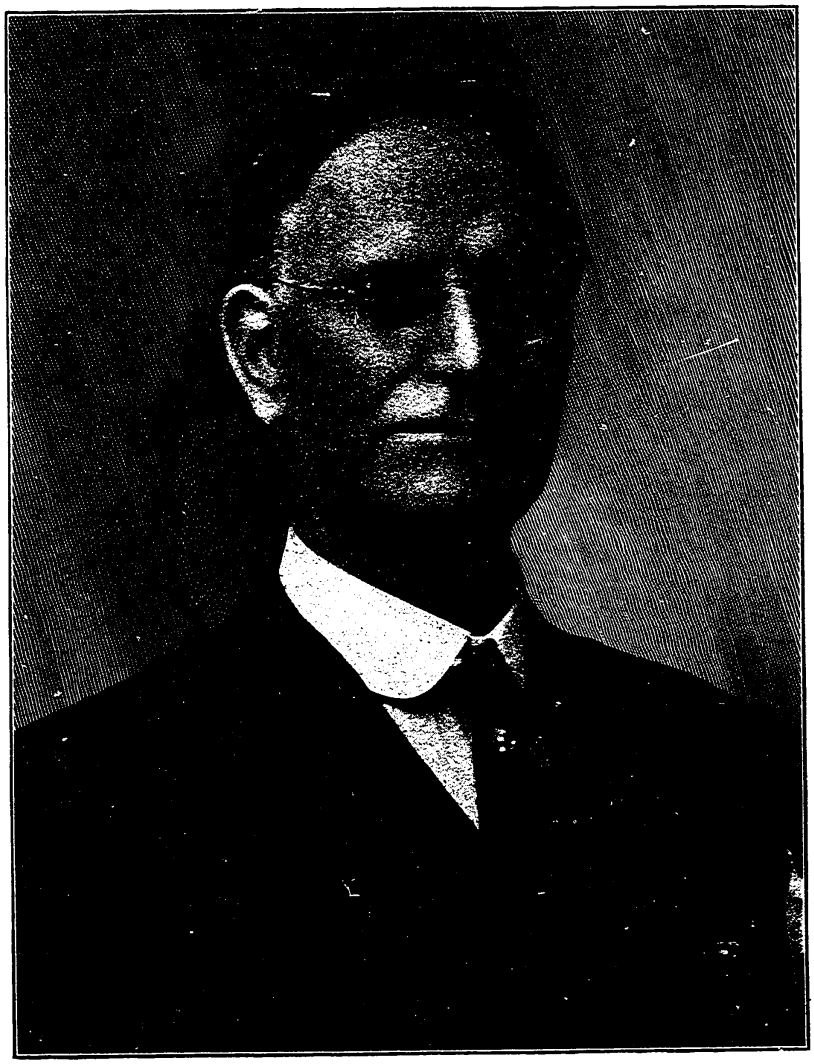

GEORGE W. FITCH.

PAST AND PRESENT

OF

FAYETTE COUNTY

IOWA

By George William Fitch

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME I

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DEDICATION.

This work is respectfully dedicated to

THE PIONEERS,

long since departed. May the memory of those who laid down their burdens by the wayside ever be fragrant as the breath of summer flowers, for their toils and sacrifices have made Fayette County a garden of sunshine and delights.

PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men that have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Fayette county, Iowa, with what they were one hundred years ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin prairie, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and immense agricultural productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the incentives, hopes, aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. The work has been in the hands of able writers, who have, after much patient study and research, produced here the most complete biographical memoirs of Fayette county, Iowa, ever offered to the public. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of this county whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the gentlemen who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Fayette county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "Past and Present of Fayette County, Iowa," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our efforts to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.

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HISTORICAL.

CHAPTER I.

IOWA ANTIQUITIES.

At the beginning of the great colonial systems of North America, while the English occupied a strip of the North Atlantic coast, their rivals, the French, advanced along an interior and parallel line, by the St. Lawrence and the lakes. The French had the advantage, flanking the English advance toward the interior. But beyond Lake Erie the St. Lawrence water-way makes a sudden retreat in the far northwest, and the French parallel line would fail if it were not extended to the Ohio river. The key to the situation was the land of portages, from the Allegheny river on the east to the Miamis on the west. It followed naturally that this land, now mainly included in the state of Ohio, became a battle-ground and the cause of war in other regions, from the beginning of European rivalry in North America. It was the most important region of the continent; the key to all the country west of the Alleghanies; commanding the commercial outlet toward Europe of a vast and fertile country, destined to be the richest in the world. The Ohio country began to be of surpassing importance in the sixteenth century, in the eyes of Europe, and there are evidences that in more remote ages the region was the seat of the greatest towns and the theatre of the most stubborn wars known to the ancient Americans. It is natural, therefore, that the early history of this region should be rich with interest; that it should involve the rise and fall of political power in both the Old World and the New, and not at all strange that the state of Ohio, from its foundation, should show a rapid progress toward a position of dominance in America.

Of the origin of this fair land, geologists are able to give us an account from the evidences found in the rocks. Once, we are told, a shallow sea of warm salt water, an extension of the gulf of Mexico, overspread the country between the Alleghanies and the Rocky mountains. In Ohio the first land to emerge was at the present site of Cincinnati, an island of which the rocks had been deposited for many centuries in the sea bottom, forming

a peculiar dark limestone called the Trenton, famous in our time as the impervious roof of the underground collections of natural gas. In succession, northward and eastward, layers were built up under water, raised above, submerged and lifted again, the most recent of all being the Carboniferous or coal-bearing rocks. These successive pushings-up of land from the waters would have formed a vast level plain, if the face of the country had not been worn by the rivers and, ages after solid land was established, by the icy torrents of melting glaciers. By such erosions the hills were formed and the beautiful valley vistas and romantic gorges.

For the accumulation and growth of this great series of deposits, all of which were in salt water except the coal-bearing strata, which imply fresh water marshes, vast periods of time were required. Many millions of years must be used in any rational explanation of their origin and history. All the stages of this history have gone forward on so large a scale, so far as time is concerned, that the few thousand years of human history would not make an appreciable factor in any of them.

THE MOUND BUILDERS.

It was long after the upper coal strata had been covered by other carboniferous deposits, barren of coal in profitable quantity, that some great change in world conditions brought down vast fields of ice and snow from the north. Hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of years after the ice had receded or melted, and the contour of the land was established as it is today, that race of human beings known to us as Mound-Builders occupied the land. They are known through the remains of great earthworks which archaeologists have studied and investigated in every section of the country where their works appear.

But, perhaps, the most thorough investigators along these lines were Messrs. Squier and Davis, who published an exhaustive work entitled "The Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley," and which has been recognized as an authority among archaeologists since 1848. In that year the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, D. C., assumed a protectorate over the work and republished it, together with some plans and notes furnished by others. This publication constituted the first systematic work with descriptions and figures of the numerous remains of the Mound-Builders. From 1848 until the present, the Smithsonian Institution has continued to publish books and original papers relating to this subject. Stimulated by this national recognition, and in view of the absorbing interest in the subject, many original investigators have published manuscripts and books at private ex-

pense, some of which are very elaborate and complete. Doctor Davis, above mentioned as one of the publishers of "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley," opened two hundred mounds at his own expense, and gathered the largest collection of mound-relics that has been made in America. These now form part of the collection of Blackmore's Museum, at Salisbury, England. A second collection of duplicates from results of subsequent investigations is now in possession of the American Museum of Natural History, in New York. The work of Squier and Davis was characterized by the eminent Swiss archaeologist, A. Morlot, in a paper before the American Philosophical Society, in 1862, as being "as glorious a monument of American science, as Bunker Hill is of American bravery."

It is a noticeable feature of all the early publications in this department of archaeology, that they attach great antiquity to the Mound-Builders. The variations in this regard are also very great. Some assume that thousands of years have elapsed since the building of these ancient relics, and all agree that they are very old. Eminent authorities are as widely at variance regarding their antiquity as they are concerning their origin and purpose. But the tendency of students at the present time is to deny the great age assigned by early explorers to these earthworks. The evidence of the trunks of trees rooted upon the mounds is not to be accepted without qualification. It is known, also, that the homes of the Indian tribes changed so rapidly, according to their own accounts, before they were crowded by the white men, that some of the red men found in Ohio after 1750 could give no account of the origin of these mounds; this is very weak proof of a great antiquity. Of some of the works, the Indians did have traditions. Wider knowledge of the early Americans, furthermore, reveals to us that in the gulf region they were yet making use of mounds when the first Spanish conquerors journeyed through that country. An artificial mound, surmounted by the temple and the houses of the chief and great men, sometimes with a spacious stairway of hewn timber on one side, and surrounded by dwellings of the people, was the striking feature of the main Muskogee towns found by De Soto. Mounds were also built by both Southern and Northern people, within the historic period, in honor of the dead buried beneath them.

Interesting papers have been published to sustain the theory that such well-known tribes as the Cherokees and Shawanees were mound-builders. Structures in the middle West and North are remarkably suggestive of the great town houses of the Apalachee Indians of Florida, being built in the form of a hollow square, with the main entrances at each angle. It is well known that the state of Ohio has taken precedence in the matter of investigating the mysteries surrounding the history of the Mound-Builders, prob-

ably because the evidences of their existence are more numerous in that state than in any other. Well defined mounds, easily traceable to the mysterious race now under discussion, appear in nearly every township in that state, if we except the Black Swamp and the rugged southeastern part of the state. Careful investigators are all agreed that ten thousand mounds in Ohio is a moderate estimate of the number found there. It is also believed that the population was more dense there than in other regions, that more permanent settlements were made, and that a more tenacious effort was put forth to hold the country against prehistoric invasion. These people left no written history, and all that is known concerning them is gathered from the mounds, enclosures and implements which they left behind. They have been called "Mound-Builders" simply because of the innumerable mounds which they have erected, and which remained until the coming of the white man. These earthworks were very generally distributed from western New York, along the southern shore of Lake Erie, through Michigan to Nebraska, thence north from this line to the southern shore of Lake Superior. From this line they extend south to the gulf of Mexico. Mounds occur in great numbers in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Florida. They are found in less numbers in western New York, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Michigan, Iowa and portions of Mexico. In choosing this vast region, extending from the Alleghanies to the Rocky mountains, and from the great lakes to the gulf of Mexico, the Mound-Builders took possession of the great system of plains, controlling the long inland water courses of the continent. Along the broad levels drained by this vast river system, the remains of prehistoric man are found. Archaeologists have no difficulty in locating the places which were most densely populated, by reason of the irregular distribution of the works.

It is interesting to note that in the selection of sites for their earthworks, the Mound-Builders were influenced by the same motives, apparently, which governed their European successors. It is a well established fact that nearly every city of importance in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi, and their tributaries, is located on the ruins left by this ancient people. Of these, we mention Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Frankfort, Kentucky, as being near the borders of our own state. Sixteen of the principal cities of Ohio are so located, while many others in other states could be mentioned. The sites selected by the Mound-Builders for their most pretentious works were on the river terraces, or bottoms, no doubt because of the natural highways thus rendered available, besides the opportunities for fishing and the cultivation of the warm, quick soil, easily tilled.

Old residents of Fayette county will remember with pleasure the late Judge Samuel Murdock, of Elkader, who made this subject the study of a lifetime. Perhaps Judge Murdock did more in the line of investigation of the Iowa mounds than all others combined, and his lectures were the subject of universal comment and great interest.

THE MOUNDS.

A full description of these ancient works, or even a mention of them, would require more space than can be accorded to the subject in this work. The patient student must avail himself of the opportunities presented in the perusal of the elaborate works published on this interesting and fascinating subject, while the casual reader has but little interest beyond a superficial view.

Surveys and explorations of the many mounds which have been opened seem to indicate that they were all constructed along similar lines, though vastly different in size and apparently designed for different purposes. Some appeared to be constructed for defense against the encroachments of an enemy, and show that some knowledge of military fortifications was possessed by the designers and builders. The ancient works are of three classes: The heavy embankments found on the level or lowlands; the larger works, composed of earth and stone on the hill-tops, and the smaller mounds scattered everywhere, on high or low ground, indiscriminately.

The dimensions of the mounds do not vary greatly, being usually from two hundred and fifty to three hundred feet in diameter, and are either square or circular in form, often combining both forms in one figure. The square or rectangular works, found in combination with the circles, are of various dimensions; but it has been noticed that certain groups are distinguished by such an uniformity in size that archaeologists have been persuaded to claim that the builders had a standard of measurement. These squares have almost invariably eight gateways, all of which are covered or protected by small mounds. A few have been discovered which are octagonal in form. The mounds are designated as "defensive," "sacred," "sacrificial," "sepulchral" and "memorial," according to the uses to which they were put. There is also a class of mounds, variously designated as "animal," "emblematic" or "symbolical," which were crude representations of certain animals, reptiles, birds and even men, sometimes sufficiently accurate in their representations to plainly show the characters or objects they were designed to represent. Most curious of all are the effigy mounds in Ohio, which are surpassed, however, by those in Wisconsin and Iowa.

THE BUILDERS.

The peculiar and distinctive features of these various relics of past ages are of little interest to the general reader, and yet the fact of their existence, and that they are the only remains of a race of human beings long since extinct, urges the effort to solve the mystery of the ancient people and their works. But the solution of the problem has baffled the skill of the most noted scientists of two continents, since the existence of these "works of human hands" was first determined. True, we have theories, ably supported by argument, and these, in the absence of absolutely established facts, we must accept, weigh, adopt or discard, and still remain in darkness as to the origin, mission and final destiny of the Mound-Builders.

Judging by the works which they have left,—and that is in accord with Scriptural suggestion,—they were a powerful race of slightly civilized and industrious people. The earth monuments, only, remain, these enclosing a few relics of rude art, together with the last lingering remains of mortality—the crumbling skeleton—which the curious investigators have disturbed in their resting places. But even these have yielded to scientific minds, strongly imaginative, some knowledge of the character and lives of the race. The twentieth century dawns in almost as great ignorance of the prehistoric race as did the nineteenth; yet in the ever restless spirit of modern investigation, efforts have been made to link the Mound-Builders with some ancient and far-distant race of civilized mankind.

Dr. John S. Newberry, late professor of geology and paleontology in Columbia College, sums up a voluminous article on this subject in the following language: "From all the facts before us, we can at present say little more than this: That the valley of the Mississippi and the Atlantic coast were once densely populated by a sedentary, agricultural, and partially civilized race, quite different from the modern nomadic Indians, though possibly the progenitors of some of the Indian tribes; and that, after many centuries of occupation, they disappeared from our country at least one thousand, perhaps many thousands, of years before the advent of the Europeans. The prehistoric remains found so abundantly in Arizona appear to be related to the Professor Newberry cites Squier's "Memoir of the Ancient Monuments of the West," "Aboriginal Monuments of the State of New York," "Ancient America," "The Monuments of the Mississippi Valley" and "Prehistoric Races of the United States."

EARLY INDIAN HISTORY.

We trust the generous reader will tolerate a few words on this subject, of which, though traditional, we will give the most reliable information derived from such sources, and we will also present the conclusions of men who have devoted their lives to the study of the early aborigines. Dr. C. S. Rafinesque, in his admirable work, "The Ancient Annals of Kentucky," makes a vigorous use of the imagination when he traces the American folk well nigh back to Adam. He says that the middle West first became the center of the Atalan people. This he ascribes to a period two thousand years ago. Later the Atalans were divided into two branches, the Apalans of the North and the Talegans of the Ohio valley; that these people warred against the Istacan and Siberian invasions, and finally drove the ancient people to the South, founding Mexican civilization. Then came the Lenap and Menguy invaders across Behring strait to possess the Ohio and St. Lawrence country, and a period is approached in which definite dates can be assigned.

Whatever may be the basis for Doctor Rafinesque's theoretical account, it may be suggested here that it is as good history as any of the time before the coming of the Lenap and Menguy forefathers of the red men found in the North after the Columbian discovery.

The Indians who inhabited the northern region east of the Mississippi at the beginning of historic times were, in language, of two great families, which are given the French names Algonquin and Iroquois. These are not Indian names. In fact, from the word Indian itself, which is a misnomer—arising from the slowness of the early voyagers to admit that they had found unknown continents—down to the names of tribes, there is a confusion of nomenclature and often a deplorable misfit in the titles now fixed in history by long usage. The Algonquin family may more properly be termed the Lenape, and the Iroquois the Mengwe. The Lenape themselves, while using that name, also employed the more generic title of Wapanackki. The Iroquois had the ancient name of Onque Honwe, and this in their tongue, as Lenape in that of the other family, signified men with a sense of importance—*"the people,"* to use a convenient English expression.

According to the Lenape tradition, that people came from a distant home to a great river, which they called the Nameesi Sippee, where they found another nation, the Mengwe, engaged in a similar migration. On crossing the river a powerful nation was discovered in possession of the country, called the Tallegawi, or Allegawi, a race of tall, stout men, who had large towns and built fortifications and intrenchments. Meeting with a des-

perate resistance from this people, the Lenape and Mengwe made an alliance, agreeing to conquer and divide the country between themselves, and after many great battles and probably many years they were successful.

Such is the tradition of the conquest as gathered from the Lenni Lenape (Delawares), "the grandfather people," by Heckewelder, in his "History, Manners and Customs of the Indian Nations." There is no reason to discredit the tradition in its essential particulars. Some students prefer to interpret the Nameesi Sippee as the Detroit river rather than the Mississippi, according to their notions of a northeastward starting point of migration, but this is not material to our narrative. Unfortunately, the Indian habit of giving names to rivers and places according to some striking physical characteristic, each nation or tribe bestowing a name of its own, does not warrant the certain application of Nameesi Sippee to the Mississippi river. The title might be given to any "great river," that being its signification. The Allegawi left their name, as a perpetual monument, attached to the mountain chain of the East, and to the Ohio river in the language of one of the conquering nations.

Dr. D. G. Brinton, in "The American Race," has explained that the name Tallegawi means the Tallega or Tallika people, and suggests Tsalaki, the Indian name of which "Cherokee" is a corruption. Before the Tallegawi, according to the ancient painted record of the Lenape, translated by Rafinesque, there were the "Snake people," who might have been the first mound-builders.

The Lenape became the most widespread of the new peoples. Some tribes remained west of the Mississippi, while others pushed on to occupy the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Labrador. "They were typical Americans, up to the stature of the best European nations, well formed and stalwart. They had the physiognomy of warriors, prominent nose, thin lips, piercing black eyes. Their black hair was carefully pulled from their heads save a patch on the crown from which grew long locks, on which they bound gaudy feathers. Their hands and feet were of aristocratic smallness. Each family lived alone in wattled huts, the little towns being surrounded by palisades of stakes. They cultivated grain and vegetables, made coarse pottery, wove mats, and dressed the skins which they were good enough hunters to obtain from the deer, bear and buffalo, though they had no better weapons than stone-tipped arrows, chipped out most artfully from flint or chert. They dug copper, and in the remotest parts of their territory had the red pipe bowls from Minnesota or the black slate pipes from Vancouver island. The sun, with fire as its symbol, was their chief object of adoration, and the

young warrior must make his sun-vows at dawn from a solitary hill-top before he became worthy of a place among men. The four winds that brought the rains were also objects of reverence, as well as the animal that was the symbol of the tribe, and the Lenape remembered with pious faithfulness the hero god Michabo, who taught them laws and gave them maize and tobacco, and sometime would come again. These Indians were those known in later years as the Delawares, the Maumees, the Mohegans, the Manhattans, the Piankeshaws, the Pottawattamies, the Shawnees and numerous other tribes. All were one family in the likeness of their language, though they often had their family quarrels, and they bear in history the name given them by the French from one of their most unworthy tribes, the Algonquins.

