

THE EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

BY CHARLES NEGUS.

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From this time till 1812, after the war with Great Britain commenced, the Indians showed no acts of hostility, and seldom visited the garrison, but when they met with any of the soldiers away from the fort, treated them with the greatest kindness.

A short time after the declaration of war with Great Britain, a large body of Indians again made an attack upon the fort, and for several days kept up an incessant fire, and thus laid siege to the works. The sutler's store was located without the stockade, and near one of the block-houses. A few of the Indians got behind this building, and from which location, they fired into the port-holes of the block-house near to it, and wounded two or three soldiers.

The store-house being a protection for the assailants, and by firing it, when the wind was favorable, which was supposed to be their intention, they could burn down the whole garrison, it was determined to destroy it; and one night after dark a soldier secretly went out of the stockade, set fire to the house, and it was burned up. This frustrated the plan of the enemy, and they now changed their mode of operation, and protecting themselves under the banks of the river, undertook to set fire to the block-houses by throwing upon the roof ignited arrows. But this plan of operation did not succeed, for the soldiers unbreached some of their muskets and made "squirt-guns" of them, and threw water on the building, which extinguished the flames.

The Indians now gave up their efforts to set the buildings on fire and withdrew to a place of safety, where they held a council, at which it was resolved to demand the surrender of the fort. They made this demand, and threatened if it was not complied with that they would bring down from the British trading-house above, cannon, and batter down the whole establishment. The garrison refused to yield to the demand,

upon which, the principal chief, who could speak a little French, asked in that language, for a parley.

He was asked through a young man from St. Louis, who was there on business, and could speak the French language, what were the propositions he had to make. The chief began to state them from behind the bank of the river where he was concealed, when the young man told him he could not hear what he said. To make himself heard, the chief raised his head and breast above the bank. No sooner was this done than the young man discharged a musket at him, and he fell mortally wounded. The Indians having lost their chief immediately abandoned all further hostilities, and left the place.

In 1813, the Indians made another fierce attack on the fort, and failing to capture it by force, they commenced a regular siege, which was carried on till the garrison was reduced to the greatest extremity; so much so, that they had nothing but potatoes to subsist upon, and these, were nearly exhausted. Owing to the uncertainty when any provisions would arrive, and the fact that supplies had often been cut off by the enemy, and also the fearful odds with which they had to contend, after mature deliberation the commander resolved to abandon the post. To effect this to the best advantage, a trench was dug from the south-east block-house to the river.

There were some boats belonging to the garrison, and about that time they succeeded in capturing one from the Indians. When the boats were prepared and all things made ready for the departure, orders were given to set fire to the fort. And although the Indians were encamped with a large force near by, these arrangements were made with so much precaution and secrecy, that the soldiers were out of danger and the fort completely wrapped in flames before the enemy were aware of their departure.

When the retreating soldiers arrived to where the town of Warsaw has since been built, they discovered a boat coming up the river with supplies. At this time being worn down with fatigue and hunger and nearly destitute of provis-

ions, they were almost in despair, but this timely relief so much revived their spirits that they resolved not to retreat any farther. They made a halt and immediately went to work at throwing up temporary fortifications, which was the origin of Fort Edwards, which was subsequently built there.

In 1832, soon after the Black-Hawk purchase, Zachariah Hawkins, Benjamin Jennings, Aaron White, Augustine Horton, Samuel Gooch, Daniel Thompson, and Peter Williams made claims at Ft. Madison.

In 1833, these claims were purchased by John H. Knapp and Nathaniel Knapp, upon which in 1835, they laid out a town, and the next summer for the first time sold lots, though the towns was subsequently resurveyed and platted under the direction of the General Government.

In 1836, John and Nathaniel Knapp erected two large frame houses known as the Mansion and Washington Houses; these were the first improvements of any note made in Ft. Madison. The Knapps were energetic business men, and under their influence it was supposed the town would rapidly improve. But a shadow was thrown over its prosperity by the natural death of John H. Knapp, and the "cruel murder of Nathaniel Knapp."

In 1838 Nathaniel Knapp, with Isaac Hendershot and others, were attending court in Van Buren County, and one evening as they were about retiring to bed, a misunderstanding arose about their sleeping apartments. Knapp made some sarcastic remarks to Hendershot, at which Hendershot under the excitement of the moment, drew a spear from his cane and gave Knapp a mortal wound. Popular sentiment was very much against Hendershot at the time, and he was indicted for murder, but before the time came for his trial he made his escape, and soon after was reported to have died at a public house twenty-three miles east of Lexington, Mo., while on his way to the city of Mexico.

