Briggs, of Jackson county, was elected Governor, (the first of the state); Elisha Cutler, Jr., Secretary of State; Joseph F. Farles, Auditor of Public Accounts and Morgan Reno, Treasurer.

These officers entered upon their respective duties in December following. This constitution was approved by congress, December 28, 1846, and the statehood of Iowa was recognized.

This first constitution continued in force until the year 1857, when a third constitutional convention was held at Iowa City, January 19th to March 5th. The constitution adopted by this convention was sanctioned by the people at an election held August 3d, following, when there were cast "for the constitution" 40,311 votes and "against it" 38,681. It went into effect September 3, 1857.

The seat of government, which had been at Burlington from November 6, 1837, the date of the second session of the territorial legislature of Wisconsin, and at Iowa City from December 6, 1841, was by this constitution changed to Des Moines, Polk county, and the State University was permanently located at Iowa City.

### TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS.

During the eight years of Territorial government, 1838–1846, three men served as governors of the Territory, by the appointment of the President of the United States.

Robert Lucas, (1838–1841) of Ohio, who had twice filled the gubernatorial chair of that state, was the first governor. He proved to be a wise selection, and exercised the authority vested in him with good judgment and benefit to the future commonwealth. He established the temporary seat of Territorial government, at Burlington and convened in the Zion church there, the first legislature of Iowa, November 12, 1838. April 30, 1841, he issued a proclamation changing the capital from Burlington to Iowa City, and convening the legislature at that place, December 1, 1841. Iowa City thus became the permanent capital of the Territory and the temporary capital of the State.

After three years, Governor Lucas was succeeded by John Chambers, (1841–1845) of Kentucky, who had been aid-de-camp to General (President) Harrison, by whom he was appointed. He was succeeded by James Clarke, (1845–1846) of Pennsylvania, but at the time of his appointment, editor of the Territorial Gazette at Burlington.

No Territory ever boasted of a more worthy trio of Governors. "Simple and unostentatious in private life, as they were honest and patriotic in the discharge of their public duties, they gave Iowa the stamp of a pure character, and reared for themselves a monument of fame worthy of the highest and most lasting honor of our whole people."

Under their wise rule the Territory rapidly filled with a population of hardy, enterprising pioneers who, acting upon their recommendations, as contained in their annual messages, laid broad and deep the foundations of a free government, of wholesome legislation and the institutions of enlightenment for which her sons have ever shown their warmest regard.