The Mengwe made their homes along the lower great lakes and the St. Lawrence river, never reaching the coast, and thus they came to be wholly surrounded by the Lenape. They were a fiercer people and models of physical development. The stock is unsurpassed by any in the world. It stands on record that the five companies of Iroquois from New York and Canada during the Civil war stood first on the list of all recruits of our army for height, vigor and corporeal symmetry. Though the Lenape regarded them as inferiors and called them cannibals, they held themselves superior to all races, and certainly gave some proof of superiority in their history. The women among them were accorded more than ordinary respect, at least in ancient times, and were represented by a speaker in all councils. In the Wendet tribe the women of each gens elected the chief, who represented it in all tribal councils. The "long house" was a distinctive feature of Mengwe life—large communal log houses, fortified with palisades, and so strong that the white pioneers did not err in calling them castles.

Included in this stock of people were the Mohawks, Oneidas, Senecas, Cayugas, Eries, Cherokees, Wyandots, Tuscaroras and others, these being the names commonly given them in history. The Wahash (Osage), it is believed, they left beyond the Mississippi in the migration.

But the Cherokees among the Mengwe, and the Shawanees among the Lenape, are people difficult to classify. The language of both races was copious, admirably constructed, flexible and generally melodious. That of the Lenape was the more guttural, the sounds represented by ch or g in printed words closely approximating the German ch. They also had delicately sounded nasal vowels resembling the French. The dictionaries and grammars of the language that have been published demonstrate the remarkable richness of the tongues in words and in their inflection and combination.

The clans of the Lenni Lenape (called Delawares by the English) were

known among the Indians by their totems, the Turtle, Turkey and Wolf, the turtle being the highest in honor, while among the Mengwe there were clans and totems of Turtle, Wolf, Bear, Deer, Beaver, Hawk, Crane and Snipe, each having separate towns. There were no Indian kings. The government was in the hands of the elected chief and the council of old and worthy men. The chief was the keeper of wampum, used for tribal negotiations, and he was authorized to control the clan or tribe as far as his diplomacy could carry him, but no orders or attempts at forcible discipline would be tolerated. He could not make war or peace, or levy taxes, and was required to hunt for his living the same as any other warrior. There was no limit of lands; all belonged to all. There were scarcely any penal laws, but, unless some atonement were made, murder could be avenged by the friends of the victim. The most generous hospitality was the rule, and when anyone needed a necessity of life, there was no harm in taking it without asking. Said one (James Smith) who had passed a number of years as a forcibly adopted Indian: "They are not oppressed or perplexed with expensive litigation; they are not injured by legal robbery; they have no splendid villains that make themselves grand and great on other people's labor, and they have neither church nor state created as money-making machines."

The early aborigines, as contemplated in this article, were very skillful in war. They had a system of military maneuvers peculiar to themselves, and could march forward in battle line, form circles or semi-circles to surround an enemy, or form hollow squares from which to face outward to repel an attack with the most exact precision, and they implicitly obeyed their leaders. They won famous battles against white troops in historic times, and could teach strategy to white commanders as well as the highest statecraft. (The Iroquois advised the union of the American colonies, when the colonists, like inferior Indians, were too jealous of each other to consent to it.)

Of another side of Indian character, Gen. William Henry Harrison has left an interesting suggestion. "By many," he said, "they are supposed to be stoics, who willingly encounter privations. The very reverse is the fact; for if they belong to either of the classes of philosophers that prevailed in the declining years of Rome, it is to that of the Epicureans, for no Indian will forego an enjoyment or suffer an inconvenience if he can avoid it. Even the gratification of some strong passion he is ever ready to postpone, when its accomplishment is attended with unlooked-for danger or unexpected hardship." There were, of course, darker sides to the picture. The women did not enjoy too much honor, and there were some rites that remind one of the ancient people of the Mediterranean whose civilization is admired. Their

marriages were made with as little ceremony as among the ancient Hebrews, and often were temporary. The warriors were cruel, perhaps more so than Europeans of their day, and possibly there were more horrible atrocities on the borders of the colonies than occurred during the Thirty Years' war in Germany, or in the Irish wars or in the Netherlands. Captives were sometimes burned at the stake, and once in a while portions of them were eaten, as a sort of religious rite. But originally at least, captive women were treated honorably.

Volney, the once famous French philosopher, who studied the Indian after he had suffered much from conquest and the strong drink of the white man, remarked: "I have often been struck with the analogy subsisting between the Indians of North America and the nations so much extolled—ancient Greece and Italy. In the personages of Homer's 'Iliad' I find the manners and discourse of the Iroquois and the Delawares." After he had visited the Maumees and talked with Little Turtle, he remarked that Thucydides, in describing the Greeks at the period of the Trojan war, very closely pictured the mode of life of the western Indians. The red men were superstitious, or religious, as one may choose to call them. They believed in two supernatural powers, the keechee manitoo, or good spirit, and matchee manitoo, or satan, like the ancient Persians, though the Ahura Mazda of the latter was the good god. To the good spirit they made prayers and offerings of baked meats, which, however, all shared in eating, having no priests with special privileges. The matchee manitoo was perhaps more the object of concern, but he could be driven away, and his evil influence averted, by the shaking of gourd rattles or by the smoke of tobacco thrown upon a fire. Their most common remedy for illness was as far advanced as the practice of those people today who have found that cleanliness is often preferable to drugs. The Turkish bath was common in the Mississippi valley hundreds of years ago. The Indian would take it in a little tent of hides, over some hot stones, and if he could stand a smudge of tobacco in addition to the hot air, the bath gained the merit of a religious ceremony.

Such were the ancient people of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys in the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. About the year 1459 the greatest event affecting their history, after the conquest of the Allegawi, occurred, namely, the confederation of the five Mengwe tribes known to us as Mohawks, Oneidas, Senecas, Cayugas and Onondagas, under the leadership of the great chieftain and statesman, Ayoun-wat-ha, familiar in romance as Hiawatha. This confederation was founded to maintain quiet among those tribes, and was called the Kayanerenhkowa, or "great peace," whence the

French, "Iroquois," or Eroke people. This confederation, while it held the five tribes in firm alliance, did not forbid war with their neighbors, the Lenapes, or other tribes of the Mengwe family.

A wonderful happening in 1535 was the appearance of Cartier and his Frenchmen in the St. Lawrence river, as high as Hochelaga (Montreal). It was the advance guard of the new era, in which the Iroquois confederation should be conspicuous for more than two centuries and then pass away, with all the Indian power. Cartier reported that he had found the route to Cathay, for which all explorers in America were searching. The first permanent settlement in this region was made by Champlain in 1608, at Quebec. There for a time he made friends with a tribe which the French called "good Iroquois," or Hurons. They were a powerful people, of the Mengwe family, but at war with their cousins, the Iroquois of the confederation. Soon Champlain consented, with fatal effect upon French dominion in America, to join in an expedition of Hurons and Adirondacks against the Iroquois, and the arms of the French routed the red men of the confederacy at Ticonderoga. But two months later Hendrik Hudson sailed up the river which bears his name, and in a few years a great trading station was established at the place which the Delawares came to know as Manahachtanienk (Manhattan), and the Iroquois speedily made a covenant, or treaty of lasting peace, with the Dutch, and obtained the European fire-arms, in the use of which they soon became masters.

But even when equipped with bow and arrow alone they made an effectual barrier to French progress to the southwest. Because of the hostility he provoked, Champlain turned to the Ottawa river and visited Georgian bay. Within a quarter of a century after the unfortunate battle of Ticonderoga Nicollet discovered Lake Michigan, and as late as 1648 the French knew more of the far western lake of Winnebago than they did of Lake Erie, or even the falls of Onyagaro (Niagara), of which they had heard tales from the Indians. It was not for want of enterprise that the French submitted to this restriction. In 1615 Champlain invaded the Iroquois country and laid siege in a medieval manner to the walled capital, Onondaga, but was repulsed and compelled to retreat. Then in 1629 the English captured Quebec, and for a little while Canada and the right of exploring unknown rivers and lakes were granted to a favorite of Charles I. But Charles had a claim against the king of France for promised but unpaid dower, and when his father-in-law had settled this claim, the English charter was annulled. Meanwhile the Puritans had made their settlement among the Lenape of Massachusetts, and Jamestown had been established in Virginia, both under grants from the Eng-

lish monarch, reaching to the western seas, though no one but the Spanish had an adequate conception of the vast territory that lay between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

The Christian religion, as taught by the Franciscan fathers, was brought to the Indians about Niagara in 1626, but the adventurous priest, Joseph de la Roche Daillon, barely escaped with his life. After Quebec was restored to the French in 1632 came the Jesuits, who had some success in instructing the Hurons, but none with the Iroquois. Some Jesuit fathers visited Sault Ste. Marie in 1642, and on their return were taken by the Iroquois and savagely tortured. Father Joques, the only survivor, was taken across New York state before his release.

With the advent of the French and Dutch the Indians found they could obtain wampum, clothing, guns and ammunition, and many trinkets dear to both warriors and women, as well as "firewater" that might serve even better than their ancient besum (herb drink) in fortifying themselves for hunting or fighting excursions, all in exchange for beaver skins and other peltry. The Iroquois held a position commanding the channel of trade, both with the Dutch and the French. The latter had humiliated them in war, while the Dutch had sought their friendship and encouraged them to control the trade. It was natural, therefore, that they should seek to cut off the French trade and possess for themselves the hunting grounds of all the adjacent regions. Thus the fur trade became a controlling motive in the politics of the Northwest, and continued so until the war of 1812. Its first effect was that the Iroquois launched upon a great career of conquest. In 1643 they attacked the Attiwondaronks, called by the French the "neutral nation," living north and south of Niagara, and these were driven out, or absorbed in the victorious tribes. Within a few years the Huron towns in upper Canada, though strong enough to be called palisaded castles, were stormed and captured, the inhabitants driven far to the west and the country made desolate and empty of people. The last great battle, according to the Huron tradition, as told to General Harrison, was fought in canoes on Lake Erie, in which nearly all the warriors of both nations perished. The story of this campaign was told in Europe and divided attention with the ghastly details of the massacre of fifty thousand English in Ireland. It would be interesting to trace the career of some of the early explorers, but the purpose of this chapter has already been accomplished, though perhaps misnamed in designating it all as "Iowa Antiquities."

CHAPTER II.

AN OUTLINE SKETCH OF IOWA HISTORY.

We begin this article with an apology to the reader, for the reason that much apparently irrelevant matter must be here introduced in order to lead up to the beginning of Iowa history.

It is known to even the casual reader of our country's history, that the aggressions of white peoples in the East and Middle West gradually drove the aborigines from their habitations in those districts, and had a tendency to centralize them farther to the westward.

For a long series of years the Indian nations were dominated either by the French or the English, and, in remote instances, by the Spanish. At the beginning of the colonization period comparatively few of them were friendly to the colonists.

Beginning with the first shots fired by George Washington's men in the Pennsylvania wilderness in 1754, there was, practically, a continuous war for dominance in Europe and America for a period of sixty years. The contestants sought the overthrow of ancient dynasties, or the establishment of republican governments. After American independence was achieved, nominally at least, in 1783, the struggle was resumed in Europe, with France and England as the chief antagonists. Then the problem for America was to restrain her sympathies for each of these powers, keep out of the fight and strengthen her independence. Washington managed to hold down the French sympathizers, and Jefferson, though leaning toward France, adopted a policy of coquetry toward the hostile nations, using the opportunities of the situation to gain territory for the United States.

But when the rival powers attacked the great shipping interests of our country, with arbitrary edicts and confiscations, Jefferson, with all his ability, was compelled to declare an embargo on ocean trade in retaliation. This ruined the commerce all along the coast. Jefferson went out of office, leaving conditions which rendered war inevitable and his country crippled so as to make the war promise humiliation. Madison, a man of less ability, could not cope with the situation. The statesmen of his school rendered the country more unprepared for war by discontinuing the United States Bank. Mean-

while a group of young men, like Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun, came to the front, demanding war for American honor, to avenge the insults and outrages committed by the French and English upon American shipping and sailors. It was doubtful which country would be chosen as an antagonist, but the leanings of the party in power were toward France as an ally. Furthermore, the British were not only oppressive at sea, but were accused of again encouraging trouble among the Indians. When the American frigate "President" and the British sloop "Little Belt" turned their guns on each other in the Atlantic, and the Indians fell upon Harrison's camp in Indiana, the country could no longer resist the cry for war with England.

During many months preceding the declaration of war, the Indians of the West, under the leadership of the renowned chief, Tecumseh, and his brother, Ellskwatiwaw, the "Prophet," were organizing a confederation of all the tribes for one last effort to annihilate their white enemies. This Shawanee prophet enlisted many followers by his assumption that he possessed supernatural powers, representing himself to be the great "Manitou," or "second Adam," proclaiming himself the father of the English, the French, the Spaniards and the Indians, but asserting that Americans were children of the Evil Spirit. His voluble harangue had the desired effect among the Indians and an army of considerable strength was organized, among them the noted Black Hawk and his followers, as well as braves from most of the Iowa tribes of Indians.

The great Miami confederation, representing many tribes of the Algonquin, or primitive family, appear to have been the principal occupants of northwestern Indiana. The particular branch of the Miamis best known in that region were the Weas, or Ouitenons, though the Pottawattamies were next in strength and importance to the Miamis. This tribe, and the Kickapoos, occupied the west bank of the Wabash river at a place later known as "Prophet's Town." There were also various tribes of the Piankeshaws and Shawanees. In addition to these, there were representatives of numerous western tribes from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Prominent among these were the Sacs and Foxes, together with the noted chief among the former, Black Hawk. He had gained some notoriety among his people as a warrior against the Osages and other neighboring tribes, and was a valued ally of the British during the war of 1812, which soon followed the decisive battle of Tippecanoe. His pretext for bringing on the war which ended in his entire defeat and overthrow, in 1832, was the treaty of St. Louis, made in 1804, wherein certain chiefs of his tribe had ceded to the United States their lands on the east side of the Mississippi. But he was the victim of a

narrow prejudice and ill-will towards the Americans, which seems to have been engendered before he had any knowledge of them or their character, and this ill-advised and hasty judgment seems to have been the ruling passion of his life.

The home of Black Hawk and his followers was near the present site of Rock Island, Illinois, at the time the Indians were called together by the Prophet for their final effort at Tippecanoe. The territory across the river was then in full possession of the Indians, but the expedition of Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike, a United States officer, led to the building of Fort Edwards, at the present site of Warsaw, Illinois, and Fort Madison, on the Iowa side, and now the location of the city bearing that name. This latter was considered by Black Hawk and his people to be a special violation of the terms of the treaty signed in 1804. While five chiefs of the Sac and Fox tribes had signed a treaty with the United States, transferring all their interests in a strip of territory east of the Mississippi and north of the Jefferon in Missouri, embracing an area of over fifty-one millions of acres, for a consideration of two thousand, two hundred and thirty-four dollars in goods then delivered, and a yearly annuity of one thousand dollars in goods, Black Hawk was greatly displeased and claimed that the chiefs acted without authority. It is claimed by good American authority that the building of Fort Madison *was* a violation of the terms of the treaty of 1804, article six, of that document, stating: "That if any citizen of the United States, or any other white persons should form a settlement upon their lands, such intruders should forthwith be removed." Probably the authorities of the United States did not regard the establishment of military posts as coming, strictly, within the meaning of the word "settlement," as used in the treaty. At all events, they erected Fort Madison within the territory reserved to the Indians, and this led to continuous trouble for many years.

Keokuk was another noted chief, but entirely different from Black Hawk in his attitude towards the Americans. He was disposed to sanction the treaty of 1804 and to cultivate the friendship and good will of the Americans. Like Black Hawk, he was descended from the Sac branch of the nation, and was born on Rock River in 1780. Keokuk's friendship divided the Sacs and Foxes into the "war party" and the "peace party," as they were known. He counseled peace on the grounds that it was useless to fight. His good sense and cool judgment enabled him to discern the future and to recognize the strength of the Americans before compelled to witness it on the battle-field. A portion of the Sacs and Foxes remained neutral, and were under command of Keokuk, while the belligerents, under Black Hawk, joined the British.

Most of the Indian tribes concerned in the great battle of Tippecanoe have already been mentioned; but there were warriors from the Illinois, the Sioux, the Winnebagoes, the Osages, all from the region west of the Mississippi river.

DECISIVE BATTLES.

The battle of Tippecanoe was the culmination of the labors of Tecumseh and the Prophet, in inciting the Indians to a united warfare against the Americans. Much strategy was shown in effecting the organization and in the secrecy with which the work was done, and good generalship was shown in the conduct of the battle. This occurred on the 7th of November, 1811, with Gen. William H. Harrison as commander of the American forces. It resulted in the complete overthrow of the allied Indian forces and the opening of the gateway to the then little known Northwest. Up to this time, the hostile Indians in northwestern Indiana and in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa had effectually blocked the way of even the most aggressive frontiersmen. The effect of this victory over the Indians was more far-reaching in character, and gave greater impetus to the settlement of the country, than any of the many Indian battles which had preceded it. The battle was brought on prematurely, during the absence of Tecumseh in the South, otherwise the result of the contest might have been different. To emphasize the importance which the United States government and the state of Indiana attach to this final contest east of the Mississippi, it may be said, incidentally, that the battle-field has been dedicated to the use of a public park, ornamented with imposing structures and consecrated by the erection of tombstones over the graves of the fallen. As a final effort to establish its national importance, they caused to be erected, at equal expense to each, an imposing monument to Gen. William Henry Harrison and inscribed it with the names of all who fell on that field. Twenty-five thousand dollars was appropriated for this purpose, the state and nation contributing equal amounts of this sum. The monument was dedicated in 1907, ninety-six years after the date of the event which it commemorates. Representatives of the United States government and state of Indiana were present on that occasion; likewise many descendants of the men who fell there, the majority of whom were from the states of Indiana and Kentucky. Among the former was a great-grandson of General Harrison.

The decisive battle of the Thames, on the 6th of October, 1813, effectually closed hostilities in the Northwest, although peace was not fully restored until July 22, 1814. On that date a treaty was signed at Greenville, between General Harrison, as representative of the United States, and the

various Indian tribes who could be diverted from their allegiance to the British. The treaty of Ghent, on the 24th of December, following, brought peace between the United States and Great Britain, and this was followed the next year by various treaties with Indian tribes throughout the West and Northwest, and comparative quiet was again restored.

But we should not overlook the atrocious massacre at Fort Dearborn, as occurring about midway between the dates of the two principal battles on the western borders of civilization by about five hundred warriors of the Pottawattamies and Winnebagoes, acting under direction of the British General Proctor. The garrison, comprising fifty-four soldiers, twelve civilians and a number of women and children, were attacked by five hundred bloodthirsty warriors, who were enthused by the British promise of a bounty for every American scalp which they would bring to headquarters at Malden. It is stated on good authority that this bounty was paid. Twenty-eight of the little party were taken prisoners, all the others, including the wounded, having been slaughtered. Captain Heald was the commander of the garrison, while the Indians were led by Blackbird, a Pottawattamie chief. This massacre occurred on the 16th of August, 1812.

