

acts of later legislatures. The three northern tiers of townships of the present county of Kossuth bore the name of Bancroft. The territory of Bancroft county was subsequently added to Kossuth. Before this session of the Legislature the naming of counties had proceeded more slowly. But the Legislature of 1850-51 finished the work, so that from that time, with but few changes, the map of Iowa has remained with regard to the names and boundaries of counties much as it appears to-day. Yell was changed to Webster and Risley added to it. At the session of 1856 the territory which had borne the name of Risley was created into a new county and named Hamilton, in honor of Honorable W. W. Hamilton of Dubuque county, who was that winter President of the State Senate, there being at that time no such officer as Lieutenant-Governor. The statement has been occasionally published that this county was so named in honor of Alexander Hamilton. This is an error, as the writer learned not only from Honorable W. W. Hamilton himself, but from other Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly of 1856—the last held in Iowa City. At the date of this publication several gentlemen are still living who were interested in the action of the Legislature upon the bill creating Hamilton county, all of whom understand the matter precisely as we have set it forth.

MAJOR WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

We are again fortunate in being able to publish an excellent article of permanent interest from the pen of Ex-Governor Carpenter, in his just tribute to the life and public services of Major William Williams, who commanded the Spirit Lake Expedition of 1857. Gradually, after the lapse of thirty-five years, justice is being done to the memory of that heroic band who flew to arms in

such an instantaneous, impromptu manner, on hearing of the barbarous massacre of the settlers. If the reader will stop to consider the points so admirably set forth by Governor Carpenter—that the Expedition was organized in two days—that there were neither law nor regulations for the enlistment and control of the men—that Major Williams, a man of sixty years, was able to enforce discipline and hold them well in hand from first to last, through the exercise of his own high mental qualities—that untold and unimagined hardships from hunger and cold were suffered by all—it will be seen that the commander of that Expedition was not only no ordinary person, but that in his day and generation, he rendered the State “some service” which should ever be held in grateful remembrance. The portrait of “the old Major,” which accompanies this article, is a faithful likeness. Some years ago, Governor Carpenter prepared a paper on the Expedition, going fully into the details of the march and return, for which, from its permanent historical value, we hope to find room in a future number of THE ANNALS.

CONCERNING PORTRAITS.

It will be noticed that some of the portraits which appear from time to time in THE ANNALS are very fine, while others are dull and dingy. This is due to the difference in the copies from which they are made. From a new and excellent photograph there is no difficulty in producing a half-tone plate which prints beautifully, reflecting credit upon the manufacturer and printer; but this is an impossibility when it is copied from a faded photograph or from an ancient daguerreotype. We are ambitious that these portraits shall be the very best in all respects that we are able to obtain—but we are of course compelled to use such originals as may be had in each in-

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