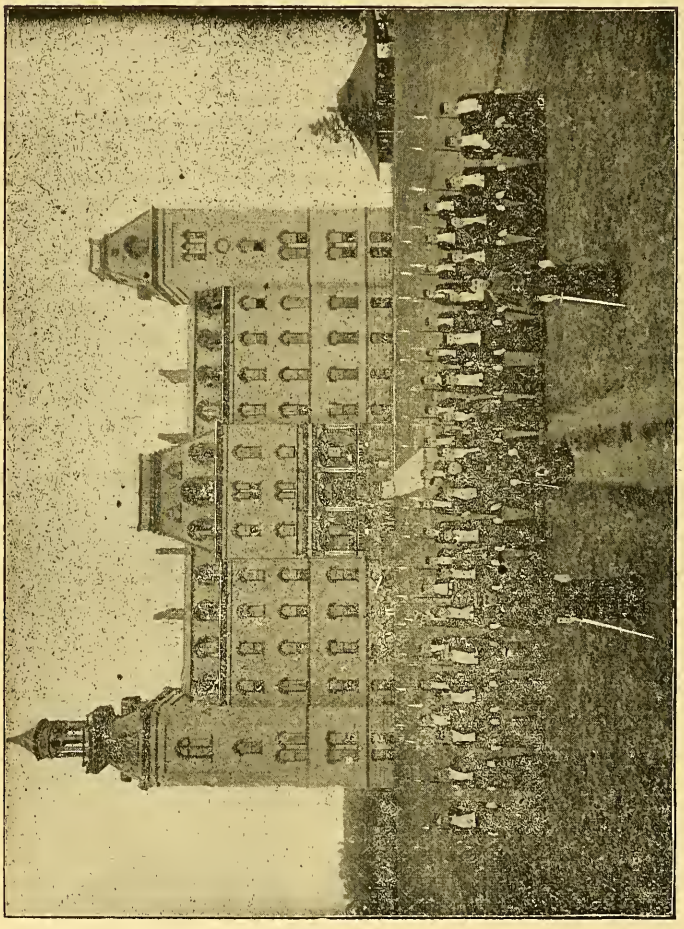
### OLD ZION CHURCH. *

The first church built in Burlington was that known as "Old Zion," on the west side of Third, between Washington and Columbia streets. Other halls have witnessed more important and more tragic scenes, but we may look in vain for those which could they speak, would give a more varied history of what had transpired within them. Here was embodied, for several years, the legislative wisdom of the Territory of Iowa; the *lower* House paradoxically occupying the upper auditorium, and the *upper* House the lower one. From these halls in the "Old Zion" church of Burlington went forth those legislative edicts that for many a year ruled this goodly land of Iowa. Here, the supreme judicial tribunal of the Territory sometimes held its sessions; and here the regular terms of the district court were held for many successive years.

Within these walls the Governor of the Territory met in friendly conference the representatives of some of his dissatisfied red children, to hear their complaints and at least to promise them redress—an easy and oft repeated remedy. Here the citizens listened to the eloquence of the untutored red man and were treated to the exhibition of the song and the war-dance. The wild whoop of the savage, which had so often carried dismay and horror to many a stout heart, failed to make any impression upon the walls of "Old Zion," that looked upon these varied scenes with staid gravity, and seemed to be fully determined not to be surprised at any strange events that might transpire within them.

"Now rose thy walls, "Old Zion," that have stood,
The dread assault of wasting time and flood.
Thou wast our Forum, scene of many a sport,
In Pleasure's drama and Ambition's court.
Here, too, our village beauty rushed to see
The motley Indian dance with savage glee."

* Iowa State Gazetteer, 171.



*The Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames, Iowa.*

*MOTTO—Science With Practice.*

Farm 648 Acres. Established 1849. Woman's Battalion in Front.

# VIII.

## STATEHOOD, A HALF CENTURY'S GROWTH.

"Iowa, the affections of her people, like the rivers within her borders, flow to an inseparable union."—LIEUT. GOV. EASTMAN.

"Midland where mighty torrents run
With placid brow and modest mien,
With bosom glowing to the sun,
Sits the majestic prairie Queen.
Imperial rivers kiss her feet,
The free winds through her tresses blow,
Her breath with unsown flowers is sweet,
Her cheeks are flushed with morning's glow.

Grand in her beauty, what cares she
For jeweled cliffs or rills of gold?
For seats along the sounding sea,
Or starried monuments of old?
Her bands are strong, her fame secure,
Her praise on lips whose praise is dear;
Her heart, her hope and purpose pure,
And God in all her landscapes near."

—BYERS.

### IOWA'S GROWTH.

IOWA became a separate Territory with the capital at Burlington, in 1838, and was admitted into the Union in 1846, with a population of 97,000. At the close of the civil war this number had increased to 754,699, and of these about 70,000 were soldiers—a number nearly equal to one-tenth of the population, or one-half the voters of the state. In 1860, the population had increased to 1,194,020; in 1880 to 1,624,615; in 1890 to 1,911,896 and in 1895 to 2,058,069.

The half century and two years that have passed since Iowa became a state, have wrought great changes. Most of the improvements of earth, most of the progress in the arts and sciences and most of the advance in civilization have been wrought within the period of our state history. Time and space do not permit us to recount the achievements in the political, industrial, financial, agricultural, mechanical, scientific, educational, religious or moral world, save to note that in all these Iowa has rendered her full measure of blessing; a fact due to the natural resources of the state and the excellent character of her people.

### NATURAL RESOURCES.

The State of Iowa is centrally located in relation to the territory of our nation; the eastern boundary is nearly 1,000 miles from the Atlantic tide at Plymouth Rock, and the western border about 1,500 miles from the surf-beaten shores of the Pacific; from the northern line of the state to the British possessions 400 miles intervene, and from our southern border to

the Gulf 760. It is located in fruitful embrace of two of the mightiest rivers of the earth—the Mississippi and the Missouri—and is bounded on the north and south by the two powerful and growing states of Minnesota and Missouri, respectively. The area of the state embraces 55,000 square miles of the most productive, well-watered, undulating and beautiful land that the sun enriches with its wealth of heat and light in all its yearly journey. There is less waste and a larger proportion of arable land in Iowa than probably in any equal area upon the face of the earth.