BLACK HAWK.

To render our narrative consecutive, in its treatment of near-by Indian history, we must again refer to Black Hawk. It will be remembered that this chieftain refused to recognize the treaty of St. Louis in 1804, and did not recognize its validity until 1815, when the Indian tribes west of the Mississippi were first informed that peace had been declared between the United States and Great Britain. From the time Black Hawk signed the treaty in 1816 until the beginning of the Black Hawk war in 1832, he and his followers passed their time in the ordinary pursuits of Indian life. Ten years before the commencement of this war, the Sac and Fox Indians were urged to unite with the Iowas and occupy the west bank of the Mississippi. All consented to do this except the remnant of the "British Band," of which Black Hawk was the leader. He vigorously protested against the removal, and this, and various actions on the part of the white settlers, provoked Black Hawk and his band, until they attempted to recapture his native village, then in possession of the whites. The war followed. Black Hawk was undoubtedly misunderstood, and had his wishes been considered at the beginning of this struggle much bloodshed would have been prevented and equally as favorable results attained. But the beauty and fertility of the In-

dian lands incited lawless aggressions upon the part of the whites. Returning to his native village on Rock River, to find his wigwams occupied by white families, and his women and children homeless and shelterless on the banks of the river, was sufficient provocation to incite them to war, especially as it was understood that the Indians were occupying those lands with the consent of the United States government. It may be well to remark here that it was expressly stipulated in the treaty of 1804, to which the Indians attributed all their troubles, that the Indians should not be obliged to leave their lands until they were sold by the United States, and it does not appear that they occupied any lands other than those owned by the government. If this was true, the Indians had good cause for indignation and complaint. But the whites, driven out in turn by the returning Indians, became so clamorous against what they termed encroachments of the natives, that Governor Reynolds, of Illinois, ordered General Gaines to Rock Island with a military force to drive the Indians from their homes to the west side of the Mississippi.

It is generally believed by old settlers in that locality, and is so recorded by some historians, that the Indian traders incited Black Hawk to a violation of the terms of the treaty because the Indians were indebted to them, and the traders took this method of getting their pay. It is well known that an Indian debt outlawed within one year, and Black Hawk's people had been unfortunate in hunting; hence they had incurred heavy debts with their favorite trader at Fort Armstrong (Rock Island). The wily trader knew that by encouraging the Indians to assume a hostile attitude and recross the river in violation of the terms of the treaty, another treaty would soon follow and he would be enabled to get the money due him.

After much parleying upon both sides of the controversy, and at least two efforts upon the part of Black Hawk to bring about peace relations, the Black Hawk war was precipitated, and eventually the Indians were driven into Wisconsin and practically annihilated. Black Hawk was captured by three Winnebago Indians and taken as a prisoner to Prairie du Chien, thence to Jefferson Barracks and finally to Fortress Monroe. He was liberated on the 4th of June, 1833, and, by order of the President, returned to his people in Iowa. His death occurred at the Des Moines reservation, October 3, 1838.

THE BLACK HAWK PURCHASE.

At the close of the Black Hawk war, in 1832, a treaty was made at a council held on the present site of Davenport, on the 21st of September, 1832. Gen. Winfield Scott was there as the representative of the United States and Governor Reynolds appeared for the state of Illinois. Keokuk and some

thirty other chiefs and warriors of the Sac and Fox nation appeared for their people. By the terms of this treaty, the Sacs and Foxes ceded to the United States a strip of territory on the eastern border of Iowa, fifty miles wide, from the northern boundary of Missouri to the mouth of the Upper Iowa river, and containing about six million acres. The eastern line of the purchase was parallel with the Mississippi. The government stipulated to pay annually to the confederated tribes, for thirty consecutive years, the sum of twenty thousand dollars in specie, and to pay the debts of the Indians at Rock Island, these having been accumulating for seventeen years, and then amounted to fifty thousand dollars, due to Davenport & Farnham, Indian traders. But the government generously remembered the women and children of the braves who had fallen in the Black Hawk war, and distributed among them thirty-five beef cattle, twelve bushels of salt, thirty barrels of pork, fifty barrels of flour and six thousand bushels of corn.

This territory is known as the "Black Hawk Purchase," and though it was not the first territory ceded to the United States by the Sacs and Foxes, it was the first opened to actual settlement. As soon as the Indian title was extinguished, a resistless tide of emigration flowed across the Mississippi to occupy "the Beautiful Land."

By the terms of the Black Hawk purchase, there was reserved for the Sac and Fox Indians four hundred square miles of land, situated on the Iowa river and including within its limits Keokuk's village, on the right bank of that river. This tract was known as "Keokuk's Reserve," and was occupied by the Indians until September, 1836, when by the terms of a treaty between them and Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin Territory, it was ceded to the United States. Besides the Keokuk Reserve, the government rewarded Antoine Le Claire, interpreter, with two sections of land, one opposite Rock Island and the other at the head of the first rapids above the island on the Iowa side. This was the first land title granted by the United States to an individual in Iowa.

Soon after the removal of the Sacs and Foxes to their new reservation on the Des Moines river, Gen. Joseph M. Street was transferred from the agency of the Winnebagoes at Prairie du Chien and established an agency among the Sacs and Foxes at a place now known as Agency City. There it was sought to "civilize" the Indians by teaching them the customs of the white man. A farm was opened up at government expense, buildings erected and the farming implements of that day provided. A salaried agent was employed to superintend the farm and dispose of the products. Two mills were erected, one of which was soon swept away by a freshet, but the other was maintained

and did good service for many years. Three of the Indian chiefs, Keokuk, Wapello and Appanoose, had each a large field improved, the latter on the present site of the city of Ottumwa. But the Indians became idle and listless in their new avocations, and many of them resorted to dissipation to supply the excitements of former days. A similar effort was made on the borders of our own county, and with like results, as will appear in another part of this work.

There were some fifteen treaties made with the different tribes of Indians occupying Iowa soil, in whole or in part, before the Indian titles or claims were fully extinguished. Besides the Sacs and Foxes, whose history has been given more fully than any others, there were many of the aborigines with whom the government, and, later, the pioneer settlers, had to deal. The Sioux were the hereditary enemies of the Sacs and Foxes, as were also the Osages. Constant warfare was maintained between these tribes for many generations. The general government established a "neutral strip" twenty miles north of the recognized boundary line between these nations and twenty miles south of it, thus separating them by forty miles of neutral territory upon which they were permitted to hunt, but should not occupy for warlike purposes. But neither of the parties was very zealous in observing this imaginary line. This neutral ground extended from the mouth of the Upper Iowa river, on the west bank of the Mississippi, ascending the Upper Iowa to its west fork; thence up that 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 river, and down that river to its junction with the Missouri river. Included in this provision were also the Chippewas, Menomonees, Winnebagoes and a portion of the Ottawas and Pottawattamies. This "neutral strip" subsequently became a Winnebago reservation, and part of the Winnebagoes were removed to it in 1841. By the terms of a treaty agreed to on July 15, 1830, this territory was ceded back to the government and was thus acquired as a reservation for the Winnebagoes. On the same date and at the same time, the Sacs and Foxes, Western Sioux, Omahas, Iowas and Missouris ceded to the government a large tract of land, including the western slope of Iowa, and for which the various Indian tribes interested were to receive liberal annuities for ten consecutive years, as follows: To the Sacs, three thousand dollars; to the Foxes, three thousand dollars; to the Sioux, two thousand dollars; to the Yankton and Santie bands of Sioux, three thousand dollars; to the Omahas, two thousand five hundred dollars; to the Ottawas and Missouris, two thousand five hundred dollars. In addition to these annuities, the government

agreed to furnish some of the tribes with mechanics and agricultural implements, to the amount of two hundred dollars, and to set apart three thousand dollars annually, for the education of children of these tribes. This was the second effort of the government towards educating and Christianizing the Indians.

Fort Atkinson was erected by the United States authorities in 1840-1, and soon afterwards a large farm was opened in the interest of a portion of the Winnebago nation who had not been sent to the reservation farther south. Fort Atkinson and its environments had been established as a means of protection from the aggressions of rival tribes, as well as for the purposes previously mentioned. But like their brethren on the Des Moines reservation, they did not take kindly to the new life, and after the expenditure of much money and labor in their behalf, the fort and mission were both abandoned in 1848 and the Indians removed.

The last treaty made with the Sacs and Foxes was ratified on the 28th of March, 1843, at Agency City, by John Chambers, commissioner on behalf of the United States. By the terms of this treaty these tribes relinquished all claims to their lands west of the Mississippi, and provided for their removal to Kansas within three years, and all who remained after the time limit were to move at their own expense. Part of them removed in the fall of 1845, and the remainder in the spring following.

Provision was also made by the government for a class of men who had intermarried with the Indians and whose interests seemed to be identical with theirs. The Sacs and Foxes, having by the terms of a treaty ratified on the 4th of August, 1824, relinquished their title to all their claims in Missouri, received as part recompense a large tract of land in the southeast corner of Iowa, which was known as the "Half Breed Tract." This reservation was designed for the exclusive use of the half-breeds of the Sacs and Foxes, and was held by them on the same terms as the Indians. This territory subsequently became the source of much litigation and controversy, due to the efforts of the white settlers to possess it, without, in all cases, rendering proper equivalent. It contained one hundred and nineteen thousand acres in what is now Lee county.

The "neutral ground," to which reference has been made, was ceded to the Winnebagoes under provisions of a treaty made in 1832, in exchange for "all their land lying east of the Mississippi." It was also stipulated at the same time that they (the Winnebagoes) should receive an annuity of ten thousand dollars annually for twenty-seven years, and that the government should provide them with twelve yoke of oxen and the necessary farming im-

plements; establish a school among them, with a farm and six capable farmers to superintend the same, and that these provisions should continue, with an annual expenditure not exceeding three thousand dollars, for a period of twenty-seven years.

It seems that the government was somewhat tardy in complying with all the conditions imposed in the treaty above mentioned, since Fort Atkinson, and the mission, a few miles south of it, were not established until 1840-1. This reservation held a considerable portion of the present counties of Winneshiek, Clayton and Fayette. No white man was allowed to settle on it, though there is good evidence that these conditions were violated, in at least one instance.

LAND GRANTS.

The territory now embraced within the state of Iowa while under Spanish rule, as a part of the province of Louisiana, was subject to various grants by that nation, the most important of which were the lands granted to Julien Dubuque, near the city bearing his name; nearly six thousand acres were in like manner granted to Basil Girard, later in Clayton county, and known as the "Girard Tract." This was occupied by Girard at the time that Iowa passed from Spain to France, and from France to the United States, and his grant was confirmed by the latter power. Louis Honori received a grant from the Spanish authorities in 1799, to a tract of land which embraced the site of the present city of Montrose, and was designated as "one league square," but only one mile square was confirmed by the United States. Honori's mission, under the Spanish, was to establish an Indian trading post, barter in peltries, and keep the Indians in true allegiance to "His Majesty."

The first of these grants was made under the jurisdiction of Baron de Carondelet, then the Spanish governor of Louisiana, while the other two were negotiated under the lieutenant-governor of Upper Louisiana. It has been the policy of European nations from time immemorial that possession perfects title to any territory, and this vast domain was given away, bartered and sold without the least consideration for the rights of the original owners and occupants. But the United States, from the days of William Penn, in Pennsylvania, down through all the various treaties with the Indians, adopted the conciliatory and humane policy of recognizing their rights and buying their interests. The purchase of Louisiana Territory, in 1803, was no exception to this rule, and the transaction simply meant the severance of foreign claims upon the territory and the payment of vast sums of money to the rightful owners of the soil. In fact, the Indians are today the wards of our country and each tribe receives its regular annuity.

The vast domain acquired in the "Louisiana Purchase" included the present state of Iowa, as well as territory extending, practically, from the Atlantic ocean to the crest of the Rocky mountains, and from the gulf of Mexico to the headwaters of the Mississippi river. This territory was a bone of contention between the three rival nations at that time contending for supremacy in the United States. The allied powers of Spain and France were at war with Great Britain, the war between these nations being declared in 1796. The United States had demanded from Spain the free navigation of the Mississippi river, but with only partial success up to this time. But now the Spanish sought to place the neutral territory of a friendly power in the way of a threatened British invasion of Upper Louisiana, and the treaty of Madrid promptly granted the request.

The territory acquired from France by the purchase of Louisiana embraced one million one hundred and seventy-one thousand, nine hundred and thirty-one square miles, and cost the government of the United States about fifteen million dollars. This cession greatly exasperated Spain, her Florida possessions being threatened thereby. Napoleon at that time was fast overrunning the continent of Europe, and England, with unwonted severity, was exercising her always-disputed rights of search and impressment. Napoleon, in retaliation, issued numerous decrees, first from Berlin, then from Milan, and another from Rambouillet, and between the two, American commerce, for the time, was destroyed. There was not a shadow of justification in the laws of nations for the action of France in this respect, since the United States was then a neutral power. But while France and England were equally wrong regarding their attitude toward the United States, the superior naval power of England rendered her the more formidable as an adversary. It was this view, we must assume, which influenced Jefferson and his successor to overlook the wrongs done by France and to seek to direct public sentiment toward England as the real enemy of the United States. However, it was thought at times that a "three-cornered war" was imminent.

This is barely a hint as to the many causes which induced the United States to declare the second war against Great Britain. The purchase of Louisiana Territory, brought about through secret conferences between Spain and France, the very extensive area involved in the purchase, and the strong probability that the United States would hold and utilize it, caused intense jealousy among the rival powers. At the time of this purchase the United States was at war with Tripoli, a contest for the privilege of navigating the Mediterranean, which continued from 1801 to 1805; the Seminole war had been in progress on the settlers of Florida and elsewhere in the extreme South for many years, and culminated with their joining the British in the war of

1812, and their final overthrow by General Jackson; the North and East was in constant turmoil with the Indians in those localities, and now the struggling colonies were threatened with destruction by the united efforts of all her enemies. It was unquestionably a most critical period in our national history.

A long and expensive war with the Seminoles followed the declaration of peace between the United States and Great Britain, continuing from 1835 to 1842, and costing ten million dollars, and one thousand five hundred lives. The final subjugation of this powerful tribe led to the purchase of Florida.

The Northwest Territory, as now understood, embraces fourteen states and two territories, reaching from the gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes and from the Mississippi to the crest of the Rocky mountains.

The territory which now embraces the state of Iowa was first visited by Europeans in 1673, when two French Jesuit missionaries, Marquette and Joliet, in passing down the Mississippi, landed near the mouth of the Des Moines river, and are believed to have been the first white men to set foot on what afterwards became the state of Iowa. These missionaries were cordially received by the warlike Indians who then occupied the country. The new religion which they announced, and the authority of the king of France which they proclaimed, raised no hostile remonstrance, and they were permitted to continue their sojourn to the South. But the grand visions of the future entertained by these and other French explorers were never realized by that nation. By reason of the discoveries made by Jaques Marquette and Louis Joliet, France laid claim to the territory, and soon afterward the king named the vast extent of country west of the Mississippi the province of Louisiana. But prior to 1762 the territory now included in the state of Iowa was claimed by Spain, England and France. A treaty was carried into effect in 1763 whereby France was conceded ownership of the disputed territory lying west of the Mississippi river; but while these negotiations were pending France secretly ceded these possessions to Spain. That nation took formal possession in 1769, and retained control until 1800, when, under treaty arrangements, it was re-ceded to France and purchased from that nation by the United States in 1803. Some controversy arose as to the boundaries of the territory and in 1819 the area was reduced to eight hundred and seventy-five thousand and twenty-five square miles, and so remains at present.

TERRITORIAL CHANGES.

Various territorial complications arose between the time of the Louisiana purchase in 1803 and the organization of Iowa territory on the 12th of June, 1838. In 1804 Iowa was a part of the district of Louisiana and under the

territorial government of Indiana territory. In 1807 it became a part of the territory of Illinois, and five years later it was attached to Missouri territory, continuing as such until the admission of Missouri as a state, in 1821. From the date last written until July, 1836, Iowa had but a nominal political organization, but through the efforts of Gen. George W. Jones, then a delegate in Congress from the territory of Michigan (which exercised jurisdiction over the territory of Iowa), Wisconsin territory was organized, and Iowa was attached thereto. In September, 1834, the Legislature of Michigan had created the counties of Des Moines and Dubuque, and these were later subdivided, under the domination of Wisconsin territory, into sixteen counties, Fayette county being organized from territory formerly embraced in Dubuque county; but this was, for the most part, only nominal organization, which was perfected some years later, under authority of the territorial Legislature of Iowa.

No permanent settlements were made in Iowa until after the close of the Black Hawk war, though Julien Dubuque, a Frenchman, held a mining claim under a grant from Spain, as early as 1788.

For a year or more after the settlers began to flock into the territory of Iowa, there was no established government in force and lawlessness prevailed to a great extent. The better class of settlers asked Congress to extend the jurisdiction of Michigan territory over the territory now embraced in the state of Iowa, and this was done and courts were established in the counties then organized. At that time the two counties then existing embraced the entire territory of Iowa. Dubuque county embraced all the territory north of a line drawn due west from the lower end of Rock Island to the Missouri river, and was constituted the township of Julien; and Demoines county included all territory now in the state south of this line, and constituted the township of Flint Hill.

Probably none of the western territory was settled more rapidly than Iowa, and by 1840 there were more than forty thousand people in the territory. Ten years later the population had grown to nearly two hundred thousand, the state had been admitted to the Federal Union, and the era of progress had commenced.

In 1838 a controversy arose between Iowa and Missouri over the question of boundaries, and for a time civil war was threatened. Missouri claimed a strip of territory on the southern boundary of Iowa some eight or ten miles wide, and extending across the territory. Taxes were levied on this territory and the Missouri officials attempted to collect them by distraining the personal property of the settlers. Governor Lucas called out the militia

of Iowa and both parties made active preparations for war. The trouble was finally submitted to the supreme court, through the intervention of Congress, and a decision was rendered in favor of the claims of Iowa.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

By virtue of an act of Congress, approved July 4, 1836, Wisconsin territory, embracing within its limits the present states of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, was taken from that of Michigan and given a separate form of government. By the same authority, and approved on the 12th of June, 1838, Iowa territory was created, including, in addition to the present state, the greater part of what is now Minnesota and extending north to the British line. Iowa was then designated as "that part of Wisconsin territory lying west of the Mississippi river and north of the state of Missouri." In 1840, and again in 1842, elections were held in Iowa territory to vote on the question of holding a constitutional convention, but in each case the proposition was defeated. In 1844 the question was again submitted and carried. A delegate convention was held at Iowa City, October 7, 1844, and a constitution and boundary lines of the new state of Iowa were agreed upon. A controversy arose over the question of boundaries, Congress assuming to make some radical changes, and when again submitted to the people, in April, 1845, the proposition was rejected.

Another constitutional convention was held at Iowa City, May 4, 1846, and a constitution and state boundaries were agreed to, the boundaries of the state established as at present, this action being in harmony with a statehood bill then pending before Congress. The constitution was adopted by the people at an election held August 3, 1846, and on the 28th of December, 1846, Iowa was formally admitted into the Union as the twenty-ninth state.

