

classic ground in Iowa's aboriginal history." Many years ago Judge Fulton copied the following inscriptions from these grave-stones:

In
Memory of
GEN. JOSEPH M. STREET,
Son of Anthony and Molly Street.
Born Oct. 18, 1785, in Virginia;
Died at the Sac and Fox Agency,
May 5th, 1840.

In
Memory of
WA-PEL-LO,
Born at
Prairie du Chien, 1787:
Died near the Forks of Skunk,
March 15, 1842.—Sac and Fox Nation.

WAS JOHN BROWN IN IOWA IN 1841?

An interesting old relic lately came into the possession of the Historical Department. It is a folio volume of printed receipts for books loaned from the Territorial Library of those remote days—the year 1841. The signatures of many noted men—and “there were giants in those days”—appear as constant borrowers of the few books then owned by Iowa Territory. Most of the men whose names are in this volume have passed away—only here and there one remaining far advanced in years. On the first page we see that Jesse Williams, our first Territorial Secre-

tary, and a thrifty business man, borrowed "Rowlet's Interest Tables." Oliver Cock, who was afterward Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Iowa, wished to read, "Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding;" Judge T. S. Wilson sought relief from judicial labors in two of Sir Walter Scott's immortal novels, "The Abbott," and "The Antiquary;" while Charles Mason, our Pioneer Chief Justice, who had not long before resigned from the regular army, borrowed that excellent Methodist work, which is not obsolete even yet—"Clark's Commentary on the Holy Bible." On subsequent pages we find the names of James W. Grimes, so illustrious in after years as Governor and U. S. Senator; A. C. Dodge, U. S. Senator and Minister to Spain; Governor John Chambers, who had fought under General W. H. Harrison before coming to Iowa; Edward Johnstone, one of the makers of our present constitution—"the kingliest man in Iowa"—who died in 1891; George Greene, the early jurist and Supreme Court reporter; Enoch W. Eastman, Lieutenant Governor, and author of the sentiment on the Iowa stone in the Washington Monument—"IOWA—The affections of her people, like the rivers of her borders, flow on to an inseparable union;" Gideon S. Bailey, who rendered excellent service in our first territorial legislature (1838) and is still a resident of Van Buren county; Judge James Grant, eminent as a jurist, farmer and business man; J. W. Woods, a pioneer lawyer, who became quite a celebrity under the sobriquet of "Old Timber;" Judge Springer, who presided over our last (1857) constitutional convention; Judge Hastings of our Supreme Court and a member of Congress; Shep. Leffler, one of our first congressional delegation; Colonel William Thompson ("Black Bill") twice a member of Congress (1847-1850) and now a retired army officer; Alfred Hebard, an efficient legislator in 1847-1848, and again in 1878-1880, and but lately deceased—and a great many others equally well known.

But while turning the leaves of this old book, we found in three places the signature—"John Brown." On comparing it with several which are known to have been written by the old hero whose soul ever "goes marching on," they seem to have been written by the same hand. While we cannot learn from any one who was in Iowa Territory at that time that John Brown was in Iowa City, we deem it not unlikely that he was there and a reader in the library. He was then known to comparatively few people—an obscure man. The books with which the party of that name is charged were the writings of Washington and Franklin and a work on "National Portraits," including biographical sketches. Several gentlemen expert in chirography are of the opinion that these are veritable signatures of the hero of Osawatomie.

Among the readers of that day the names of Messrs. Grimes, Leffler, Grant, Johnstone, Fales and Madera, occur most frequently. All books seem to have been promptly returned, and there is no record showing that any were lost.

LINCOLN AND DAVIS IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

The statement has often been published that Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis served in the Black Hawk War—the first as a captain of militia and the latter as a lieutenant in the regular army. Old settlers in the northwest have stated that they saw these men, who were destined to fill such large places in the history of their country, at that time. Black Hawk in his autobiography which was dictated to Antoine Le Claire, states that upon his capture he and his band were placed in charge of Lieutenant Jefferson Davis, by whom they were kindly treated, and he compliments the "young war-chief" very highly.

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