"A position so central in the richest, freest and most powerful nation of modern times, central also in the vast system of river navigation connected with the great rivers that form its eastern and western boundaries, and so central that the principal lines of railway, binding ocean to ocean, cross its territory, must ever possess incalculable advantages in the security its location affords, the markets it assures, and the commercial advantages that must ever accrue to its citizens."

### THE PRAIRIES.

Iowa has been known as the "Prairie State," because seven-eights of its surface was originally prairie or grass land. The charm of a prairie consists in its extension, its green, flowery carpet, its undulating surface and the skirt of forests whereby it is surrounded. A more pleasing view cannot be imagined than that presented in the spring of the year when the young grass has clothed the soil with a carpet of most delicate green and the rays of the sun, rising behind a distant elevation, are reflected by myriads of dew-drops. "The delightful aspect of the virgin prairie and the absence of that sombre awe inspired by forests, contribute to force away that sentiment of loneliness, that usually steals upon the mind of the solitary wanderer in the wilderness; for though he espies no habitation, sees no human being and knows that he is far away from every settlement of man, he can scarcely defend himself from believing that he is traveling through a landscape embellished by human art. The flowers, so delicate and elegant, that appear to be distributed over the prairie for mere ornament, and the groves and groups of trees that seem to be arranged to enliven the landscape, render it so expressive that one can scarcely prevent the impression invading the imagination, that the whole scene has been flung out and created for the satisfaction of the sentiment of beauty." *

The origin of the prairies has been the subject of considerable speculation and the question is probably not yet satisfactorily settled. The soil of the low prairies, in the bottoms along the courses of the larger rivers, is almost a pure silicious sand, different from that of the high prairies which consists of a sub-soil of argillaceous loam covered with rich, black vegetable mould, usually from one to two or more feet thick. This soil is very fertile, producing the greatest yield of the various crops cultivated in this latitude.

"Whatever the origin of the prairies may have been, we have the positive assurance that their present existence in Iowa and its immediate vicinity is not due to the influence of climate, the character or composition of the soil, nor to the character of any of the underlying formations. It now remains to say, without hesitation, that *the real cause of the present existence of the prairies in Iowa is the prevalence of the annual fires.* If these had been prevented fifty years ago Iowa would now be a timbered instead of a prairie

*Captain Basil Hall, an English traveler.

state." *

Her broad, treeless prairies have been the glory of Iowa. In their natural condition they were not vast marshes, or great breadths of barren clay, or sterile, unproductive sand, but as they have proved to be, the finest lands that ever awaited the plow to convert them into cultivated and productive farms. Iowa now ranks among the first of the states of the Union in the wonderful aggregate amount of food produced each year. This is not due to the extent of her area, for in this respect, she is twentieth in the list, but to the wonderful and uniform productiveness of her soil.

The fact that the prairies constituted so large a part of her area favored the rapid settlement of Iowa. The first settlers had known something of the slow, toilsome process of making farms with a mattock and axe, in heavily wooded sections. Going to the "raw prairie" with a breaking plow and team, and turning the first furrow, probably one mile in length, without a rock, grub, tree or stump to hinder the plow, they very soon saw the great difference between making a farm on eastern wooded lands and the fertile prairies of Iowa. Infinite wisdom caused seven-eights of her surface to be prairie, that Iowa might the more easily and speedily be turned into a paradise.