The question of amending or revising the constitution was agitated in 1854, and the fifth General Assembly passed an act, approved January 24, 1855, providing for the holding of a convention to revise or amend the state constitution. This action upon the part of the Legislature was authorized by the vote of the people at the general election held in August, 1856. The delegates met at Iowa City in January, 1857, and formulated the present constitution of the state, it being approved by the electors at an election held August 3, 1857. It became operative on proclamation of the governor, dated September 3, 1857. By the provisions of the new constitution the capital of the state was located at Des Moines, and the State University was located at Iowa City.

LOCATING THE CAPITAL.

It may be here remarked that the capital question had been previously undecided, the territorial capitol being located in a two-story frame house at Burlington, which was also the capital of Wisconsin territory previous to the organization of Iowa territory. This building was destroyed by fire, and future meetings of the territorial Legislature were held in "Old Zion" Methodist Episcopal church. President Van Buren appointed ex-Governor Robert Lucas, of Ohio, as territorial governor of Iowa, and in the administration of the affairs of his office some dissensions arose between the Governor and the Legislature, which was soon elected and convened upon the Governor's call. But the unqualified or arbitrary veto power was the principal bone of contention. Then the members of the first Territorial Legislature, convened at Burlington on the first day of November, 1838, was overwhelmed with work, and each member had views of his own regarding the future needs of Iowa, not the least of which was the location of the capital. Several locations were chosen by various "commissions" appointed at different times, the first change being to Jasper county, where five sections of land were donated for the purpose by the federal government. At this time the Legislature was occupying the unfinished capitol building at Iowa City. But a more central location had been decided upon, and the state buildings at Iowa City had been donated to the State University. But Monroe City, in Jasper county, ceased to be the capital of the state, even without removal to that place, and numerous bills were introduced in the House and Senate looking to the removal, first to Pella, but afterward to Fort Des Moines, the latter place being decided upon after two adverse decisions by as many sessions of the Legislature. The Governor approved the relocation on the 19th of October, 1857, and by proclamation Governor Grimes declared the city of Des Moines the capital of Iowa. Thus Iowa City, after witnessing four territorial Legislatures, and six meetings of the state Legislature, besides three constitutional conventions, ceased to be the seat of government.

When Iowa was admitted into the union of states there were but twenty-seven organized counties in the state, and about one hundred thousand inhabitants. These were mostly located along the eastern borders, the settlers coming from Illinois and other Middle states. Following the year 1833 the settlers poured in by the thousands, and by 1835 the whole western margin of the Mississippi, from Missouri almost to the northern boundary of the state, was comparatively thickly settled. But from the date last written the tide of settlement crept westward and northward along the Des Moines,

Iowa, Cedar and other rivers. The western, or "prairie" portion of the state was not generally settled until after the Civil war, many returned soldiers finding homes in "Peerless Iowa."

On the 11th of January, 1858, the seventh General Assembly convened at Des Moines, now made the permanent seat of government.

EDUCATIONAL PROVISIONS.

Upon her admission to the Union, Iowa received a grant of five hundred thousand acres of land, in accordance with an act of Congress, approved September 4, 1841, and under the provisions of another act passed March 3, 1845, the sixteenth section of each unorganized congressional township was set apart for school purposes. Thus it will be seen that early provision was made for education, a liberal policy which has been followed throughout the entire history of the state, this donation to that purpose furnishing the nucleus to a permanent school fund exceeding four million dollars. The state constitution provides that the money derived from the sale of school lands shall remain a perpetual fund for the support of schools throughout the state. In addition to the donation of the "sixteenth section" for school purposes, the act of March 3, 1845, appropriated forty-six thousand and eighty acres of land to aid in establishing the State University. The "Five Per Centum Fund" is also another source of revenue to the school fund of the state. By an act of Congress, five per cent of all moneys derived from the sale of public lands was set apart for school purposes. The interest upon these funds is distributed to the different counties and forms a part of what is called the "semi-annual apportionment." The principal of this fund can never be diminished or appropriated to any other use.

The pioneers of Iowa were a brave, hardy, intelligent and enterprising people. The Western states, which have grown into controlling importance in the Union, have been settled by many of the best and most enterprising people of the older states and a large immigration of the best blood of European nations, who, removing to a field of larger opportunities, blessed with a more fertile soil and congenial climate, have developed a spirit and energy peculiarly Western. In no country on the globe have enterprises of all kinds been pushed forward with greater rapidity, nor has there been greater independence and freedom of competition. The pioneers who laid broad and deep the foundations upon which has been erected the populous and prosperous commonwealth of Iowa, which today dispenses its blessings to two and a quarter millions of people, were of the class who knew no failure. From the

inception of her institutions Iowa has had able men to manage her affairs, wise legislators to frame her laws, and able and impartial jurists to administer justice to her citizens. Her bar, pulpit and press have been able and widely influential, and in all the professions, arts, enterprises and industries she had taken, and holds, a commanding position among her sister states of the West.

Iowa has been very liberal in establishing the higher institutions of learning, and in providing for the unfortunate of all classes. The State University was authorized by the constitution and permanently located at Iowa City, Johnson county. The other institutions have been established by acts of the General Assembly, passed at different times in our history. The State Agricultural College and farm were provided for by the General Assembly of 1858, and the commissioners appointed to select the site established it at Ames, in Story county. In 1862 the Congress of the United States appropriated two hundred and forty thousand acres of the public domain to the support of this institution, and the funds arising from the sale of these lands furnishes abundant means for its support. The farm embraces eight hundred acres, devoted to advanced agriculture, the propagation of farm and garden seeds, and the testing of the various strains of live-stock, with a view to demonstrating their worth for general purposes on the farms of the state. The design of the college is to furnish instruction in all the arts and sciences that have any bearing upon agriculture. Tuition is free to all inhabitants of the state over sixteen years old. Each county is entitled to send three pupils to the college, and the trustees may designate a greater number, if conditions permit of a greater enrollment. The management is placed in the hands of a board of trustees, consisting of one member from each congressional district. The governor and superintendent of public instruction are also constituted members of this board by virtue of their offices.

The State Normal School was established by act of the Legislature, approved March 28, 1876, and located at Cedar Falls, in Black Hawk county. The buildings and grounds formerly used for the Soldiers' Orphans' Home were appropriated to its use, and the school was formally opened in September, 1876. Numerous valuable additions have been made to the buildings, and the original purpose of the school has been faithfully followed in the preparation of students for the teaching profession. The management of the institution is in the hands of a board of six directors, elected by the General Assembly in joint session, two at each regular session of the Legislature.

The College for the Blind was opened for the reception of students at Iowa City, April 4, 1853. Five years later the location was changed to Vinton, Benton county, where the school still remains. The school was opened at Vinton in 1862, with a class of forty pupils. It provides free educational advantages to all blind persons of school age in the state. An industrial department is also conducted in connection with the school for the benefit of all blind persons who are dependent upon themselves for support.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOMES.

Mrs. Annie Wittenmeyer was the moving spirit in the establishment of schools for the education of soldiers' orphans. In October, 1863, a convention was called to meet at Muscatine for the purpose of devising means of support and education for the children rendered homeless and dependent through the death of their natural protectors in the service of their country. This praiseworthy enterprise met with cordial support from the loyal people everywhere, and soon there were four schools (and homes) in operation at different points in the state. The first was opened at Lawrence, Van Buren county, and twenty-four orphans were admitted in July, 1864. The home was sustained by private contributions until 1866, when the state assumed control of it. Schools were soon established at Cedar Falls, Glenwood and Davenport. These were maintained by the state as long as there was any need for their existence, when the buildings were mostly devoted to the uses of other state institutions. The home at Glenwood has been appropriated to the use of the Institution for the Feeble Minded, and that at Cedar Falls to the State Normal School, as has already been intimated. The home at Davenport is still in existence, the unfortunate self-dependents from all the homes having been concentrated at that place, and there cared for by the state. The expenditure for this purpose during the biennial period—1903-5 (the latest official report)—was one hundred and seventy-six thousand dollars. While under the jurisdiction of the state, these homes were managed by a board of three trustees, elected biennially at each regular meeting of the General Assembly.

A Hospital for the Insane was authorized by the General Assembly of 1855, but was not opened to receive patients until March, 1861. The first institution of this character was located at Mount Pleasant, in Henry county, but additional hospitals have since been located at Independence, Clarinda and Cherokee.

The Deaf and Dumb Institution was established at Iowa City, in 1853, permanently located at Council Bluffs, July 4, 1866, and removed to that place in 1871. Every deaf and dumb child in the state, of suitable age, is entitled to an education at this institution at the expense of the commonwealth. The instruction given is of the most practical nature, and the course of study embraces those branches which will be of the greatest benefit to the pupils. There are several work-shops connected with the institution and its inmates are allowed to learn any of the trades represented. The managing trustees are elected by the General Assembly, for a term of six years, one at each regular session.

REFORM SCHOOLS.

There are two schools for the reformation and education of boys and girls under the age of eighteen who are found guilty of any crime except murder. The judge of the court in which a conviction has been found may consign the guilty one to this reformatory institution, and, with the consent of parents or guardians, may bind them out to service until they attain their majority. A certain amount of labor, varying with the age, strength and capacity, is required of each pupil. The five trustees having control of the two schools are elected by the General Assembly for a term of six years.

These institutions are now known as "Industrial Schools," the boys' school being located at Eldora, Hardin county, and that for the accommodation of girls at Mitchellville, Polk county. The first of these was established in 1868, in Lee county. In 1873 it was removed to Eldora, and in 1880 the sexes were separated and the school (for girls) at Mitchellville established.

PENITENTIARIES.

In addition to the institutions already mentioned, the state has been obliged to make provisions for restraining criminals, and especially for those guilty of felonies. The first steps towards establishing a penitentiary were taken by the territorial Legislature in 1839. Directors were appointed to superintend the construction of the building, which was to be located at Fort Madison, Lee county. The fourteenth General Assembly established an additional penitentiary in 1873, at Amamosa, Jones county. The expense of maintaining these two penal institutions for the biennial period, 1903-5, was over half a million dollars, a considerable portion of which, however, was returned to the state from the sale of manufactured products and convict labor.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION.

No one questions but that the building of railroads had much to do with the development of the state of Iowa, as well as the entire Western country; but many well-informed people likewise believe that the expenditure of the vast wealth in lands and money in the interests of their building and equipment has never been returned in kind, and that the roads would have been built, regardless of the liberal policy adopted by the state, counties, municipalities and even private contributors. Our honored ex-Governor, William Larrabee, LL. D., has ably set forth a very concise and comprehensive history of "The Railroad Question" in a book bearing that title, and now passing through the eleventh edition. Unfortunately, the work is too exhaustive for our purpose in giving a brief resume of the history of early state institutions. But with grateful acknowledgments to the venerable ex-Governor, we gladly use such portions of his work as are available for our purpose and trust the further history of railroading in Fayette county to those having charge of that department.

Quoting from Governor Larrabee's book, page 328: "The state of Iowa has not derived that benefit from the large land grants made to its railroads which her people had a right to expect. In spite of these grants, roads were built only when there was reason to believe that they would be immediately profitable to their owners. The land grants enriched the promoters of these enterprises much more than they did the state in whose interest the grants were presumed to be made." "The total number of acres of land granted by Congress to aid the construction of Iowa roads is four million, sixty-nine thousand, nine hundred and forty-two. A fair idea of the value of these lands may be obtained from the fact that the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company sold over half a million acres of its lands at an average of eight dollars and sixty-eight cents per acre, and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy sold nearly three hundred and fifty thousand acres at an average of twelve dollars and seventeen cents per acre. But land grants form only a small part of the public and private donations which have been made to Iowa roads. Including the railroad taxes voted by counties, townships and municipalities, the grants of rights of way and depot sites and public and private gifts in money, these roads have received subsidies amounting to more than fifty million dollars, or enough to build forty per cent of all the roads in the state. There is no doubt that the contributions of the public toward the construction of the railroads of Iowa is several times as large as the actual contributions of their stockholders for that purpose. * * * As a rule

these land grants enabled scheming men to hold the selected territory until a railroad through it promised a safe and profitable investment, and to avoid the payment of taxes on their millions of acres of land, which in the meantime became very valuable. Other roads were built in an early day without government aid. They were pushed forward by the current of immigration until the threatened competition of roads favored by these grants checked their progress. The Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska road may be cited as a fair illustration. It was projected on the 26th of January, 1856, in the town of Clinton, to be built from Clinton to the Missouri river, via Cedar Rapids. It was opened to De Witt in 1858 and completed to Cedar Rapids the following year. The road was eighty-two and one-half miles long and was built entirely with private means, receiving neither legislative aid nor local subsidy. It is more than probable that this road would at an early day have been completed to the Missouri river had it not feared the rivalry of the subsidized Cedar Rapids & Missouri road. * * *

"The first survey for a railroad in the state of Iowa was made in the fall of 1852. The proposed road had its initial point at Davenport and followed a westerly course. It was practically an extension of the Chicago & Rock Island railroad, which was then built between Chicago and the Mississippi river. On the 22d of December, 1852, the Mississippi & Missouri Railroad Company was formed, its object being to build, maintain and operate a railroad from Davenport to Council Bluffs. The articles of association were acknowledged before John F. Dillon, notary public, and filed for record in the office of the recorder of Scott county on the 26th of January, 1853, and in the office of the secretary of state on the first day of February, following. In 1853 the Mississippi & Missouri Railroad Company entered into an agreement with the Railroad Bridge Company of Illinois for the construction and maintenance of a bridge over the Mississippi at Rock Island. The work was commenced in the fall of that year, and the bridge was completed on April 21, 1856, it being then the only bridge spanning the Mississippi river.

"The first division of the Mississippi & Missouri railroad, extending from Davenport to Iowa City, was completed on the first of January, 1856, and was formally opened two days later. A branch line to Muscatine was completed shortly thereafter. On the first day of July the state of Iowa had in all sixty-seven miles of railroad, bonded at fourteen thousand, nine hundred and twenty-five dollars a mile, which at that time probably represented the total cost of construction. The earnings of these sixty-seven miles of road during the six months following July 1, 1856, amounted to one hundred and eighty-four thousand, one hundred and ninety-three dollars, or two thousand,

seven hundred and forty-nine dollars per mile, which was equal to an annual income of about five thousand, five hundred dollars per mile. On the 15th of May, 1856, Congress granted to the state of Iowa certain lands for the purpose of 'aiding in the construction of railroads from Burlington, on the Mississippi river, to a point on the Missouri river, near the mouth of the Platte river; from the city of Davenport, Iowa, by way of Iowa City and Fort Des Moines, to Council Bluffs; from Lyons City northwesterly to a point of intersection with the main line of the Iowa Central Air Line railroad near Maquoketa, thence on said line running as near as practical to the forty-second parallel across the state; and from the city of Dubuque to the Missouri river near Sioux City.' The grant comprised the alternate sections designated by odd numbers and lying within six miles of each of the proposed roads. Provision was also made for indemnity for all lands covered by the grant which were already sold or otherwise disposed of.

"The wisdom of the land-grant policy has been questioned. When these grants were made it was believed by many that railroads would not and could not be built in the West without such aid. While others did not share this opinion, they at least supposed that land grants would greatly stimulate railroad enterprise and lead to the early construction of the lines thus favored. * * *

"The price of all government lands lying outside of the land-grant belts was one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. To reimburse the public treasury for the loss resulting from these grants, the price of lands situated within the land-grant belts was advanced to two dollars and fifty cents per acre, practically compelling the purchasers of the even-numbered sections of land, instead of the government, to make the donation to the railroads. * * *

"Designing men soon saw the advantages which the situation offered. They combined with their friends to organize companies for the construction of the land-grant roads, built a small portion of the proposed line, to hold the grant, and then awaited further developments, or rather, the settlement of the country beyond. There are those who believe that the doubling of the price of government land within the belt of the proposed land-grant roads greatly retarded immigration and with it the construction of roads. They hold that, had no grant whatever been made to any railroad company and had equal competition in railroad construction been permitted, the Iowa through lines, instead of following, would have led, the tide of immigration."

Restrictions regarding space, and the further fact that this is to be a county history instead of one devoted to the state of Iowa, precludes the possibility of following the interesting and instructive details of railroad history,

as so fairly and ably presented by Mr. Larrabee. It would be extremely interesting to present the history of transportation, the building of turnpikes in early days, the canals of the East and Middle West, the inventions tending to introduce "steam navigation," and some of the minutiae relating to early railroading in Iowa; but we must be content to give a brief synopsis of a few of the early conditions, as has been the case in speaking of other state institutions. But there is one railroad in which the people of Fayette county have more than a passing interest, in that it furnished us the first outlet to the markets of the world. Reference is here made to the building of the McGregor & Western railroad, which passed through so many "evolutions" that the original promoters did not recognize it! This company was the successor of the McGregor, St. Peter & Missouri River Railroad Company, which was organized in 1857, and the construction of the road was commenced at McGregor in that year. Large local subscriptions were taken along the proposed line and every local encouragement possible was given to the enterprise. The company prosecuted the work of grading for a couple of years, when the McGregor, St. Peter & Missouri River Railroad Company was allowed to pass through the process of foreclosure, as was customary with many other roads at that time." The old stock company was completely wiped out and new owners came into possession of the property, reorganizing under the name of the McGregor Western Railway Company. Nearly all the early investments of Iowa people were thus confiscated by the same class of men who now cry out loudly against confiscatory measures." But this and other companies failed to build the road until the Legislature had made contracts with, or offered the stimulus of a large land grant, to four different corporations, the last of which was the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, who completed, and now operate, the road. The land grant in this case was "every alternate section of land designated by odd numbers for ten sections in width on each side of the proposed road. "Ten years after the construction of this road had commenced at McGregor it had only reached Calmar, in Winneshiek county, and more than twenty years were required, in the desultory manner employed, to build it through as far as Sheldon. It was completed as far as Algona in 1870, and this point remained the western terminus until it passed into the hands of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Company, and was completed by that company as far as Sheldon, in 1878.

While the particular branch of this road now under discussion does not touch any part of Fayette county, it passes within a mile or two of the northeast corner, and is even nearer to the northwest corner of the county. Then it was the first railroad to which our people had easy access, and, though it

did not greatly stimulate trade in this section, it did improve the McGregor market, to which most of our surplus products were hauled with teams. It was also an earnest as to the possibilities of the future in Fayette county.

There were in Iowa, at the taking of the last state census (1905), nine thousand eight hundred miles of railroad, with an average assessed value for the state of five thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven dollars per mile. The gross earnings for the entire railroad systems of the state was five thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight dollars per mile. There are thirty-two corporations, or railroad companies, subject to many changes of names, hence a list of names for this year would be incorrect for another period.

COAL OUTPUT.

There were six million, five hundred and seven thousand, six hundred and fifty-five short tons of coal produced in 1904—the latest official report—from twenty-two counties in the south-central and southwestern portions of the state. Monroe county occupies first place in the production of this staple, the output for that county being two million and sixty-one thousand, eight hundred and seventy-seven tons in 1904.

GYPSUM.

Though Iowa occupies third place in the production of this commodity, Michigan and New York alone exceeding it in the amount produced, yet the production is confined almost exclusively to Webster county. The value of the product for 1904 was four hundred and sixty-nine thousand, four hundred and thirty-two dollars.

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This organization was effected in the spring of 1854 by the election of Hon. Thomas Claggett, of Keokuk, president, and the selection of three directors from each county that then had a local agricultural society in operation.