It has been noticed that Julien DuBuque on the 22d of September, 1788, made a purchase of a tract of country from the Indians and settled at Dubuque.

The next sale of land and permanent settlement in Iowa, made by the whites, was probably made at Montrose.

On the 30th of March, 1799, Zenon Trudeau, then acting as Lieut. Governor of Upper Louisiana, officially issued the following order :

"It is permitted to Mr. Lewis (Fresson) Honori, to establish himself at the head of the rapids of the river Des Moines, and his establishment once formed, notice of it shall be given to the Governor-General, in order to obtain for him the commission of a space sufficient to give value to said establishment, and at the same time to render it useful to the commerce of the peltries of this country ; to watch the Indians and to keep them in the fidelity which they owe to his Majesty."

There were other privileges given in this grant in order to enable him to carry on a successful trade with the Indians, and possession of the land was immediately taken by Honori, which he retained till 1805.

While he was here engaged in carrying on trade with the Indians, he became indebted to Joseph Robedoux, and not being able to meet the demand, Robedoux resorted to the process of the law, to enforce the payment of the debt ; judgment was obtained and the property sold upon execution on 14th of May, 1803, and purchased by Robedoux in satisfaction of his claim.

This property in these legal proceedings was described as being about six leagues above the River Des Moines. At the time of the sale, part of this tract of land had been improved by Honori, "by building houses, planting orchards, and a small piece was under fence and in cultivation."

Robedoux died soon after he purchased the property, and by his will appointed Augusti Choteau his executor, and authorized him to dispose of his property ; who, by the authority vested in him, in April 1805, sold the property to Thomas F. Reddeck.

Honori, notwithstanding the property had been sold in 1803, to pay his debts, occupied it till after it was sold to Reddeck.

This claim, as first made by the Spanish Government, was a league square, but after this country came under the jurisdiction of the United States, it was reduced by the authority of the latter government, to one mile square.

This grant embraced the site on which the town of Montrose was built, and was within the limits of the Half-Breed reservation.

After the Half-Breeds sold their lands the purchasers set up a claim to this tract of land as being part of the Half-Breed reservation, while the Reddeck heirs claimed a right to it by a regular chain of title from the Spanish grant. And the different claimants resorted to the law to settle their rights, and after several years of litigation, it was decided in 1839 by the Supreme Court of the United States in favor of the Reddeck heirs.

Soon after the Black-Hawk purchase, the United States government selected this place for a military post, and it was called "Fort Des Moines." They erected a large commodious house for officers, and quite a number of other buildings for barracks for soldiers, and stables for horses. In September, 1834, there were stationed here three companies of dragoons. This post was commanded by Lt. Col. Stephen W. Kearney, and the three companies were under the command of Capt. E. V. Sumner, Nathaniel Boone, and Jesse B. Brown; the latter of whom, when the troops were removed from this post, resigned his command and became a citizen of Lee County, and for several years was quite a noted man in the early events of Iowa.

This was retained as a military post till 1837, when the soldiers were removed to Fort Leavenworth, and the buildings which had been erected by the United States were sold by the authority of the government to private individuals. The only improvements at this place, on the arrival of the soldiers, were a log house and a small corn-field occupied by James W. White, which the government purchased and used the house for a hospital for the post. But there were many traces of the first settlement. The orchard planted by Honori at that

time contained some ten or fifteen trees, in a bearing condition, which the Indians, while they remained in the vicinity, were in the habit of visiting and gathering the fruit before it was ripe, so that it very seldom came to maturity.

There were also some sage bushes growing on the prairie to the rear of the camp, and the remains of chimneys visible in the same locality, and near by there were numerous mounds, about which in early days there were many conjectures; some supposed them to have been thrown up by the Spaniards for fortifications, while others thought they were the burial places of the Indians; the latter supposition is more probably correct, for when Gen. Pike first ascended the Mississippi River, on his exploring expedition, he found a large village of Indians near this place.

It has been noticed that Upper Louisiana in 1804 was attached to the Territory of Indiana, for political and judicial purposes.

By an act of Congress passed the 3d of February, 1809, Illinois Territory was formed, and had the same jurisdiction over this country as had been previously given to Indiana.

On the 4th of June, 1812, that portion of the Illinois Territory lying west of the Mississippi, called Upper Louisiana, was formed into a Territorial Government and named Missouri. This government continued up to the time Missouri was admitted into the Union as a state.