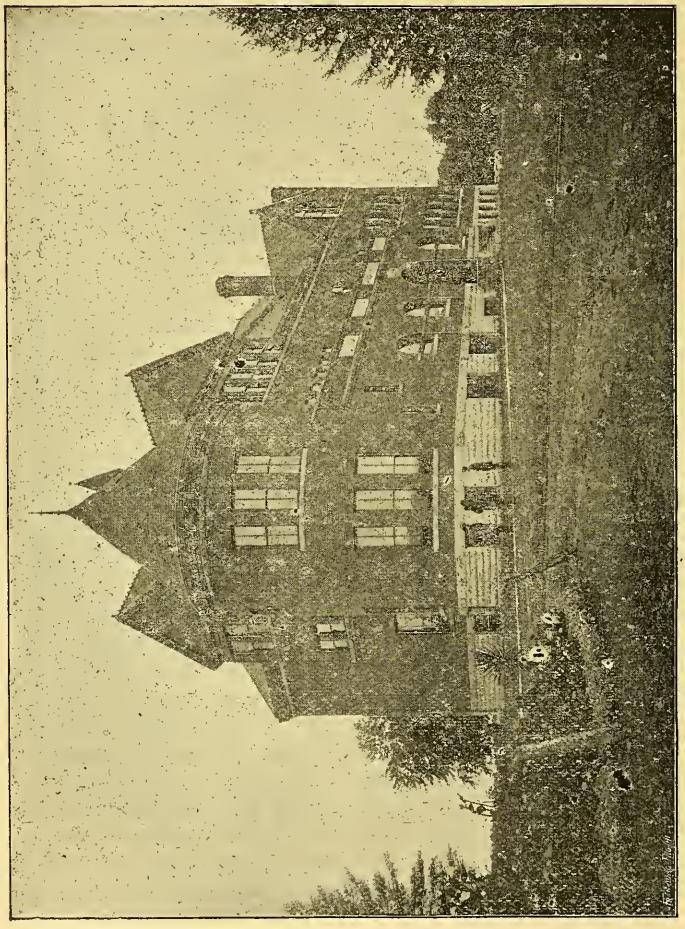
"The prairies of Iowa did not invite settlers merely by the ease by which they were turned into fine farm homes, but the beauty of the views they afforded, the breadth and grandeur of the great natural meadows and pastures they offered and the ease of communication they provided between neighbors and neighborhoods were also potent influences in inducing settlers from the heavily wooded east. In driving across them there was no climbing over stumps and logs. The Iowa farmer had use for a carriage from his first settlement on the prairie.

It has been said that there are terrible blizzards and awful cyclones on these Iowa prairies. It is admitted that there are storms in Iowa, just as there are terrible storms and blizzards in timber covered countries. There are tumults in Nature's domain in all regions, and men are helpless before Nature's forces in all places. Destructive tornadoes in Iowa, like destructive earthquakes in California are of but rare occurrence.

There have been severe winters in Iowa, but they have been few in its history. There may have been danger for pioneer settlers in journeying across Iowa prairies, from winter blizzards, in the past, but those dangers are now matters of history. Iowa winters on Iowa prairies are desirable now for the benefits and pleasures they afford.

The prairies, yet beautiful, are not now as they were when the pioneer chased over them the agile deer and the fleeing elk. Their great breadths were then open commons with sloughs and streams unbridged. Fire in the fall swept off their summer vegetation and left naught to hold in place the falling snow. The settlers' cabins, built in grove or sheltered nook, were far apart. The great breadths of open prairie were houseless and many of the pioneer settlers were poor and thinly clad. Then there was nothing to mark the traveled road in the winters' snow storm, and the traveler seeking to cross the broad prairie, may have been in danger when such a storm overtook him, distant from his home or a shelter. But terrible, life destroying blizzards have been of rare occurrence in the history of the state, while mild, beautiful, healthful winters, giving months of delightful sunshine and smoothest possible roads for winter travel, have

*Charles A. White, State Geologist in 1868, Geology of Iowa, Vol. 1, 133.



*Morrill Hall, one of the Buildings of the Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa.*

It was named after Senator Morrill, who, on July 2, 1862, secured the passage of an act by the Congress of the United States, donating public lands to the several States and Territories for the establishment and support of State Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations.

been common. Terrible prairie fires may be read about in our history, but they will probably never more be seen.

Our broad prairies, originally beautiful, have been made more grandly so by human handiwork, directed by cultured mind. They are now broad realms of finely improved, productive and enclosed farms. Good roads are common, and the streams and sloughs are bridged. Thrifty villages, thriving towns and cities have multiplied and the whole breadth of the country has been dotted with beautiful artificial groves and orchards. Now, everywhere over Iowa prairies there are human habitations, and the danger to a traveler in a winter blizzard has passed forever.