In the fall of 1854 the society held its first annual fair, in the town of Fairfield, Jefferson county. From that day until the present the State Agricultural Society has been successful. It is fostered by the state, and receives an annuity of one thousand dollars to aid in operating expenses, the balance of such funds being contributed in entrance fees, the sale of privileges, etc.

The annual election of officers and directors is provided for by law, and occurs on the second Wednesday of each year at the capital of the state. Reports of the proceedings of the society are required by law to be published each year, and the secretary of state has charge of the distribution. The board of directors are also required to make an annual report to the governor of the state, and otherwise conduce to state supervision.

IOWA CHILDREN'S HOME ASSOCIATION.

This organization, brought into existence within comparatively recent years, is also fostered by the state, though the expenses of operation are mostly paid by private contributions. Through the efforts of philanthropic men and women in every section of the state, much good has resulted in relieving the wants of homeless children and placing them in proper homes for their training and education.

POPULATION.

According to the latest state census (1905), the population of Iowa is 2,210,050, which represents a decrease of .9 per cent since 1900. With this single exception, there has been a gradual increase in population at each census—taking the period from 1838, when the population was 22,859, to the present time.

Of the present residents of the state, there are 749,496 persons of school age, i. e., between the ages of five and twenty-one years. These include, colored, 4,318; foreign-born, 16,430; foreign parents, 259,509, and 469,239 have native parents.

In 1905 there were 460,840 men subject to military duty, i. e., able-bodied between the age of eighteen and forty-four years. Of these, 4,046 are colored and 66,205 are foreign born. Over seventy-one per cent. of the total population of Iowa are native born, the number being 1,379,981. Illinois contributed the greatest number of present inhabitants born outside of Iowa, or over seven per cent., while Ohio is second, with nearly four per cent., and New York and Pennsylvania each contributed a little over two per cent.

IOWA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CIVIL WAR.

From a population of less than seven hundred thousand, she furnished forty-seven regiments of infantry, nine of cavalry and four batteries of artillery, besides numerous enlistments in the regular army and navy, and in

organizations from other states. One pioneer of Fayette county, and who is now living here, enlisted in the Fifth California, and probably others were equally as zealous and disinterested in giving prompt response to the country's call, regardless of where the credit for enlisting was placed. No state in the Union furnished as great a percentage of population for the preservation of the Union as did "Peerless Iowa." Her muster-rolls included almost eighty thousand names.

In commemoration of the heroic deeds of her soldiers on the battle-fields of the South, the state has during the last ten years appropriated a quarter of a million dollars to the building of monuments at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Andersonville and Chattanooga. These monuments were dedicated by the Governor in November, 1906.

Of this vast army enlisting from the state in the sixties, but ten thousand, four hundred and eighty-eight are now living within its boundaries, though some have removed to other localities, but the casualties of war and the ravages of time are responsible for almost the entire shrinkage. There are twenty-five thousand, five hundred and sixty-nine veterans of the Civil war now living in Iowa, many of whom became residents of the state under the liberal homestead laws extended to them soon after the close of hostilities.

But enlistments, alone, did not determine the extent of Iowa's patriotism, as will be told more fully in the department devoted to county history. The sudden, though not unexpected, declaration of war, found the national government, as well as the states, wholly unprepared for an insurrection of such magnitude. The enlistment of men was the least part of the trouble. Arms and military equipments had been largely appropriated to the use of the organizing Confederates, whose leaders were in position to devastate the country before leaving their seats in Congress, in diplomatic circles or in the United States army. The national treasury was also depleted through the same agency, and we found ourselves on the verge of a great war, confronting an enemy already organized and equipped, without the necessary means of arming and uniforming a single division.

In this dilemma, the state was authorized at a special session of the Legislature, convened May 15, 1861, to secure a loan of eight hundred thousand dollars to meet the extraordinary emergency. Previous to this authorization, however, the First Regiment had been clothed with extemporized "uniforms" of all colors, shapes and materials, mostly the result of the volunteer labors of the loyal women in the towns near the regimental rendezvous. The same was done, in part, for the Second Infantry, but the completion of their outfit was forestalled by the assumption of authority by the state and the means secured through the loan.

Ex-Governor Samuel Merrill, then of McGregor, at once took a contract to supply three regiments with complete outfits of clothing, agreeing to accept, in payment, state bonds at par. The terms of this contract were complied with to the letter and within one month a considerable portion of the clothing was delivered from the manufacturers in Boston to the rendezvous at Keokuk, and the remainder was forthcoming within a few days. But the *color was gray,* and the Confederates were uniforming with that color! The war department had decided upon blue as the uniform color for the national troops. Other states had sent forward troops uniformed in gray, hence the uniforms were condemned by the war department, and this involved much apparently needless expense, though the reader will readily recognize the confusion and danger arising from two hostile armies meeting in deadly conflict when clothed in the same colors, and but little difference in their respective flags. The state of Iowa was reimbursed, in later years, for the cost of these uniforms and other irregular war expenses.

The loyal women, all over the state, at once took in hand the care of the families of soldiers at the front, and organizations were effected in every county for the collection of funds and the distribution of necessaries among the indigent families. Nor were the women alone in this loyal and philanthropic work, but the non-combatants at home were equally zealous in raising funds for soldiers' families. Parties of "lint-scrapers" were held weekly, in almost every neighborhood, the purpose being to prepare hospital supplies to be sent to the hospitals where sick and wounded soldiers were cared for, and many a patient has been made happy by the timely arrival of a box of palatable "goodies" from the hands of those he loved.

The United States Christian Commission was an early organization for promoting the spiritual, as well as the temporal, comfort of disabled soldiers in the field. Millions of dollars were collected and dispensed through this one agency, and no doubt it was instrumental in saving many lives. The Sanitary Commission was another very useful and effective agency, both in camp and about the general hospitals, their mission being, especially, to look after sanitary or "health" conditions among the soldiers, either sick or well. The work of these beneficent organizations was carried on without a dollar of expense to the general government, and few of those engaged in it, except nurses, ever received any money recompense for their services. But the great heart of the nation was enlisted in a common cause, and it is a pleasure to all survivors of the contest to know that the efforts at the front were so ably seconded by those who could not share in the glories of the battle-field.

But the culmination of all our military glory comes from the knowledge that our services, after the lapse of nearly half a century, are still shown tangible appreciation by the nation we served. No nation on the globe has ever been more liberal in pensioning its soldiers and their dependents than the United States. While this is true of the general government, the states, not to be outdone in their devotion and loyalty to the veterans, have, without a single exception, we believe, erected homes to care for those dependent upon their own efforts, in order that they may be nearer to their friends than in the National Homes, of which there are enough to supply all demands. The state has generously remitted the taxes of soldiers, within certain limits, and the "poor-house" can no longer be a menace to the over-sensitive but indigent veteran.

Iowa did not pay any bounties for enlistments, though toward the close of the war small bounties were paid by some cities and counties.

In response to the call of July 18, 1864, a draft was made in Iowa, not because she was behind in her quota of men, but because of the necessities of the government, which, for the time being, changed the apportionment in this and other states. There were one thousand, seven hundred and twenty-seven men raised by the draft in 1864. One regiment of three-months' men and four regiments and one battalion of infantry composed of one-hundred-days' men, comprised the irregular, or short-term enlistments from the state. Some five thousand men, at times of threatened invasions or border troubles, served under irregular enlistments or as emergency militia. Nearly eight thousand men re-enlisted in the field, thus rounding out a term of about four years in actual service. With the exceptions here enumerated, the term of service was three years, but the war was brought to an end before the latest enlisted men had served out the full term for which they enlisted.

Two Iowa cavalry regiments served the entire three years on the Western plains, where they confronted hostile Indians from 1863 to 1866. Some of these companies were among the last to return to their homes.

Upon final settlement after the restoration of peace, it was found that Iowa's claims against the federal government were fully equal to the amount of her bonds, issued and sold during the war to provide the means for raising and equipping her troops sent to the field and to meet the inevitable demands upon her treasury in consequence of the war. This is a record of which but few of the older and wealthier states can boast, since most of them had heavy war debts for many years after the close of hostilities.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

In the Spanish-American war the state furnished four regiments of infantry, two batteries of field artillery, a signal company, and a company of colored immunes. The United States navy was also represented, Fayette county having a representative in the person of Doctor Pattison, of Oelwein, who was a lieutenant.

A few veterans of the Mexican war are still living within the state, Fayette county having one who is a veteran of two wars.

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD.

Within comparatively recent years there has been a complete reorganization of the old "State Militia," which is now designated as the National Guard of the several states. The organization and discipline is much more thorough than formerly, while the equipment and emoluments are correspondingly improved.

The Iowa National Guard now consists of four regiments of infantry, of twelve companies each, and designated as the Fifty-Third, Fifty-Fourth, Fifty-Fifth and Fifty-Sixth Regiments. The headquarters of these are, respectively, Cedar Rapids, Muscatine, Ames and Sioux City. Each regiment is divided into three battalions in command of as many officers, ranking as majors. All of these regiments were called into active service during the war with Spain, the Fifty-Fifth serving about eighteen months, while the others served lesser periods. The governor of the state is the commander-in-chief, while he is assisted in the performance of his military duties by a staff of officers designated as adjutant-general, quartermaster-general, surgeon-general, judge advocate, inspector-general, chief of engineers and chief signal officer. These general officers have assistants, while there are seven "aides" appointed or detailed as assistants to the commander-in-chief, most of whom rank as lieutenant-colonels. Rotation in these appointments may account, in part at least, for the long list of "colonels" to be found in almost every county throughout the state.

The adjutant-general ranks as brigadier-general, and is the chief executive officer of the National Guard, upon whom devolves a very large part of the detail work of that organization, the making of reports, and carrying out the orders of the commander-in-chief. He has charge of the State Arsenal and grounds, and all other property of the state kept or used for military purposes.

STATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Under this department there are various organizations, with the purpose, in most cases, of enforcing or strengthening the power of existing laws. Among these may be enumerated the state railroad commissioners, the executive council, bureau of labor statistics, board of parole, food and dairy commissioner, state printer and binder, fish and game warden, department of agriculture, state veterinary surgeon, board of veterinary examiners, Iowa State Library, state librarian, historical department, state mine inspectors, commission of pharmacy, custodian of public buildings and property, board of health, hotel inspector (operative since July 4, 1909), geological board, library commission, Iowa state highway commission, hall of public archives, Horticultural Society, board of law examiners, state oil inspectors, superintendent of weights and measures, director of weather and crop service, Iowa Academy of Sciences, the State Historical Society (established by law in the year 1857), educational board of examiners, Iowa State Teachers' Association (in existence since May 10, 1854). The official heads of most of these various departments are appointed by the governor, and in most of those not so constituted the governor is designated as a member of the board by virtue of his office. The purpose of establishing these departments, in connection with the state government, will be readily understood from the titles of the offices created. In addition to the foregoing, there are a number of minor offices, the duties of which are not so universally applicable to all the people of the state.

CHAPTER III.

ORGANIZATION AND SETTLEMENT OF FAYETTE COUNTY.

Territorially speaking, Fayette county was originally one of the largest counties ever organized. It had a nominal organization on the 21st of December, 1837, when its boundaries included an area of about one hundred and forty thousand square miles. It included within its limits all of the present state of Minnesota west of the Mississippi river, extending on the north to the British dominions, and included all of the territory of the Dakotas east of the Missouri river, except a small tract in the southeast corner. Clayton county was constituted on the same date, and both were partly organized from territory then embraced in Dubuque county. Clayton at that time included a portion of Allamakee county, and the county seat was established at Prairie La Porte (now Guttenberg). Nearly all the counties in northeastern Iowa, and some others, were formed, in whole or in part, from territory originally embraced in Fayette county. But this was only a "paper county," having no organization in fact until reduced to its present boundaries in 1847, and finally organized in 1850. Previously the county had been attached to Clayton for judicial, revenue and election purposes, and an election had been held April 27, 1841, as ordered by the commissioners of Clayton county. The election was held at "the New Mission," and was designated as precinct No. 9, the bounds of which shall be designated by the bounds of the neutral grounds. It would seem, therefore, that the Clayton county commissioners exercised jurisdiction over the Winnebago Reserve. The polls were ordered opened at the house of David Lowrie, and H. D. Brownson, John B. Thomas and David Lowrie were judges of the election. H. H. Singer was messenger, and Silas Gilmore was clerk. It does not appear that there were more than three or four voters in Fayette county territory at that time. This is probably the first election for any purpose ever held for the accommodation of Fayette county voters. An election was ordered on the 7th of April, 1851, for the purpose of locating the county seat. The contestants were "Centerville" (at the geographical center of the county), Lightville (afterwards Lima), at Light's Mill, on the Volga river, West Union, Auburn and Claremont, now Clermont, and once called "Norway."

According to the conditions of the legislative enactment, the two places having the highest number of votes were required to hold another election to decide the matter, and West Union and Lightville held the deciding election on the first Monday in May, following, the result being in favor of West Union. This matter was decided by vote of the people in May, 1851; but two years later, under legislative enactment, commissioners were appointed who located the county seat on the southwest quarter of section 17, township 93, range 8, Westfield township. The law also prescribed that a vote should be taken on the question of removal to the new location. This was done in August, 1853, and resulted in favor of retaining the county seat at West Union. The conditions were complied with, a court house erected, and the official headquarters established. Another vote in April, 1860, ordered by the county judge, upon petition, resulted in favor of retaining West Union as the seat of justice. Another election was held in October, 1867, Fayette and West Union being this time the openly avowed candidates; but after a hotly contested canvass of the county, wherein some bad blood was engendered, West Union was again successful. The next and final effort looking to the removal of the county seat was made in June, 1873, when the county board of supervisors was petitioned to submit the question to the electors of the county. The territory was thoroughly canvassed by both parties to the controversy, and it is very evident that a pretty general expression of the people's wishes was secured. But a large number of the petitioners also placed their names upon a remonstrance, the assumption being that they had changed their views subsequent to signing the petition. A law question arose as to the legality of counting the names of the remonstrating signers on the petition, and an injunction was served upon the board of supervisors, restraining them from counting these names as petitioners. This action threw the matter into the courts and delayed the counting of the names until the time for submission had expired by statute, and West Union still retains the coveted prize. All except the first effort at establishing a county seat may appear irrelevant at this stage in the recital of early historical events, but with the purpose of exhausting the subject, it is all presented here in consecutive order. Having now the county organized, a county seat established and the first officers elected, it is proper to proceed with the chronological history.

Soon after the first settlers began to locate in Fayette county territory, the United States government established a military post about west-northwest of the old Clayton mission, on the Turkey river, near the southwest corner of Winneshiek county. This was called Camp Atkinson, or Fort Atkinson, in honor of General Atkinson, of the United States army. There a fort

and barracks were erected, and a new mission was established about four miles south of the fort, with Rev. David Lowry, a Cumberland Presbyterian clergyman, in charge. The mission buildings were located just north of the Fayette county line, but some of the lands included were located in what is now Auburn township, in this county. Several hundred acres of land was broken up and rendered fit for farming purposes. The Winnebago Indians, then occupying the northern portions of Fayette county and adjacent territory, were placed upon this reservation, first, with an idea to Christianize them, and secondly, to protect them from the incursions of unfriendly tribes of other nations. There were about two thousand nine hundred Winnebagoes thus provided for at the expense of the government. They were generally a peaceful band who obtained their living by hunting in the forests of Fayette, Clayton and Delaware counties, and seldom had any trouble with the white settlers. In the adjustment of affairs a small farm was allotted to each head of an Indian family, and all the inducements within the power of the government were extended to induce the savages to abandon their former mode of living and settle down to civilized life. Schools were established for the benefit of the children, but their attendance was governed, in a measure, by the condition of the home larder and, if well supplied with the fruits of the chase, they would neither work nor go to school. Neither did they take kindly to the religious instructions imparted, and after an expensive experiment covering a period of about eight years, the effort so generously put forth had to be abandoned, and the Indians were removed to Minnesota in 1848.

Mr. Lowry was succeeded by James McGregor, and he by J. E. Fletcher, by whom the Indians were removed.

With the establishment of the military post at Camp Atkinson a trail was opened between that point and the pioneer settlements in Clayton, Delaware and Dubuque counties, and in that portion of Fayette county which was included in the Black Hawk purchase, and along this trail the first white settlements were made. This trail entered Fayette county near the northeast corner of Putnam township, assuming a northwesterly course until it crossed the Volga river, about four miles above Fayette, thence north through Center, Windsor and Auburn townships, crossing Little Turkey river in section 29, Auburn township, thence north to the "Fort." It constituted the main thoroughfare then open to the pioneers, and a visit to the fort was considered an outing not to be despised. But the fort also afforded quite a local market, and many of those who visited the place did so with an eye to business. One of our surviving pioneers, Andrew J. Hensley, visited the mission in 1845, while William and John Paddleford, brothers, and very early pioneers on the

Volga bottom below Wadena, were at the fort during its building in 1840. On that occasion they witnessed the revolting spectacle of a Winnebago "burial." In this case the corpse was placed on a platform constructed for the purpose, in a tree, the religious superstition being that when so elevated he could the more easily reach the happy hunting ground. There were many such burials discovered by early pioneers in this county, the most numerous of which were in Illyria township.

The territory now embraced within Fayette county comprised three subdivisions of Indian lands, and was opened to settlement at different times, this being in accordance with the terms of a treaty entered into on the first day of June, 1833. What subsequently became the northern half of the county was included in the neutral grounds, or Winnebago reserve; the southeastern portion was included in the Black Hawk purchase, and the southwest corner, including the lands now embraced in Oran and Fremont townships, and a portion of Jefferson, remained in possession of the Sac and Fox Indians until ceded by them to the United States under provisions of a treaty ratified on the 21st of October, 1837. At the date last written there were but four full townships surveyed in the county, these being Putnam, Fairfield, Smithfield and Scott. But with the cession of territory in 1837, irregular boundaries (though for the most part imaginary) were straightened, and the outlines of the county established as at present. The area of the county is seven hundred and twenty square miles, being four congressional townships east and west and five north and south. More than one-fourth the area of the county was originally covered with timber, much of which was of excellent quality. But for many years after the settlement began, wood was the only fuel and the only fencing material, while the forest supplied the building material in crude form, thus the timber was depleted much more rapidly than economy in later years, combined with diligent efforts at reproduction, have restored it. The varieties most common were the various species of oak, maple, elm, hickory, walnut, cherry, basswood or linden, cottonwood, iron wood, some scraggy pine and cedar, willow, etc. As the natural timber began to disappear, and in many instances before that period was reached, the permanent residents began the propagation of artificial groves and "windbreaks," both for purposes of adornment and protection. Some have also planted liberally of quick growing forest trees with a view to replacing the rapidly disappearing forest growth. With quite a number of well-to-do farmers, this has become an item of considerable interest, twenty acres or more being thus planted. And almost every homestead in the county is now more or less adorned with handsome groves, some of which are very beautiful. With the

successful introduction of fruit growing came also the planting of evergreens and the cultivation of evergreen hedges, the two combining to render conspicuous the many beautiful homes so adorned.

