

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.

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#### LINCOLN AND DAVIS IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

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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.

Jefferson Davis, in an interview about two years before his death, is reported as speaking of being at the front when the United States forces were driving Black Hawk toward the Wisconsin river. No fact in Western history would seem to have been more generally accepted than that Davis was in the war. But in a note to an article upon Abraham Lincoln in McClure's Magazine for January, 1896, the author says: "Jefferson Davis was not in the war, as has been so often stated." One of the parties who was deeply interested in finding evidence to sustain the general belief was Mr. F. R. Dixon, of Dixon, Illinois. His grand-father, an early settler of that town, which bears his name, knew both Lincoln and Davis at that time, and had often made the statement that they took part in the Black Hawk war. The statement in McClure's Magazine made the present Mr. Dixon anxious to obtain exact and incontrovertible information upon the subject, which should verify the oft-repeated statement by his grandfather. As Davis was but a lieutenant there was little if anything in the official records in regard to what he was doing at that time, and that little quite difficult to find. But Mr. Dixon enlisted Mr. L. F. Andrews of Des Moines in an effort to ascertain the truth. Mr. Andrews never doubted that Davis participated in that war, but it was some time before he found official and undoubted evidence of the fact. It came to light at last, however, in Brig.-General D. W. Flagler's "History of Rock Island Arsenal." He states as a well understood fact, that both Lincoln and Davis "served through the campaign." This book was published under authority of the War Department, in 1877, and would seem to settle the question beyond any doubt. While Jefferson Davis "cannot escape history," and will be held to rigid accountability for his part in precipitating the greatest civil war that ever deluged a country in blood, there are very few who would take pleasure in seeing him misrepresented or deprived of his just award for merito-

rious services while he still served under the flag of his country. In addition to this statement, the late General Geo. W. Jones, but a short time before his death, stated in the most positive terms that Davis served in the Black Hawk war. Mr. W. B. Street, in the course of a biographical sketch of his father, General J. M. Street, the distinguished Indian Agent and friend of Blackhawk, (page 92 of this volume of THE ANNALS), mentions the fact that Black Hawk and other prisoners were placed in charge of Lieutenant Jefferson Davis shortly after their capture. As we write this article, we are informed that the author of the assertion in McClure's Magazine fully accepts the conclusions above set forth and will ere long publish a statement to that effect.

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THE sketch of the Mormon hand-cart train from which our cut was made for Mr. Bloomer's article, was drawn from memory by Mr. George Simons, of Council Bluffs.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

KEOKUK, JULY 15, 1896.

In the April number of THE ANNALS, L. F. Andrews gives what he terms "First Things in Iowa," among which, on page 394, is the following: "The first white female child born in the State was Eleanor Garland, at Fort Madison, in 1838. Her father was an army surgeon."

Evidently the writer alludes to Eleanor, daughter of Dr. Isaac Galland, who was born at Au-wi-pe-tuck, afterward called Nashville, and now, Galland, a rail road station between Keokuk and Montrose in Lee County. She was born February 4, 1830, grew to womanhood, was married twice, and I think is now living in Ottumwa, Iowa.

My object, however, in writing is to partially correct this item of history. She was not the first white female child born in the State, or in Lee County.

On the 22nd of November, 1829, there was born, at "The Point," now Keokuk, to Moses and Maria Stillwell, a daughter, whom they named Margaret. She attained her womanhood here, married Dr. E. R. Ford, raised a family of three children, and died in this city, May 18, 1865. It has always been conceded that she was the first white child, male or female, born in Keokuk. She may not have been the first white female child born within the territory now comprising the State of Iowa, yet her birth, antedating that of Eleanor Galland, deprives the latter of that distinction.

C. F. DAVIS.

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