But with all this improvement and change made by human intelligence and industry, there are some things pertaining to the prairies of Iowa that are unchanged. The depth, richness and porousness of the soil, qualities that give it superior excellence for agricultural productiveness, are yet unchanged. Proper culture never diminishes but increases its productive power. The perennial streams coursing through these broad prairies, yet flow in the same channels cut deep into the earth, with the same, ever continuing, rapid current yielding untold advantages. The prairies of Iowa, no longer grand in their wild luxuriance, have been made more truly beautiful by the art and industry inspired by our christian civilization and will ever be renowned for their agricultural superiority. Beautiful, fertile and exuberantly productive, their possessors are truly a fortunate people." *

Iowa is coming to be more generally recognized as the Garden of Eden of all the world. She always has plenty and to spare. Her granaries are never empty, her stock-yards are constantly filled, her meats, fruits, vegetables and dairy products are always on the market and her manufactured goods are steadily seeking customers. Her cornucopia is always full and there is no reason why her yeomanry should not be the happiest people on this sublunary sphere.

"Ah! grandly in her ample lap,
Are annual harvests heaped sublime,
Earth bears not on her proudest map
A fatter soil, a fairer clime.
How sing her billowy seas of grain,
How laugh her fruit on vine and tree,
How glad her home in plenty's reign
Where love is lord and worship, free."

No country now affords more graceful landscapes, when clothed in summer's green, or when its groves are dyed in their autumn robes of silver and scarlet, gold and purple. Iowa landscapes are grandly beautiful, and the traveler sees a breadth of farmhouses beautiful in situation and surroundings. The great fields of growing grain, in their season, add beauty to the delighting panoramas, by every shade of green, covering the broad and billowy areas over which the eye extends. In the summer season great herds and flocks feed amid blooming flowers and rich herbage, and add enchanting variety to the inviting picture.

### RIVERS AND LAKES.

Iowa is a realm of beautiful rivers and smaller streams that for the most part flow in deep channels and with a swift current. The crest or summit forming the watershed between the waters of the Mississippi and the Missouri, extending from Dickinson south to Audubon, and thence southeast to Appanoose county, divides the rivers of the state into two systems. In the eastern system are the Upper Iowa, Turkey, Maquoketa, Wapsipinicon, Cedar, Iowa, Skunk and the Des Moines with its branches, the principal of which are South, Middle and North, the Raccoon with its branches, and the Boone. In the western system are found the Floyd, Rock, Little Sioux, Maple, Boyer, Nishnabotna,

*Iowa at the Columbian Exposition, 242.

Nodaway, Platte, Grand and Chariton.

These are mostly perennial, and many of them furnish power for manufacturing purposes. Along their courses were many fine, natural groves of timber that attracted the early settlers. All flow in fertile valleys bordered by sloping uplands, and are sources of pleasure as well as utility and add beauty by giving variety to the luxuriant landscapes through their course.

The lakes of Iowa all lie in the central third of the northern half of the state upon its most elevated portion, where the watersheds are developed into broad tablelands, and are principally bodies of clear, pure water. None of them are large enough to be of value for commercial purposes, but in the hunting season they have been very inviting to the sportsman, since immense numbers of migrating waterfowls, consisting of geese, ducks, brants, swans, cranes, etc., have been accustomed to visit them annually; they have also furnished large quantities of fine fish. On the shores of many of them are beautiful groves of native timber, located in breadths that give a charm to the scenery and make them specially inviting to those seeking rest or health giving recreation.

Clear Lake, in Cerro Gordo county, and Storm Lake, in Buena Vista, are each about five miles in length and two in breadth. Large gatherings of people annually assemble in the capacious auditoriums, erected upon the banks of these charming and beautiful lakes, for Chautauquas, camp meetings, courses of lectures, musical conventions and other purposes.

There are three lakes in the state that are called Wall Lake, from the stone walls that girt a portion of their shores. They are located in Sac, Wright and Hamilton counties. Some have entertained the idea that a strange people built these walls in the prehistoric period; but the scientist assures us "that when the vast icebergs or ponderous glaciers were exerting their mighty forces in forming the wonderful drift coverings of this region, great numbers of boulders were borne by these forces from the north country, and being deposited about these bodies of fresh water, the forces of winter frosts and ice have lifted them, in the shallow portions of these lakes, and piled them in courses upon their shores."