About the southwest half of Fayette county was originally termed prairie land, and but little natural timber grew in that section. It was also the more level, and though well watered with small streams and many springs, the larger streams, and consequently the heavier belts of timber are located in the northeastern half of the county. Along the Turkey river, through Eden, Auburn, Dover, Clermont, Pleasant Valley and Illyria townships are the heaviest belts of natural timber, the most rugged bluffs, and the most rough and hilly land to be found in the county. But there are also to be found some of the most valuable farms in the county, and some of the most picturesque valleys to be found anywhere. The valleys are especially fertile, though the upland is excellent for farming purposes and stock raising. With the added value of the timber, much of which is still standing on the steep hillsides, it is an open question as to whether this land is not as valuable as other lands more favorably situated. There are numerous streams which flow into the Turkey, the most important of which are Little Turkey, Crane creek and Otter creek, in the northern part, each of which drains a large area of country and furnishes water power for small industries, more prolific in former days than now. By flooding a large area of level land at Alpha, sufficient water power was secured to operate a flouring mill and other industries, as will appear more fully in the article on Alpha. Crane creek, a large stream, flows through a beautiful and fertile farming country in Eden township, and empties into the Little Turkey on the line between Eden and Auburn townships. Otter creek, a stream of considerable volume, flows in an easterly course through a heavily timbered country and rugged hills, past West Union and Brainard, and enters the Turkey near the county line just below Elgin. The Volga and its numerous tributaries drain the south-central portion of the county from northwest to southeast, passing through Bethel, the northeast corners of Banks and Harlan, and easterly through Center, Westfield and Illyria, leaving the county at section 25, Illyria. This river is next in size to the Turkey and, like the latter, is skirted with timber, some of which was originally of excellent quality; but most of the arable land has been cleared and is now cultivated in farms. For many years some of the best timber lands in Illyria township were held by non-resident speculators, the price asked for it being largely in excess of that asked for improved farms near it. Small tracts were sold to the farmers in the prairie districts, some of whom hauled their fire-wood, fencing and other necessary timber a distance of ten or twelve miles. This was also true of the

Turkey river district, in the northern part of the county. The early settlers in Bethel, Banks and western Windsor townships were supplied from the "Auburn timber," hauling it ten to fifteen miles. When it is remembered that this was the only means of getting fuel in winter unless the people resorted to the doubtful expedient of burning corn, as they sometimes did in emergencies, we can readily discern one of the serious hardships of pioneer life. Driving across a trackless, treeless, fenceless prairie in deep snow, which was then the rule rather than the exception, as now, the present-day citizen can form some idea of the hardships endured by his ancestors (probably) in the early development of Fayette county.

These small tracts of timber land, as cleared, were purchased for farming land, and when many of them were combined in one body, the result was an excellent timber farm without the expense and labor of clearing it. But it is a well known fact among timber residents that section "thirty-seven" yielded more desirable saw-logs and building timber than any other section in Illyria township! [Section thirty-seven does not exist; it was the timber thief's refuge.]

The Little Wapsipinnicon traverses the southwestern portion of the county, flowing southeasterly through Fremont and Oran townships. There are also numerous creeks, all flowing south, among which may be mentioned Buffalo creek, Pine and Otter creeks, thus affording excellent drainage through a level prairie country. The timber in that section of the county is not as good as in the northern and eastern sections, though all the streams are fringed with some timber along the level valleys which skirt the streams in that locality.

The soil of Fayette county is nearly all peculiarly adapted to diversified farming. While there is some difference between the character of the land in different localities, there is none of the arable land in any section which does not produce a fair recompense for intelligent effort. The hilly land in the northern and eastern parts of the county is usually a clay soil, adapted to wheat growing and grass, in preference to corn raising. The soil in the valleys along the streams is a very fertile black loam, often containing a little sand, and occasionally a tract of considerable dimensions is quite sandy, this being true, also, of some of the prairie districts. Where not too sandy, this soil seems to be especially adapted to corn raising, and the Turkey valley soil, under the manipulation of such farmers as Henry George, William A. Anderson and others, has captured some valuable prizes at the corn and fruit exhibits at Omaha and elsewhere. The prairie townships, of which there are ten in the county, and some considerable portions of others,

are very uniform in the character of the soil, nearly all being a deep black loam, some underlaid with gravel and others with hard-pan or clay.

Much of the unimproved prairie land was originally "sloughy," especially the level portions of it. In an early day a system of blind ditching was inaugurated which was of material benefit to those who could employ that method, but many could not, on account of the cost. A machine was employed which was so constructed as to force aside the easily yielding soil, and by using the power furnished by five or six yoke of oxen, this appliance was forced through the ground at a depth of three or four feet, its depth being regulated to the desired point. This left a comparatively small passageway for the water, which, of course, constantly wore larger. A standard, not much larger than a plowshare, cut the tough sod to the top of the ground, and this aperture quickly "healed up," leaving only the drainage way underneath. The propelling power was attached to this standard. But the impracticability of the device was soon apparent when the sod on top began to cave in, when it became anything but "a blind ditch!" In recent years a good deal of tiling has been used, and in all cases with satisfaction. But with the opening up of adjacent lands, and the gradual reduction in the amount of rainfall, many of the "sloughs" have become rich farming lands without any effort at drainage, other than surface drainage from plowing. This class of land, when once reclaimed, has proved to be the most fertile of any surrounding it, when intelligently planted and cultivated. Swamp lands and shallow lakes have been drained and the beds turned into the most profitable of corn fields, both in our own and adjoining states.

Other streams worthy of mention are the Maquoketa, Brush creek, Bell creek, Prairie creek, all of which, except Bell creek, flow through the southeastern part of the county and empty into the Volga. There is an Otter creek in the northeastern part of the county and another stream bearing the same name flows south through Jefferson township. There are many fine springs of pure water, and the stock farm without running water is decidedly an exception.

The pioneers, in seeking sites for their cabin homes, sought a location near some good spring if possible, regardless of prospective roads or farm boundaries; and in later years it often became necessary to relocate the home site in order to be established on some highway, hence they often left the spring and its environments behind and were compelled to dig for water. The surface wells of early days, though affording a supply reasonably satisfactory as to quantity and quality, were not sufficient to supply the demands upon them in later years. They were usually shallow and yielded only sur-

face water, often seriously impregnated with impurities. Being "dug" or open wells, they required attention as to the matter of cleanliness, and within the knowledge of the present generation three men lost their lives at Elgin from fire-damp or marsh gas, while engaged in cleaning out a well. These shallow wells have given place in later years to the deep wells rendered possible through the invention and use of well-drilling machinery and wind engines now so universally in use. Both the quantity and quality of water have been greatly improved, and such a thing as driving a herd of stock in dry weather, three miles to a river or creek is now unknown, though a sprightly remembrance of men now living!

FIRST SETTLERS.

We believe that it is now generally conceded, though for many years disputed, that Franklin Wilcox was the first actual settler in Fayette county. But there are some extenuating circumstances which seemed to justify a difference of opinion on this subject. Besides his wife and daughter who accompanied him from Indiana to Fayette county in 1838, Franklin Wilcox's brother Nathaniel came at the same time and took up a claim just east of his brother's, on what subsequently became section 1, of Smithfield township. Robert Gamble came with the Wilcoxes from Ead's Grove and selected a home on land which proved to be on section 13, Center township, and near the geographical center of the county. For ten or more years this location was known as "Gamble's Grove," though since known as "Dunham's Grove." A postoffice was established at Gamble's Grove in 1850, with Thomas Woodle as postmaster. But Mr. Gamble did not remain long, being taken sick in the fall of 1840, and returned to Ead's Grove and never returned to this county. The first settlements in the county, including those previously mentioned, were made south of and near the Winnebago reserve line, in territory included in the Black Hawk purchase. They were also near or on the trail between the pioneer settlements in Clayton, Delaware and Dubuque counties. It is claimed, traditionally, that an attempt was made to encroach upon the rights of the Winnebagoes in 1836, by a couple of adventurers named Edson and Grant, and that they commenced preparations to build a mill at Elgin, or in "Shin-Bone Valley," as that locality was called in early days. Joseph Quigley, a reliable citizen and very early settler of an adjoining township in Clayton county, is authority for the statement. He claimed to have been well acquainted with the parties. Mr. Quigley said they came from the Turkey valley, below where Elkader is now located, and commenced

building a dam, digging a mill-race, getting out and hauling mill timbers to the spot chosen, and otherwise making the best possible use of a "squatter's right." It was claimed by the parties that they were unaware of their trespass, and when they discovered their error they promptly left the territory. Another version is that the Indians entered complaint to Mr. Lowry, at the mission, and that he compelled their removal. The Indians burnt their shanty, set fire to the timber and destroyed the dam.

Samuel Conner, who came to the vicinity of Elgin in 1848, verifies this statement as to the presence of mill timbers there at that time, the first settlers having used the charred remains as fuel for their lime kilns. This was unquestionably the first attempt of white men to permanently occupy any part of Fayette county; but as the effort was unauthorized, and, in fact, positive violation of existing laws, the recital possesses but little historical significance.

Of seventy pioneers who spent the winter of 1849-50 in West Union and immediate vicinity, only three are now living, namely: Mrs. J. W. Rogers, John Cook and De Witt Stafford. All of these have had a home in West Union since their first locating here.

At the beginning of 1850 there were but little more than five thousand acres of land entered in Fayette county, and much of that was controlled by speculators. The distribution of early settlers on the date above written was about as follows: Auburn township, as then sought to be organized, J. B. Earll and others at the embryo village of Auburn; Old Mission, in northwest corner of the township; Benjamin Iliff, at the present village of Eldorado, now in Dover township; Carlton and Sawyer, near the village of Norway (now Clermont); Diamond Conner and Forbes, at the present site of Elgin. West Union township, in 1850, extended north to the county line and included the east half of the present township of Dover. On this territory were the landholders, Lorenzo Dutton, Jacob W. Rogers and William Wells. As stated in a preceding paragraph, there were many other families in the town who had not taken up land, but who became permanent residents. P. F. Sturgis and Thomas Woodle had taken up land in what is now Center township, but the western tier of townships was entirely unoccupied, as were also Harlan township and the southern tier on the border of Buchanan county. In Westfield were the Light, Ludlow, Douglass and Beatty entries, while the Culver trading post was alone in Illyria. But there is good evidence that Thomas Fennell, Heinrich Hidinger and the Lockwood family located in Illyria about the time of which we are writing, and they or their descendants have remained in the county since. J. E. Robertson, Robert Alexander, the Wilcoxes and A. J. Hensley

had all taken up land in the southern part of Westfield and the northern part of Smithfield townships. Possibly Fairfield township was at this time the most thickly populated section of the county, there being some nine entries made, and which included the Brooks settlement, the Voshels, Perkins, Moyne, Sperry, Newton and Finney families. All the persons named were residents of the county prior to 1850, and some of them were here in the early forties.

From this list of pioneers the first county officers were selected at the organization of the county in 1850, and were as follows: Organizing sheriff (temporarily appointed for this purpose), Capt. R. R. Richardson, then a resident of Corn Hill, at which place the returns were to be made to him. June 15, 1850, was the date fixed by him, returns to be made on or before July 22, 1850, and one of his precepts was dated at Jacob Lybrand's store, June 23, 1850. It does not appear from the records that there were any election precincts at which votes were cast except at Auburn and West Union; but as there were numerous voters in the Brooks settlement in the southern part of the county, it is quite probable that there was an election precinct there of which we have no record. Thomas Woodle, from the vicinity of Dunham's Grove, was elected county judge; Jacob W. Rogers, county clerk; G. W. Neff, sheriff; G. A. Cook, recorder and treasurer; William Wells, Charles Sawyer and Jared Taylor, county commissioners, with C. M. Jones as clerk of the board of commissioners. These were the officers who started the wheels of progress in Fayette county more than sixty years ago, and the people of today can have but little appreciation of the onerous duties devolving upon them. Let it be remembered that there was not a public building in the county, and not a bridge nor a road worthy of being called such. The townships were not organized, except those of Auburn and West Union, and they only partially so. School houses and churches had not been established, and when they were, a crude log building was pressed into service to answer the purpose of each. The board of commissioners was deluged with petitions for the organization of townships, the establishment of roads, and the thousand and one things which came within their jurisdiction. There was no money to pay the necessary expenses of the county, nor was there, as yet, any tangible means of providing it. Markets were far removed from the environments of Fayette county, and to reach them at Dubuque, the nearest point, required a week of arduous toil to make the round trip with the ox teams, which were the "motive power" of nearly every pioneer in the county. The location of the county seat had not yet been determined, hence the county business was often transacted at the home of the official sought.

The office of county commissioner was soon abolished by the Legislature,

and the duties of that office were performed by the county judge. But one set of county commissioners was ever elected in this county, and the county judge system prevailed for about ten years. Then followed the complicated system of electing one member of the board of supervisors from each township, thus constituting an unwieldy body of twenty men to perform the duties formerly entrusted to the county judge. While both systems were objectionable, it is believed that the latter was less satisfactory than the former. At all events, when it was sought to change to the present system of three members of the board of supervisors, under a law similar to that under which the county commissioners were elected in 1850, there was practically no opposition, and the present system has been in satisfactory operation for nearly forty years.

In 1850 Iowa had but two representatives in Congress, viz.: Hon. Daniel F. Millar, who represented the south half of the state, and Hon. Shepherd F. Leffler the northern part. The two United States senators from Iowa were Gen. George W. Jones, from Dubuque, and Hon. Augustus C. Dodge, of Burlington. General Jones was one of the most active and influential men who ever represented this state in the Senate of the United States. He was a representative in Congress from Michigan territory when it included all of that state as now organized, all of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and the unorganized territory west to the Rocky mountains. He introduced the bills under the provisions of which both Wisconsin and Iowa territories were organized, and was a zealous and tireless worker in the organization of our own state and in the early development of her institutions. General Jones had the honor of serving in Congress with Clay, Webster and Calhoun and public men of their time. He lived to a ripe old age and died in Dubuque in 1900. At the time of which we are writing Fayette, Allamakee, Winneshiek and Clayton counties constituted a representative district, with Hon. Eliphalet Price in the lower house of the Legislature. He was a typical pioneer in the territory which he represented thus early in its history. Judge Price, now of Elkader, is his son. Eliphalet Price is well remembered by all the Fayette county pioneers of his day and, like Judge Murdock, is revered as a man of sterling integrity and blameless life. He came to Iowa in 1832, and was one of the first legal white settlers at Dubuque. In 1834 he explored the Turkey valley, and being impressed with its beauty and fertility, decided to locate, and was a resident of Elkader for nearly forty years. He was the first clerk of the board of Clayton county commissioners and took the first federal census after the admission of the state, for the counties of Clayton, Fayette, Allamakee and Winneshiek, and was elected to the Legislature from these counties in 1850. The services and influence of Mr. Price were sought in the adjustment of Fayette county's

county-seat troubles, which were precipitated about the time of his election, but he declared himself as unfavorable to the commissioner system, whereby two or three men were empowered, according to the petitions filed with them, to locate the county seat; and instead of securing the appointment of the commissioners, he secured the enactment of a law by the Legislature whereby the people of Fayette county were authorizd to make choice of the place for the county seat, at an election to be held on the first Monday in April, 1851. The "candidates" were also designated, as previously mentioned in this chapter, and the condition of a tie vote or no majority in favor of any place, provided for. Mr. Price was subjected to some unjust criticism by reason of his obvious intention of shifting responsibilities, and yet after the lapse of sixty years, no one now questions the absolute fairness of his action.

One of the first official acts of the board of county commissioners after their election in 1850 was the appointment of three road viewers to establish a road through the county from the county line east of Taylorsville, through that place, thence northwest through the Brooks settlement, from which place it took a northward course to West Union. The viewers appointed were Stephen Ludlow, who lived one mile west of Lightville; Chauncey Brooks, who lived on the farm where he died half a century later, and Zopher Perkins, of the well known Perkins family in the Brooks settlement. These viewers were to meet and report at the house of Jared Taylor, in Taylorsville, on the 19th of November, 1850. The fact that this was the first road officially established in the county is evidence that the village of Taylorsville was even then considered a place of some importance. In later years it became one of the principal towns in the southern half of the county, and was, until after the close of the Civil war, one of the stations on the stage line between Manchester and northeastern Iowa. It contained a hotel, numerous stores and mechanical shops, two or three church organizations, and a progressive citizenship. It was named in honor of Jared Taylor, who figured conspicuously in the early history of the county. But the advent of the Davenport & St. Paul branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad through Brush Creek (now Arlington), only three miles distant, sounded the death knell of Taylorsville. Most of the buildings worth moving were hauled over to Brush Creek, and with them most of the business people of the town. But little remains of old Taylorsville except the beautiful site, a handsome, well-kept cemetery and one or two houses on the original town plat.

On the 8th of October, 1850, provisions were made by the county commissioners for the holding of elections in several of the townships not previously organized into election precincts. For this purpose the board desig-

nated congressional townships 92, range 8 (now Smithfield), and 93, range 8 (now Westfield), and 93, range 9 (now Center), as one election precinct, to be known as Westfield. The judges of election in this territory were Stephen Ludlow, Michael Hinman and Andrew J. Hensley, and the house of Stephen Ludlow was designated as the place to hold the first election. Fairfield township was to include its present territory, and, in addition, the south half of Illyria township, with Jared Taylor's as the voting place, and Daniel Finney, Henry Baker and David King as judges of the election. West Union township was reorganized at this time, the east half of Dover being set off to that township, and the northwest one-fourth of what is now Illyria attached to West Union for election purposes, the judges being W. P. Cavenaugh, Henry F. Smith and Lorenzo Dutton. The election was ordered held at the house of William Wells. Pleasant Valley township, with its present boundaries and the addition of the northeast one-fourth of Illyria, was constituted an election precinct, with the election held at the house of Joseph Forbes, and he and John Conner and Simeon B. Forbes were the judges. Clermont retained its boundaries as at present, but no election was called. Dover township remained without change, and as at present organized, and the election was held at the house of Eli Elrod, who, with Benjamin Iliff and Jacob Hoover were constituted judges of the election.

Auburn township was also reorganized at this time, and when so reorganized included all of the present townships of Auburn and Windsor. It is not known that when attached to Hewitt township, Clayton county, Auburn ever held an election, though it is presumed that it did so at the time of the vote on county organization. An election was ordered, and the polling place designated at M. B. Earll's, "at a newly commenced village known by the name of Auburn," but no judges of election were appointed for Auburn township at that time. But at the time of reorganization an election was again ordered at the house of M. B. Earll, who, with Oliver Brown and James Austin, were appointed judges of the election.

On the 2d of November, 1850, the commissioners ordered elections held in all of these precincts on the third Monday in that month for the purpose of organizing into townships, as set off at the October session.

The first recorded meeting of the board of county commissioners of Fayette county was held August 26, 1850, probably at the house of William Wells, and one of their first official acts was the establishment of four road districts, viz: No. 1, West Union township, Henry F. Smith, supervisor; No. 2, Clermont township, Chauncey Leverich, supervisor; No. 3, Illyria township, Oliver P. Gallagher, supervisor, and No. 4, Auburn township, with

Morris B. Earll as supervisor. In addition to this, numerous other road matters were passed upon at this and succeeding meetings during the existence of the county commissioner system.

It would seem that there was no provision for the election of a school fund commissioner when other county officers were elected, and Joseph W. Foster was appointed to that office by the clerk of courts, prosecuting attorney and sheriff, who assumed that as there had been no election to that office they had authority to fill the vacancy. Then the legal question arose as to the existence of a vacancy, since no one had ever served in the office. To provide against all contingencies the third General Assembly of the state was asked to legalize the official acts of Mr. Foster, and his appointment was approved by that body on the 5th of February, 1851, and his official acts made valid and binding in law.

