



*Theodore S. Parvin,*

HON. THEODORE S. PARVIN,  
Private Secretary to Gov. Robert Lucas.

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

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### GOVERNOR ROBERT LUCAS.

Hon. Theodore S. Parvin, who is still happily spared to write of Iowa in her early days, presents in our leading article his recollections of General Robert Lucas, the first Governor of Iowa Territory. Of the old Governor and the times in which he lived no man but Mr. Parvin—now in his 80th\* year—is living to tell the story, and none was ever so well qualified to speak. He came to the Territory with the appointment of Private Secretary to Governor Lucas, and was with him during his official career, remaining his valued friend to the end of his life. Governor Lucas was a prominent figure of the times in which he lived, for he was a distinguished officer in the military service of his country, had served two terms as Governor of Ohio, and as President of a National Convention, before coming to Iowa Territory. By a curious coincidence he took part in acrimonious quarrels over questions of State or territorial boundary lines both in Ohio and Iowa.

It is to be deeply regretted that a full biography of Governor Lucas has not been written—an undertaking now obviously impossible. His commission as Governor of Iowa Territory is in the keeping of the State Historical Society at Iowa City. The Historical Department of Iowa here at the Capitol is the custodian of his commission signed by President Madison as Captain of the 19th U. S. Infantry, together with two of his autograph letters and a

few of his signatures. Beyond these meager memorabilia of the plucky old Governor, little else is in existence. He should have left a large quantity of letters and papers, but if he did they have disappeared. We regard it as most fortunate that THE ANNALS is able to publish this very interesting and valuable sketch by Mr. Parvin who knew him so long and so well. The illustrations are most pertinent to the subject in hand, including as they do good portraits of Governor Lucas and Mr. Parvin, a cut of the old Zion Church in Burlington, where the first Territorial Legislature held its sessions, with a view from a recent photograph of the monument which stands over the grave of Governor Lucas. Little further can now be done to perpetuate the memory or render justice to the merits of the Christian gentleman, the brave soldier, and the illustrious pioneer Executive.

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#### ABRAHAM LINCOLN VISITED IOWA.

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Knowledge of this fact had quite faded out of the general recollection when several parties recently undertook to ascertain the truth in regard to it. There was a vague impression in the minds of some of our older people that the Martyr-President had crossed the Mississippi, and either appeared in some court as a lawyer, or had addressed one or more political assemblages. But in the multiplicity of stupendous events which followed later on, whatever was true in regard to his coming into Iowa had been forgotten. It would seem from a letter by Mr. Lincoln to Hon. Hawkins Taylor, that he was once expected to visit Keokuk, but did not come. Taylor was a politician of considerable note in early Iowa—Mayor of Keokuk and a member of our first territorial legislature. He died two years ago in Washington, D. C. Under date of September

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