Spirit Lake and Lake Okoboji, in Dickinson county, are the two largest lakes in the state. They are located upon the summit of the great watershed of the state near the Minnesota line, and have become very popular summer resorts.

Serene and sweet and smiling as a bride,
Nestles Okoboji on the green divide;
The groves around it, the blue sky above,
The summer sunshine bathing it in love;
Fair as the lochs that lie in Scotia's glens,
Worthy the praise that comes from poet's pen
Its sparkling waters in the sunshine g'eam
Full of the glamour of the sweetest dream.

MINERAL WEALTH, BUILDING ROCK.

Chas. R. Keyes, Assistant State Geologist, has very truly observed that "Iowa is so pre-eminently an agricultural state that usually her mineral resources are almost entirely overlooked. Yet, her geological features are none the less interesting scientifically and none the less important from an economic standpoint."

There is spread everywhere over the state a mantle of drift, the debris left by the retreat of the great ice sheets or glaciers, and this surface deposit is so deep that the older rocks are hidden from view throughout large areas except where the streams, cutting their channels through the drift, have exposed sections of the rocks or hardened clays.

The Sioux quartzite or red granite, a massive crystalline rock that is found upon the surface in the northwest

part of the state, is one of the most compact and durable building rocks of the northwest, and some of the leading churches and office buildings in Sioux City, Omaha, Council Bluffs, Des Moines and other places have been erected from this rock with very pleasing effect.

Abundant supplies of good building rock are found in the Trenton and Galena limestone formations. The former is a very compact rock of blueish tint, interesting to an observer on account of the large number and beauty of the fossil remains enclosed in some of the strata and is widely distributed along the Mississippi and the eastern part of the state. The Galena limestone, a heavily bedded rock of brownish tint overlying the Trenton in the northeast part of the state, has proved the greatest source of wealth to Dubuque county where the principal quarries are located. The high bluffs at the city of Dubuque are of this rock. It contains no fossils, but is the formation in which the lead is found that has been so extensively and profitably mined since the days of Julien Dubuque. It makes a superior quality of lime, which is used, like the rock, for building purposes, no one as yet thinking of applying it to the land as a fertilizer.

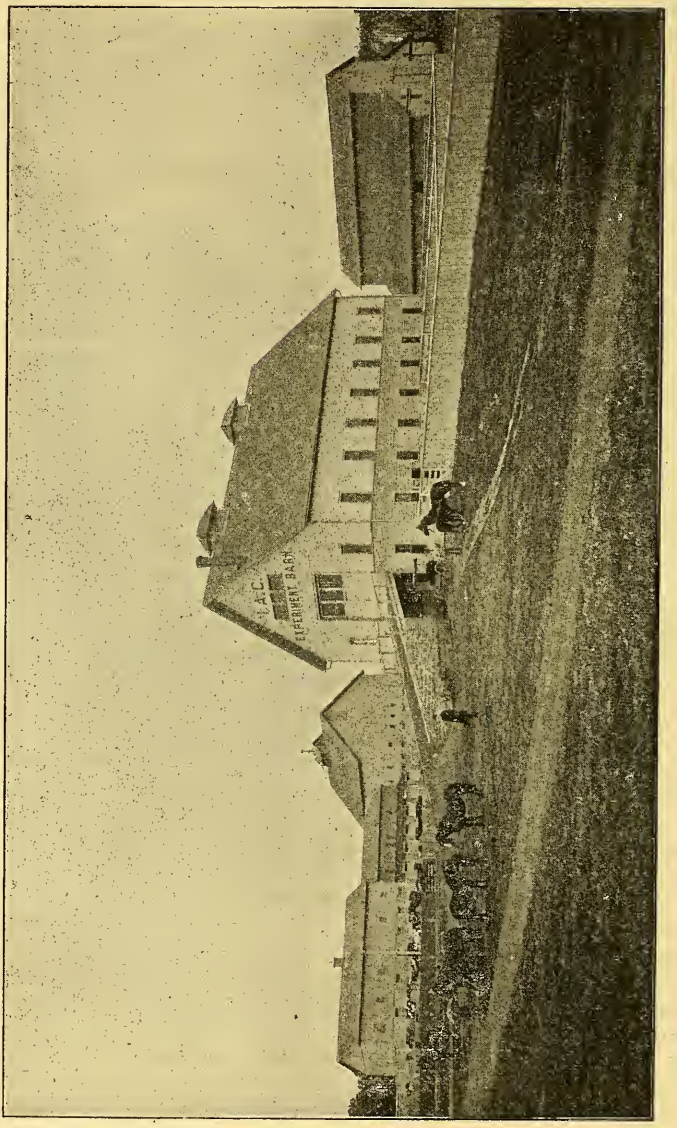
Other valuable rock formations are the Niagara limestone (upper Silurian) along Turkey river and the Mississippi south of it, massive dolomites, yellowish or brown in color; the Devonian limestone of Cedar Valley, which is highly charged with fossils of many kinds; the Montpelier limestone of Muscatine county; the St. Louis limestone of southeastern and Nishnabotna sandstone of southwestern Iowa.