According to the census of 1850 there was a population of eight hundred and thirty-five souls in Fayette county when the organization was effected, and of these one hundred and two votes were cast at the first general election, held in August, 1850. It is a reasonable presumption that a full corps of county officers were again elected at this general election, since the law of 1847, under the provisions of which the county was organized, so provided. In other words, those officials elected at the organization of the counties were to serve only until the succeeding general election. But the records of this important transaction, if ever made, have been lost or destroyed.

In April, 1851, the county commissioners voted to allow Capt. R. R. Richardson the princely sum of twenty dollars for his services as organizing sheriff of Fayette county. But previous to this they had decreed that orders should be issued to pay the judges and clerks of the elections held in July and August, 1850, and yet the county treasury had no abiding place and no money. The first tax levy was made in July, 1851, at which time six mills were levied for county purposes, three mills for state revenue, two mills for roads and one mill for school purposes. This was the last official act of the county commissioners, the county judge system coming into operation the next month.

But previous to the final adjournment of the board of county commissioners much important business was transacted, mostly in establishing roads and in ordering elections to select township officers and complete township organizations. Few of the roads established at that period were laid out to correspond with congressional surveys, but meandered along streams or on the high ground of the prairies, regardless of "right angles," and were, for

the most part, established only with a view to present needs. As the years have passed, these were changed, where possible, to conform to section lines, and in the prairie townships especially a road is now found on nearly every section line. At the meeting of the board of commissioners on January 6, 1851, six road petitions were favorably acted upon, and "viewers" were appointed in accordance with the request of the petitioners. Francis S. Palmer, George Smith and Samuel Holton were appointed viewers for two of these roads, which ran eastward from West Union, via George Smith's; thence by the nearest practicable route to Simeon B. Forbes'; thence along the line between sections 22 and 15, township 94, range 7 west; thence due east to the county line. The other road over which these viewers had jurisdiction was to commence at the east line of the county at or near the northeast corner of section 13, township 94, range 7 west; thence to cross the Turkey river at the mouth of Otter creek; thence southwest by the nearest practicable route, until it shall intersect the road leading from West Union to the county line, this being the road described in the preceding description, and the one which established communication between West Union and Elgin.

Another road petitioned for at this session of the board was to extend southeasterly from West Union, crossing at the "upper ford" of the Volga and thence "by the best route to the county line toward Fort Clark." The viewers on this route were William P. Cavanaugh, William Root and Thomas Woodle.

Petitioners asked that a road be established from Elrod's mill, running in a southeast direction "upon the most direct route practicable, by way of Turner's, Hoover's, Hartsough's and Brunson's; thence to intersect the road leading from West Union to McGregor's Landing, on the Mississippi river." Eli Elrod, Hiram Jackson and H. S. Brunson were appointed viewers on this route.

Two other roads provided for at this session extended from Clermont, one by way of Elgin to the county line at or near the northeast corner of section 24, township 94, range 7 west. The other took a southern direction from Clermont until it reached the Turkey river, thence down the river to the section line between sections 10 and 11, thence due south to the quarter post between sections 22 and 23, in township 94, range 7 west, thence on the best route to J. B. Stephenson's, thence to the twelve-mile post, on the road leading from Elkader to West Union. Chauncey Leverich, John Conner and James B. Stephenson were appointed viewers on both of these roads, with instructions to meet and report at Clermont on the 24th day of February, 1851.

It will be noticed that the principal thoroughfares of the county were established through the rougher timbered sections, the prairie roads being established at a much later date. The topography of the county was such that a team could be driven over the prairie districts without serious trouble, and trails were soon established between the principal points, and so continued until the fencing of farms forced the establishment of public roads.

In later years some attention has been given to the matter of "good roads," and considerable agitation of the question has been brought out in farmers' conventions, public speeches and in the newspapers. But, unfortunately, the results are not yet apparent to any considerable extent, though the use of improved roads machinery has enabled the people to accomplish much more work with the means at hand than in earlier years, while a sentiment favorable to better roads has stimulated the workers to greater and more intelligent effort. But, except in the towns and villages, the use of crushed rock or gravel has not been introduced as a road-builder. Turnpiking is about the only improvement over the earth roads of earlier years, though the hollow log and "corduroy" culvert have given place to the modern system of metallic or earthenware culverts. But the highways of Fayette county compare favorably with those of any other agricultural county in the state, while the bridges excel most of such structures in northeastern Iowa. The people have always been liberal in authorizing the expenditure of public money for the common good, and there is scarcely a stream in Fayette county that is not properly bridged, many of such structures being built according to the latest and most scientific knowledge in bridge-building. The expenditure for bridges in the county during the ten years ending with December 31, 1908, was two hundred and seventy-one thousand, two hundred and ninety-two dollars and forty-nine cents, or a yearly average of over twenty-seven thousand dollars. The road fund provided by taxation for the year 1908 was twenty-six thousand, six hundred and eighty dollars, about equally distributed among the twenty townships, and mostly expended for labor, tools and culvert material. In addition to this, each of the thirteen incorporated towns and cities provide the means of working their own streets and therein thousands of dollars are annually spent. The cement walk fad has also struck the county, and the smallest of our incorporated towns, as well as the larger ones, are instituting a commendable rivalry in the matter of excelling their competitors in building walks. It is to be hoped that the experimental stage will soon be passed, and that this industry will take its place along with others of permanence and durability.

MORE EARLY SETTLERS.

Mention has been made of the earliest settlers, or those who located in the county prior to 1850. But in the year last written the population of the county increased rapidly. In 1850 there were eight hundred and twenty-five inhabitants, and by 1851 this number had increased to one thousand, two hundred; in 1852 the population was two thousand and sixty-five; in 1854 it was five thousand and forty-two; in 1855 it had grown to eight thousand, two hundred and seventy-five, while in 1859 there were eleven thousand, three hundred and one. It is evident that this rapid increase in population stimulated industrial progress and added a new impetus to general progression. Land entries increased with the increase in population, churches and schools were organized, mills were built and roads established to accommodate the people. By the year 1859 the first comers were considered "old settlers," and it is true that none of their later followers endured the hardships and privations of the earliest pioneers.

It would be impossible at this late date to record the names of all who became residents of Fayette county during the early years of settlement; and if, in an effort to do so, any are omitted, the reader will kindly consider the magnitude of the task, and not attribute the omission to any desire to be unfair or discriminating in the selection of names. From 1850 until 1860, nine-tenths of the land in Fayette county open to settlement was entered at the government price of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre. But much of it was entered by speculators and considerable on land warrants issued to soldiers of the Mexican war. The latter usually was occupied by actual settlers, but the speculators—then, as now—held the land for the rise in value, and for a long period of years controlled some of the most valuable timber lands in the county. The only recourse which the actual settlers had upon them was in levying high road taxes against such property, the settlers in almost all cases paying their own road taxes in labor, the prices for which were fixed in accord with the five-mill levy (that being the highest limit), while the non-resident speculator paid in cash. Undoubtedly this system of levying road taxes brought some hardships to the settlers who sought, in later years, to buy this "speculator land," since through their own manipulations a fictitious value had been established.

The population of the county was considerably augmented during the year 1850, and we will give the names of those who came during that period, with the explanation that we do not consider them any more entitled to this distinction than those who came a few monhs later, or in any period of the

early fifties. But since it is impossible to mention all the early settlers of a later period than 1850, we must be content to give the record of those who have become identified with the county's history in later years.

Samuel Holton first settled in Illyria township, where he was township clerk, assessor and, for a brief period, postmaster. He moved to West Union more than forty years ago, and was engaged in the hardware business with H. B. Hoyt for many years. He finally engaged in the grocery business alone, and continued in that line until he retired, a short time before his death. Mr. Holton's wife, who was Mary Strong, came to the county at the same time Mrs. Dutton came, and died in Ohio soon after the death of her husband, who died in West Union. A brother of Mrs. Holton, Charles W. Strong, a very early pioneer of Illyria, owns the same farm he has occupied for more than forty-five years. Like his neighbor, "Uncle" Robert H. May, he is one of the few survivors of the pioneer period, and a citizen of more than ordinary usefulness in his day. [R. H. May died since the above was written.]

Harrison Butler ("Elder Butler," as he was better known) settled on the farm in Westfield, where his life was spent. He reared a large family, all of whom, we believe, except Mrs. B. W. Finch and Joseph Butler, now living in West Union, were born in this county, and the survivors still live here.

Elisha Hartsough first settled in Dover township, but soon removed to Center, where he resided for many years. He died in Fayette. He was the father of Rev. William Hartsough, of whom more extended notice is given in the military chapter.

John T. Hanna settled on a farm in Westfield township, but most of his life in the county was spent in the hotel business in West Union, Fayette and elsewhere.

Samuel H. Robertson was among the earliest settlers in Fayette and built the first frame house on the village plat, though some four years before the town was platted. Mr. Robertson was one of the founders of the Upper Iowa University, as appears more fully in the article on that subject. He died in Fayette in 1899.

Rev. Harvey S. Brunson was one of the most useful and active men of his time. He came to this county in 1850 and settled on a claim north of West Union, where he remained until 1864. In that year he moved to Fayette and remained an honored resident of that town until his death. He was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church from 1840 until his book of life was closed. He served the church in every capacity assigned to the pioneer minister, and rounded out nearly sixty-five years of very active work, not alone in the church, but in various official capacities, to which he brought a high degree

of intelligence and capability. He served a term in the State Senate, beginning in 1863, that most trying period in the history of the nation. He was an honored member of the county board of supervisors for a number of years, and served the people in various capacities of lesser importance, but always with that unwavering fidelity which characterized his entire life. He reared a family in whom any parent could justly feel a commendable pride. The family residence was moved to Fayette in 1864 that the children might have the advantages of higher education, as afforded by the Upper Iowa University, of which Mr. Brunson was a trustee for many years. He attained a ripe old age, having celebrated his ninetieth birthday on May 10, 1904, and was then in the full possession of all his faculties. He preached an eloquent sermon on the Sunday following, from Hebrews ii:10. The death of this venerable pioneer occurred at his home in Fayette, December 8, 1905.

William Morras, a native of England, located in Illyria township in 1850, on the farm which subsequently was purchased by the county for a poor-farm. This title, however, was a "misnomer," in that it was, and is today, one of the best farms in the township. Mr. Morras removed to Westfield township, where he owned and operated the Homewod farm until some time in the seventies, when he sold out and went to the Pacific coast, where he died.

Remembrance Lippincott located just east of West Union and remained here for many years. "The old Lippincott farm" is an accurate designation of the locality, even at the present day, and is fully understood by the younger generation.

James Holmes first located, temporarily, in Dover township, but entered land a mile south of West Union, and owned his original entry until his death. He was a soldier during the Civil war, serving three years in the Sixth Iowa Cavalry. His death occurred in West Union, where his widow and some of his children still live.

C. C. Finch, of Fayette, was an early settler in Illyria, but does not come within the 1850 list, though his wife does. She was Miss Sarah Gibbon.

B. W. Finch, late of West Union, a cousin of the above, came to the county in 1857 and was a pioneer teacher until the Civil war, when he enlisted in the Thirty-eighth Iowa Regiment and served three years. He married Mary E. Butler, daughter of the pioneer, Harrison Butler, and she came to the county with her parents in 1850. Mr. Finch was a man of sterling integrity and upright character. For many years he was in the grocery business in West Union, and also served a number of years as justice of the peace. A more complete sketch of him appears elsewhere in this work.

Mrs. Abba J. Cullen, Mrs. Roxena Smith, N. W. Butler (another family of Butlers), J. T. Bishop, John Burke, L. C. Phillips, Chauncey Smith and H. C. Martin were all among the arrivals in 1850. Several of these are still living in the county, and all have left their impress as early pioneers.

John R. Cook, son of Daniel Cook, who opened the first mercantile establishment in West Union, and commenced the building of the first hotel, the "United States House," came with the parental family and has been a continuous resident of West Union since. For many years he was associated with John Owens in the stock and implement business, but during the last eight or ten years he has been special excursion agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company. In these various capacities Mr. Cook came in contact with people from every locality in this and adjoining counties, and is probably the most generally known of any man in Fayette county.

George L. Whitely and his family came in this year, and his sons, Fred, Henry and George, are still well known residents of the county.

Oscar W. Rogers, son of Hon. J. W. Rogers, was born in West Union, in October, 1850, and became a lawyer of some prominence in his native county. But he retired from the profession and engaged in other lines of business, in the prosecution of which he was called to other cities. For a number of years he was located in New York, where he was interested as a promoter of some mechanical devices in railroading and electrical appliances. Just as success seemed within his grasp he was called from earth, in the prime of life and apparent good health.

Another native of the county, born in 1850, is Robert L. Newton, of Arlington. He is a son of P. F. Newton, who came to the county in 1846.

Joseph McGee, a veteran of the Mexican war, entered land in Westfield township in 1850, and has remained there to the present. He served under Capt. Zach. Taylor, afterward President of the United States, and was with General Scott at the capture of the city of Mexico. He participated in five engagements, in one of which he was wounded, and draws a pension for resulting disabilities; but in later years all veterans of that war were granted pensions, regardless of disabilities. G. H. Thomas, late of West Union, and an early pioneer merchant, was also a veteran of the Mexican war.

James A. Iliff is another native of the county who was born in 1850, and enjoys the distinction of being the first white child born in Dover township. His father, Benjamin Iliff, located there in 1849, and was the first settler near Eldorado. The land which he entered at that time has never been transferred but once. James Iliff has spent most of his mature years in West Union,

where he owns a pleasant home and a small farm. He served several years as a constable, and is recognized as an aggressive temperance worker. For a number of years he was engaged in the pump and wind-mill business, but now gives his attention to fire insurance. His son, Ben Iliff, is deputy state dairy commissioner, while another son, Royal, is a mail carrier on a rural route out of West Union. His son, Earle, is a student in electrical engineering and surveying under the tuition of his uncle, J. N. Iliff, another pioneer of this county.

The Brooks family in Fairfield township was a numerous and prominent one in early days, coming to the county in 1847. The last one of the original family was Nelson, who sold out and removed to Oklahoma a few years ago, after a residence of fifty-five years near his old parental home. All the older members of this family have died or removed from the county, though a few of the younger generations remain to perpetuate the name.

Sylvester Underwood and wife came to the county in 1850, the former being prominently identified with the early history of the Fayette County Agricultural Society, and with the social and political affairs of Clermont, where the family home was maintained for a great many years. "Squire" Underwood was a resident of the county for more than half a century, and was well and favorably known. Both he and his wife died in Clermont.

James George came in 1850, and located in Dover township, where he lived until his retirement a few years before his death, when he moved to West Union, where both he and his wife died in advanced old age. Their son, Henry C. George, lost his life at the battle of Shiloh. They then adopted an infant whom they named for the lost son, and who now owns and operates the old parental homestead in Dover township. See personal sketch of Henry George. Mrs. George was, in maidenhood, Sarah A. Albright, and in her youth became the wife of John W. Cooley, with whom she came to this county in 1850, and located on a claim in Pleasant Valley township, about two miles from Elgin. There Mr. Cooley died. Their son, the late James C. Cooley, of Elgin, accompanied his parents, the family coming from near LaPorte, Indiana. James C. Cooley was a member of Company H, Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry, and served three years in the Civil war. He died in Elgin a few years ago. Mrs. James George was a sister of Rev. William K. and John O. Albright, who located in the northeast corner of Illyria township in 1854, and remained there until they died, both being well advanced in years. Rev. William K. Albright was an early minister of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and his son, Rev. W. F. Albright, has served a number of years as a missionary in China.

William Harper came to this county in 1850, and six years later located on the farm which is known to this day as "the Harper place." He and his wife, who was Elizabeth Cruzan, reared a large family of children, some of whom still reside in the county, while several have died and others removed to other localities. Both Mr. and Mrs. Harper died on the farm which was the family home for many years.

John Knox, a native of Ireland, came to West Union in 1850 and resided on a farm near by until the infirmities of old age compelled his retirement. Both he and his wife died in West Union in advanced old age.

E. N. Phillips is a man well remembered by all early settlers of the county, and one of whom it may be truthfully said "he gave his life for his country." He came to this county in 1850. In 1862 he enlisted as a member of Company H, Eighteenth Iowa Infantry, and received a wound on the 8th of January, 1863, at Springfield, Missouri, from the effects of which he never recovered. Being discharged by reason of the resultant disability, he returned to West Union and was commissioned postmaster, a position he held until his death, though he died in Colorado, where he had gone in hopes of recovering his health. His widow, who was Emma Cox, and a daughter of an early pioneer, Thomas Cox, still resides in West Union, true to the name and memory of her soldier husband. But one of their three children, Everett M., is now a resident of the county. He married the daughter, and only child, of another early settler and patriot who lost his life in the Civil war. This was Milo Lacy, who enlisted from West Union, and whose death occurred three years after his discharge, from disabilities incurred in service. His wife, who in maidenhood was Jennie E. Hines, is another faithful war widow who still cherishes the name and memory of her soldier-husband. She spent her earlier years as a teacher in the public schools of the county, in which profession she attained an enviable reputation as a successful and popular educator. During her many years in the school room she not only reared and educated her only child, Anna Lacy, but also laid aside the nucleus to a pleasant and valuable home in West Union, where the family now lives. Miss Anna became the wife of Everett M. Phillips, of whom mention is made above.

Joseph W. Foster came with his wife, who was Aurilla Griffith, on the 4th of July, 1850. Mr. Foster was the first school fund commissioner in the county, and was otherwise prominent in the organization period. His wife survived him many years.

F. S. Palmer was an early merchant in Clermont. He also served several years as county surveyor, and was often employed as a viewer of proposed roads, his knowledge of surveying giving him special qualifications in this respect.

Edwin Stedman came from Ohio to Clermont in 1850, and was an early hardware merchant there, in which business he continued for many years. It is said that his wife was the first school teacher in Clermont, and however that may be, it is known that she was among the first. Her death occurred in 1862. Edwin Stedman was an honored member of the board of supervisors under the old system of electing one member from each township, and served on the board during nearly the entire period covered by that system.

Andrew Martin was another "Buckeye" who came to Clermont in 1850. He was a farmer and mechanic. His wife, who was Alvesta Sawyer, came the same year as Mr. Martin, though they were married in Fayette county.

John Phillips came from Illinois and settled on a farm near West Union. He was a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, and was married there, in 1832, to Mary Reeve, who came here with him in 1850. Both he and his wife died on the land upon which they settled.

The Rosier family was among the early settlers of West Union township. There were three brothers who were best known in the county, Jacob K., George N. and Frank P. They came from Logan county, Ohio, and soon became identified with the best interests of early-day farming. All removed from the county within comparatively recent years. Lawrence Rosier was born in Clayton county in 1850, and accompanied his parents to this county the same year. He is the eldest son of Jacob K. Rosier, and is a prosperous farmer and stock raiser in the county at present.

A. C. South came to Fayette county in 1849 and lived on his farm near West Union during his remaining years of life. He and his wife, who was Anceline Billings, reared a family of eleven children. Mr. South served two terms as deputy sheriff of the county. Dr. J. H. Stafford and wife brought their family to West Union in 1850 and the Doctor built and kept the first public house in the town. His son, D. C., came with his parents and is today numbered among the few surviving settlers of that period. He lives in West Union, where his father lived to a ripe old age and died here. Palmer F. Newton, before mentioned in connection with mention of R. L. Newton, of Arlington, came to this county November 11, 1847, and lived on his farm near Arlington (formerly Brush Creek) until his death, in advanced old age. He was one of the organizers of Fairfield township, and the family has been prominently identified with educational affairs in the county, at least three of his children being successful teachers in the public schools.