### SOFT COAL.

Of all sources of mineral wealth in Iowa the deposits of soft coal are the most important. The coal area of the state is the north part of the great interior coal field of the American continent, and it includes about 20,000 square miles, located principally in the south half of the state. The most productive portion of this area is a broad belt extending in a southeasterly direction from Fort Dodge to Keokuk, along the Valley of the Des Moines river. The coal in this belt is of excellent quality and the supply inexhaustible.

"Coal," says Newberry, "is entitled to be considered as the mainspring of civilization. By the power developed in its combustion, all the wheels of industry are kept in motion, commerce is carried on with rapidity and certainty over all portions of the earth's surface, and the useful metals are brought from the deep caves in which they have hidden themselves, are purified and wrought to serve the purposes of man. By coal, night is, in one sense, converted into day, winter into summer, and the life of man, measured by its fruits, greatly prolonged. Wealth with all the comforts, the luxuries and triumphs it brings, is its gift. Though black, sooty and often repulsive in its aspect, it is the embodiment of a power more potent than that attributed to the genii in oriental tales. Its possession, is therefore, the highest material boon that can be craved by a community or nation. Coal is also not without its poetry. It has been formed under the stimulus of the sunshine of long past ages, and the light and power it holds are nothing else than such sunshine stored in the black casket, to await the coming, and serve the purposes of man. In the process of formation it composed the tissues of those strange trees that lifted up their scaled trunks and waved their feathery foliage over the marshy shores of the carboniferous continent, where not only no man was, but gigantic salamanders and mail clad fishes were the monarchs of the animated

"Commend me to the barn-yard, and the corn-mou man."—Robert Burns.




THE FARM, BARNS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, AMES, IOWA.

world." *

Filling a place of so great importance in the material advancement of our modern civilization coal must long rank first among the mineral resources to be desired in a country.

Being one of the prairie states, having a surface with no marked contrasts of altitude, and possessing a soil unrivaled in fertility by any country on the face of the earth, it has been customary to regard Iowa as a strictly agricultural province. Comparisons are made with sister states, and the fact is noted that as a producer of corn, oats and potatoes, Iowa stands first on the list, and second in the production of flax, barley and hay. The conclusion that Iowa is a great farming country is irresistible, and this is true.

It must not, however, be forgotten that Iowa has other resources as boundless as her agricultural productions—resources which half the nations of the globe would consider of priceless worth if they only possessed them—untold wealth that Nature has bestowed with lavish hand and that is destined to contribute to the onward progress of humanity. These are her mineral resources, the inherited possessions bound up in the coals, the clays and the metallic ores.

In the production of coal, Iowa ranks first among the states west of the Mississippi and fifth among the states of the Union. The only states surpassing Iowa in the annual production of coal are Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and West Virginia.

England, the richest and most powerful of European countries, owes her high position almost entirely to her manufactures, and from her little isle has extended her possessions around the globe. The area of England is about the same as that of Iowa and her coal fields approximately 10,000 square miles, which is the estimated extent of Iowa's coal bearing territory.