Killen Voshell settled in this county in 1848. He married Thankful Perkins, a representative of another pioneer family in the vicinity of Brush

Creek, and reared a family of six children, most of whom still reside in the vicinity of their birthplace.

John McMillan, late of Elgin, but for many years a prosperous farmer in Illyria township, came to Iowa on a prospecting tour in 1850, but did not bring his family here until the next year. He located on the northwest quarter of section 5, and entered the land at Dubuque. He brought his family from Janesville, Wisconsin, in a wagon drawn by four yoke of oven, having also the necessary appliances for commencing the work of opening up a new farm, which was mostly timber land. At this time there was but one house between McMillan's and Elkader, a distance of some fifteen miles. John McMillan thus became one of the first settlers in northern Illyria, and in point of usefulness and prominence so continued during his long sojourn in that locality. One of the early postoffices of the county was located at his house, on a route established between Independence and McGregor, and a brother of the writer carried the mails between these points across the trackless prairies of Buchanan and Fayette counties. The motive power was a small mule named Bob, and Bob and Eli became well known to the patrons on the route, and were eagerly loked for as the only means of communication with the outside world. During the first year of the Civil war the people used to line up along the road and interrogate the boy as to the "war news," but the next year he enlisted and went to the front to assist in making "war news," and Bob and the mail pouch became the charges of another. Mr. McMillan has told the writer that many times he feared the delicate boy would be unable to withstand the rigors of an old-time Iowa winter, but he always was "on time."

During the later years of his life John McMillan and his son, Henry, owned and operated the lime kilns west of Elgin, but the father retired from active labors some time before his death in 1908. John McMillan is authority for the statement that there were but three hundred voters in Fayette county in the fall of 1851, divided as follows: One hundred and seventy-five Whigs and one hundred and twenty-five Democrats.

It is not assumed that the foregoing is a complete record of all the pioneers who settled in Fayette county in 1850, but further mention will be given, not only of that class, but of other early settlers and prominent people, in connection with the township and village histories. This is considered the more rational method, since it cannot be assumed that the bare fact that a family settled here on a definite date supersedes in importance the achievements of a later comer, whose life record is indelibly fixed as a part of Fayette county history.

We will therefore conclude this chapter and reserve for another a few

reminiscences of pioneer days, characteristic of the times, and relate further personal experiences in connection with the history of the towns and townships where the participants were located. Of the first of these attention is called to a land-hunting trip of our venerable ex-governor, who relates his experiences in his own terse and comprehensive manner. The article first appeared in the "Annals of Iowa," in 1893, and is republished here with the permission of Mr. Larrabee. It is entitled, "Lost in a Snow Storm."

CHAPTER IV.

PIONEER REMINISCENCES.

"The winter of 1856-57 was unusually severe in the Northwest—in fact, none ever equalled it in the memory of the oldest settler. Snow fell to an enormous depth, and the mercury not infrequently ranged from twenty degrees to forty degrees below zero for several days in succession. A series of great storms—now called 'blizzards'—from the boreal regions swept the prairies, whirling the dust of the powdery snow in a wild dance and piling up large banks wherever natural or artificial obstacles interrupted their turbulent course. During that long and severe winter nearly all the deer in northern Iowa were destroyed by freezing and starving to death, while others got fastened in the crusted snow and were killed by the merciless settlers while in this helpless condition. Few of the frontier people were prepared for such a winter, and certainly none had anticipated it. Thousands suffered for want of clothing and fuel, and many a man overtaken by a blinding storm, or tired out, wandered through the deep snow, froze to death on the prairies, perhaps only a stone's throw from his home. Such winters, fortunately, are not of frequent occurrence, even in the Northwest. Moreover, the people of this region have learned to provide for cold weather, and probably keep now as comfortable and get as much enjoyment out of the cold season as their countrymen South or East.

"During the month of December, 1856, with my year's earnings in my pocket, I journeyed through the southeastern part of Minnesota with a view to select a good quarter section of government land. I finally made my choice, and then, to enter the land, set out for Winona, where the land office was located.

"On the morning of the 23d of December I left Mantorville and walked a distance of about seventeen miles, where I arrived about four o'clock in the afternoon. It had commenced snowing before I had reached that town, but anxious to make a few more miles before dark, and hoping to find an inn on the road, I took luncheon at Rochester and again pursued my journey.

"As night approached a fierce wind arose and enwrapped me in blinding eddies of snow. The road followed a ridge between the Zumbro and Root

rivers. There was no house, no fence or other landmark in sight. At first a well-beaten track served as my guide, but this was soon obliterated by the drifting snow. I found that I had lost the road and was forced to rely upon the wind to indicate my course. The snow was from one and a half to two feet deep and was covered with an icy crust. Having already walked more than twenty miles, I plodded wearily along through the sea of snow.

"The wind increased in severity as the night wore along, and every new gust seemed to be ushered from a more furious howl. The high, treeless prairie presented no obstacles to the icy wave. As the blasts swept by me they seemed to penetrate every pore of my body. I was but thinly clad, like other new comers. I had not yet learned to properly protect myself against the severity of the weather in the West. I wore neither overcoat nor overshoes, a pair of stockings and cowhide boots forming my sole footgear. For a few steps the snow would bear my weight and then suddenly give way below me; and as I fell headlong upon the snow or broke through its crust the fine crystals worked into my boots and, gradually melting there, chilled my feet until their numbness reminded me that they were beginning to freeze. My body, however, was freely perspiring from the severe physical exercise, and perhaps also in consequence of the fear occasioned by the thought of freezing to death.

"I had probably traveled eight or ten hours and was from ten to twelve miles out of Rochester before I fully realized the desperateness of my situation. I had no means of knowing how far I had strayed from the highroad; I had walked mile after mile without discovering the least trace of a settlement, and the chances of finding a human habitation during the remainder of the night were small indeed. The whole landscape seemed to be wrapped in a cloud of white dust, and unless the glimmer of a light happened to penetrate the snow-filled air I was almost as liable to step upon a milestone below the snow as to find a human residence while groping through the blinding storm.

"It could not be far from midnight, and as I was well aware that farmers are wont to retire early the hope of being rescued by a guiding light appeared to me extremely slight.

"Somewhat discouraged, I paused to consider the advisability of turning around to find my way back to Rochester, but a moment's reflection convinced me of the utter impracticability of such an undertaking. I had but little chance to retrace my steps successfully. Besides this, it would have been an all night's journey, and I was too much exhausted for such a task. The growing numbness of my feet and the drowsiness which was gradually stealing over me made me realize more and more the extreme danger into which I had

placed myself. Feeling that possibly but a few hours at the farthest remained during which I could hope to use my lower extremities, I determined to make the best of my time and pushed on.

"The rage of the storm seemed to increase from minute to minute. Toward midnight, with a temperature of from twenty to forty degrees below zero, the wind blew at the rate of fifty miles an hour. Overpowered by the conviction that I could not hold out much longer, I occasionally halloed as loud as my strength would permit in the hope of making myself heard by someone. But the maddened winds only seemed to mock me in my efforts.

"With death staring me in the face, I could not help speculating upon the probable fate of my body. It flashed through my mind that the wolves would likely pick my bones, and that when my skeleton would be found in the spring and my identity discovered or surmised, the newspapers would contain an item to the effect that I had been found dead on the prairie between Rochester and Winona, that presumably I had partaken too freely of liquor and, straying from the road, had frozen to death. As I had never even tasted liquor, this thought worried me greatly and seemed to revive my flagging energies. From that day to this I have been careful not to ascribe any serious accident to intoxication unless indications clearly justified such a charge.

"While these and similar thoughts were still engaging my mind I came to a partly constructed pioneer cabin. The structure consisted only of four walls of roughly joined logs. It had neither roof nor door, nor windows, and the logs were not even chinked. Someone had probably commenced building the cabin on his claim late in the fall, but had been compelled by the approach of winter to abandon it.

"The discovery of this symbol of pioneer civilization in the snowy desert greatly encouraged me, and at once I resolved to make it my headquarters for further exploration. A short survey of this airy resort fully convinced me that to rest here was to surrender to grim death without a struggle. Remembering that there is a well marked disposition among pioneers to settle in clusters, I determined to walk in a wide circle around the embryo cabin in the hope of finding some human habitation near it.

"Taking a radius of about sixty or eighty rods, I proceeded to carry out my plan. I had passed not much more than half round the circle when, after surmounting a high swell in the prairie, I discovered a small grove in the distance. I at once abandoned my former base and quickened my steps, fully assured if there was a house anywhere upon that wide prairie it would be found in the shelter of the grove before me. I had not advanced very far before I espied a faint glimmer of light, proceeding, as it seemed to me, from

a snow bank across a small ravine. Flying in the direction of this light, as fast as my benumbed feet would carry me, I presently found myself before a small log cabin which was half buried in a snow drift. It had but one little window, of which the lower portion was hidden by the snow, while its upper panes were so thickly covered with frost that they scarcely permitted the light to pass through them.

"The joy which I experienced at the sight of this lowly cabin may be imagined, but cannot be described. I rapped loudly on the door, and when it was opened I did not even wait for an invitation to enter, but boldly stepped in. The house was occupied by Mrs. Foot, with her three sons. After they had listened to my brief story of my cold adventure, the young men pulled off my boots and then brought in a pail of water to thaw out my frozen feet. They gave me a warm supper and a bed on the floor of the small attic. I slept close to the stovepipe and had a good night's rest. Never shall I forget the hospitality which I received at their hands. From them I learned that theirs was the only house within one mile of the main road for a distance of twenty miles, and that several persons had frozen to death on that road the previous winter.

"The next morning, with the mercury hovering about the point of congealation, I walked fifteen miles to St. Charles and on Christmas morning I proceeded from there to Winona. The wind had given way to a complete calm, and as I came in sight of that city a most beautiful spectacle, only to be seen in such a climate, presented itself to my eyes. The smoke from hundreds of chimneys rose in almost perpendicular columns until it seemed to vanish in the azure sky. Beyond the city lay the crystallized level of the majestic Mississippi, bordered by the snow-covered bluffs of the Wisconsin shore.

"I went to the land office, and after paying a premium of five per cent for exchange of my wild-cat money for gold, entered my quarter section of land and then turned my face toward my Iowa home, which I reached a day or two before the close of the old year, after having walked more than six hundred miles in the midst of the severe weather of that extraordinary winter."

A CIVIL WAR EPISODE.

Reference has been made to Rev. H. S. Brunson, but the following incident, while pathetic in the extreme, serves to illustrate the prevailing characteristic of his life as a man of strong impulses and determined will. Whatever he believed to be right was espoused by him and defended, even to the

last, and he did not hesitate, under great provocation, to use physical force if necessary. This is exemplified in his ministerial career when an effort was once made by some lawless young fellows to disturb the solemnity of a camp meeting in which the "Elder" was one of the ministers in charge. One of the boys, more defiant and aggressive than his associates, deliberately crowed in the face of Mr. Brunson, who thereupon seized the offender and backed him across a log, where he fell to the ground, and the Elder then gave him a good trouncing with a stick which he had in his hand. The young fellow yelled lustily, and, when released, hid himself in the crowd. But there was no more disturbance from that source. The companions of the chap, thinking to further the effects of the joke, clubbed together and bought a large sticking plaster, which they forcibly applied to the seat of his understanding.

At another time, and under like circumstances, the Elder had occasion to use physical force in controlling a disturbance at a meeting, and the ring leader, who suffered most from contact with the stick, had Mr. Brunson arrested, but the trial proved to be a farce and the Elder was fully vindicated, and even justified in the eyes of the law.

From the above recital it would seem that Elder Brunson was of a belligerent nature, but the very opposite is true. His was a placid, peaceful disposition, seldom ruffled by ordinary occurrences, but in the defense of truth and right he never failed to meet the occasion as the circumstances seemed to demand. During the Civil war he was intensely loyal to the Union, and though not himself an enlisted man (though he raised a company for the service), he was a devoted friend to the soldiers and rendered every possible assistance with voice and means in furtherance of their interests. Soon after the firing on Fort Sumter, Mr. Brunson encouraged his nephew, William Hartsough, to enlist. He was an immature and rather delicate boy, and the active duties of army life at the front, together with the radical change in the manner of living, soon told the story for him which was so oft repeated in the soldier life of thousands like him. Soon after the battle of Shiloh, in April, 1862, "Willie" Hartsough was prostrated with fever and sent to the government hospital at Mount Vernon, on the Ohio river. A letter was sent by a friend of the family (Mr. Barr) announcing the fact that "Willie" was seriously ill and demanding immediate attention. The elder Hartsough and his wife were much worried over the probable fate of their son if left to the doubtful care of the over-crowded hospital. A family council was held and it was decided that the father must go and bring his son back to the fostering care of his mother and home environments. But Mr. Hartsough did not have the money at hand with which to make the trip, and his only resource was to

haul wheat to McGregor to provide the needed money. But the letter had stated that the patient "demanded immediate attention," and two or more trips must be made to the river to obtain a sufficient amount to justify the undertaking. Thus nearly a week of precious time would be lost before the start could be made. In this dilemma Elder Brunson came to the rescue, and it is well that he did, for it is doubtful if the father could have surmounted the obstacles which the Elder met on this "mission of humanity."

Mr. Brunson had about a hundred dollars, and having taken the funds at hand in the Hartsough family, he was driven to West Union immediately by Mr. Hartsough, who, with his wife, was overjoyed at this timely assistance, and by one in whom they had implicit confidence as to his ability to meet the doubtful circumstances.

At West Union Mr. Brunson borrowed another hundred dollars, and, thus fortified, he engaged J. J. Welsh to convey him to McGregor where he boarded the first train for Chicago from Prairie du Chien. From Chicago he went by train to Evansville, Indiana, and thence by boat down the Ohio to Mount Vernon. He arrived at the last named place, and the end of his route, about midnight. Mount Vernon was then a small place, only rendered conspicuous by reason of it being the seat of a government hospital. There were no lights to guide his way, and being the only passenger to disembark at this point, he was much perplexed to find his way to a hotel, and through the information gained there, to find the hospital. But finally he saw a man carrying a "candle" lantern who proved to be a "runner" of a hotel, and by his guidance he reached that much desired place. But it was not to rest or sleep—he hoped to gain information as to how he could find the hospital and gain entrance at such an unseasonable hour. He was informed that no one was admitted at night, that the orders were strict on such matters, and he would have to wait until morning. This was farthest from the Elder's thoughts or intentions. He came seven hundred miles to find Willie Hartsough, and he was not going to abandon the effort on mere "hearsay" information. He secured the services of the man with the lantern, who piloted him to the building, but all was dark save one glimmering lantern to guide the nurses in their work. The Elder approached the door alone, and was met by two armed sentinels, one on each side of the door. To his inquiry "Can I get into this hospital tonight?" both sentinels answered in concert: "No!" Thenceforth the sentinels said not another word, but stood faithfully at their posts. For once in his life Mr. Brunson thought he had met defeat, but he was not disposed to give up the struggle without further effort. He explained to the sentinels the object of his visit—that his nephew was in there, either dead or

alive, he knew not which, but he had come to take him home if alive, or to see that the body had Christian burial if dead. But the sentinels were immovable and speechless as far as his arguments were concerned. They still barred the door and said nothing. While trying to influence the soldiers to relax their apparently stolid indifference, the Elder heard a second-story window raised cautiously, and the voice of a woman said to another: "Why can't he be let in the back way?" Encouraged by the fact that he had more than two listeners, Mr. Brunson resumed the attack on the sentinels with renewed vigor. Those who have heard him in discussions, either religious, political or otherwise, are aware that by voice and gesture, as well as impassioned language, he possessed remarkable persuasive powers. No doubt this address, delivered at the door of the hospital, in the dead of night, with two auditors in sight, and apparently two or more in concealment, was one of the most earnest appeals ever delivered by him to "saint or sinner!" He repeated that he had promised the boy's mother that he would bring her son home alive, if in the power of mortal man, by the help of Almighty God, to do so; and how by day and by night he had traveled with team, railroad and steamboat, over seven hundred miles to reach him; and now when only a door separated him from the object of his search, there must be some power in God or man to open the door and let him walk in! Thus far the sentinels had uttered but the single word "No," which absolutely denied him admittance. We cannot assume that a supernatural power was behind the scenes, but there must have been a pricking of conscience among the attendants, which took tangible shape in the slowly opening of the door from the inside, just wide enough to admit a man, and as the Elder was the only person there except the guards, he took it for granted that this was his opportunity. He quickly stepped inside into Egyptian darkness. No word was spoken by any one, nor was there any light to be seen. Mr. Brunson motioned to the landlord, whose dim light was shining at the door, and that personage joined the Elder inside the hospital. To this day it remains a profound secret as to who opened the door, or what motive prompted the noble act; but at the final accounting for the "deeds done in the body," the reckoning may show that some kindly, sympathetic mother, wife or sister of some sick or wounded soldier was the inspiring cause of this philanthropic act.

Inside the hospital inquiry was made for a list of names of the four hundred inmates, including those who had recently died, for it was considered more than probable that the name sought would be found among the dead. The lists were locked up, the doctors had all retired, and taken the keys with

them. Mr. Brunson then inquired of the attendants if any of them had ever heard the name of "Willie" Hartsough. None of them had, but once again help came from an unexpected source. A lad of some twelve or fourteen years heard the Elder's inquiry and asked if it was really "Willie Hartsough" that he wanted! When informed that it was, the lad replied: "Well, he is the man I have been waiting on and he was carried to the dead room tonight!"

On further investigation it was found that those patients who were not expected to live over night were carried to the dead room each evening, that the presence of dead bodies around them might not be detrimental to the rest of the patients as yet more favored.

To those not inured to the terrors of cruel war this may seem a barbarous and uncalled-for procedure, and perhaps it was so; but it only emphasizes the truth of the adage that "too great familiarity breeds contempt!" Yes! Contempt of death and its environments, in such cases as this! The soldier at the front was constantly in touch with the sick, the wounded, the dying and the dead. Such associations made him "callous," as it were, to the feelings which ordinarily impress people on such occasions.

Mr. Brunson was conducted to the dead room and there found his nephew, not dead, but barely living. After many trials and the mention of his own name and that of the boy's mother, he was able to arouse him slightly, and apparently received a ghastly smile of recognition. The doctors said he would surely die, but the Elder was determined to start home with him, though meeting many rebuffs and refusals, the surgeons in charge asserting that they had positive orders to allow no sick or wounded soldier to be taken home. And in almost as positive defiance of this order as in invading the hospital when denied admission by two armed guards, he got possession of the sick boy. Providing himself with a stretcher and other needed appliances, he started on the return journey. Men were hired to carry the patient from one depot or landing to another, as transfers became necessary on the route, and as they traveled night and day, much difficulty was encountered in getting anything suitable for a desperately sick man to eat; but they finally reached home, and the joy of that waiting mother can easier be imagined than described!

After a lingering illness of many months, "Willie" Hartsough recovered, and for forty years he has been a minister of the gospel, in which noble calling he has rendered valiant service. Everybody knows and honors "Billie" Hartsough, and many are familiar with the story here recited; but the hero of the story seldom mentions his miraculous escape, except in his inherent modesty to say, that many others had closer calls on the fields of battle.