The coal fields of Germany embrace not more than 3,000 square miles, those of Belgium and France together only 2,500; Spain has about the same area of coal lands and other countries of Europe, less.

The coal fields of Iowa, therefore, are as extensive as those of the greatest of European nations, and several times greater than those of the other great nations of that continent.

### IRON, ZINC, LEAD.

The production of iron in Iowa has not attracted public attention, owing to the fact that it is an industry as yet undeveloped. There is, however, a bed of excellent iron ore, of brown hematite, a short distance northeast of Waukon, in Allamakee county, that covers more than three hundred acres of land. This bed is found under a surface soil ranging from one to four feet in depth, is itself more than thirty feet in depth and is described as being "an almost solid mass of iron ore," of which hundreds of tons have already been mined. It has been estimated that 500 tons daily could be mined here for 100 years.

Zinc in the form of the sulphuret, has been found in very small quantities in the sub-carboniferous and lower coal measures of Wapello, Webster and several other counties. In the lead mines of Dubuque this ore is found both in the form of the carbonate and sulphuret, and quite extensive works have been recently erected in that city for the preparation of this metal for commerce.

The productive lead region of the Upper Mississippi occupies the larger portion of the territory along that river from the Apple river in Illinois,

*The coals of Iowa often contain iron pyrites and occasionally small flakes of lime or gypsum, along the line of fracture. The coal beds, almost without exception, are underlaid with a stratum of soft, white clay, which is excellent for the manufacture of fire brick. The roots of lepidodendrous are usually found abundantly in this under clay.

northward to the Wisconsin river. The Mississippi runs near the western edge of the district, but there is a considerable area of productive territory on the west side of that river. The mines in the vicinity of Dubuque, on the west side of the river, are among the most interesting and profitable of this region. They are found upon a belt about four miles in width, extending from Catfish creek in a northwesterly direction as far as the middle fork of the Little Maquoketa, in Dubuque county. This belt includes about fifteen square miles, and there is probably no district of equal extent in the Mississippi Valley that has produced so large an amount of ore. The ore is found in the vertical sheets or upright crevices of the galena limestone formation forming the high river bluffs of this section. The great softness and purity of the lead of this locality, attracted adventurers to this section many years before the territory of Iowa was opened for settlement, and has since secured for it a higher price than for the imported article.

### SAND, CLAY AND GYPSUM.

Sand is an essential element in our industries. Many important mechanical and manufacturing operations demand its use. Although upon the prairies and other upland surfaces, there are no accumulations of it where it would impair the fertility of the soil, yet nature has provided numerous banks or deposits of sand for these purposes, along the shallows, shores and flood-plains, wherever the streams have cut their channels or valleys through the surface drift. These accumulations are of sufficient purity for all practical purposes and, as the streams are numerous, furnish nearly all the sand used in the state. The builder, brick-maker and iron-moulder readily find sand suited to their respective needs, while the manufacturers of glass, and proprietors of smelting furnaces import it, in large quantities for their work, from this state. The silica or quartz sand found in Clayton county is of exceeding fineness and whiteness and is returned to us from Missouri manufactured into the finest plate glass.

Clay has come to be an essential element in manufactures. "The savage may build his wigwam frame of poles and cover it with grass, skins or bark. The pioneer may build his cabin of logs or sod, but by industry and economy he soon provides the means for better things. The services of the brick-maker and mason are soon needed, openings invite the pottery and tile factory, and search is made for clays suitable for these manufactories."

The clays of Iowa have been moved to their present positions by glacial action, and may be divided into the impure drift and those more or less pure; the latter having been softened and modified by exposure to the atmosphere and frost. Pure clay (silicate of alumina) alone, does not make good brick, and ordinarily the clay of no one spot contains the proper proportions of ingredients to insure the production of the best quality of brick, but ordinarily the ingredients that are lacking in the Iowa clays may be obtained in the same vicinity. These clays are found near the surface, and there is no large part of the state destitute of the materials for the successful manufacture of good brick and tile.

"The day of building cheap, perishable shanties for residences and structures, of cheap, combustible and perishable material for business uses, has been outgrown in this state. Our cities and towns have their 'fire-limits' and the erection of cheap, unattractive, combustible structures in our business centers is largely prohibited. This wise provision encourages improved architecture and the use of