After the boundaries and jurisdiction of the State of Missouri were established by Congress, that portion of the country which was embraced within the limits of the Territory of Missouri which lies north of that state, embracing Iowa, seems, as shown by the decision of Judge Irvine, on the trial of Smiths vs. Kitting Massey, to have been left without any civil government being extended over it till the 28th of June, 1834, when by an act of Congress, it was attached to Michigan for civil and judicial purposes.

It has been stated that as soon as it was permitted by the United States government, there were many whites who crossed over the Mississippi River and made permanent set-

tlements, so that there were large numbers of settlers on the west side of the river in the limits of Iowa, before they were under the protection of any civil government.

The first legislature that convened after this territory was attached to Michigan, divided the country west of the Mississippi into two political divisions, which were called Des Moines and Dubuque Counties. Des Moines embraced the southern, and Dubuque the northern portion of the Black-Hawk purchase, the division line being a line running due west from the lower end of Rock Island.

The town of Dubuque was made the county seat of Dubuque County, and Burlington of Des Moines County.

The first judicial tribunals in Iowa were held by justices of the peace, and County Courts. The County Courts were composed of three persons, one presiding, and two associate justices, and got their appointments from the Governor of Michigan.

Isaac Leffler, of Burlington, was the first Chief Justice of Des Moines County, and John King, of Dubuque, of Dubuque County.

On the 20th of April, 1836,* congress passed an act creating the Territory of Wisconsin, describing the boundaries to be "a line drawn from the north-east corner of the State of Illinois, through the middle of Lake Michigan, to a point in the middle of said lake, and opposite to the main channel of Green Bay, and through said channel and Green Bay to the mouth of the Menominee river; thence through the middle of the main channel of the said river to the head of said river, nearest to the lake of Desert; thence in a direct line to the middle of said lake; thence through the middle of the main channel of the Montreal river to its mouth; thence with a direct line across Lake Superior to where the territorial line of the United States last touches said lake northwest; thence on the north with said territorial line to the White Earth River; on the west by a line from the said boundary line following down the middle of the channel of White Earth River to the Mis-

* This act did not go into effect till the following 4th of July.

souri River, and down the middle of the main channel of the Missouri River to a point due west from the north-west corner of the State of Missouri; and on the south from said point due east to the north-west corner of the State of Missouri, and thence with the boundaries of the States of Missouri and Illinois, as already fixed by act of congress," which embraced the territory now comprising the States of Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota.

This law made provision that from and after the 3d of the next July all power and authority of the government of Michigan over this tract of country should cease. Henry Dodge, who had made himself quite noted through the country for his exploits in the Black-Hawk war, was appointed Governor of the new territory.

The legislature of Michigan had divided this country previous to the organization of Wisconsin Territory, into six counties, known as Desmoines, Dubuque, Iowa, Brown, Milwaukee and Crawford; all of the territory west of the Mississippi River was embraced in the counties of Desmoines and Dubuque.

Dodge immediately proceeded to the discharge of his duties as governor, and caused the census of the Territory to be taken, upon which he made an apportionment of the members of the legislature, and on the 9th of September, 1836, issued his proclamation for an election, to be held on the second Monday of the following October, and ordered that the members of the legislature elected should convene at Belmont, in Iowa county, on the 25th of October. Out of the twenty-six members of the house and thirteen members of the council, Desmoines county had seven representatives and three members of the council; and Dubuque had five representatives and three members of the council.

To this legislature John Foley, Thomas McCraney and Thomas McNight were elected to the council; and Loring Wheeler, Hardin Nowlin, Hosea T. Camp, Peter H. Engle and Patrick Quigley to the house, from the county of Dubuque. And Jeremiah Smith, jr., Joseph B. Teas, Arthur B. Ing-

ham were elected members of the council ; and Isaac Leffler, Thomas Blair, Warren L. Jenkins, John Box, George W. Teas, Eli Reynolds, and David R. Chance members of the house, from Desmoines county.

The legislature was organized by electing Henry T. Baird, of Brown County, president of the council, and Peter H. Engle, of Dubuque county, speaker of the house.

One of the first acts of the legislature was to district the Territory into judicial districts. The counties of Crawford and Iowa composed the first judicial district ; Dubuque and Desmoines the second ; and Brown and Milwaukee the third. Charles Durr, chief justice, was assigned as the judge of the first district ; David Irvine of the second ; and William C. Frazer of the third.

At the time of the convening of this legislature there was all over the country a great mania for banks ; and the settlers of the west thought they could furnish their own circulating medium as well as to be dependent on the banks of the east. At this session of the legislature there was an act passed establishing a bank at Dubuque, called "The Miners Bank, of Dubuque," which was the first bank in Iowa, and subsequently claimed considerable attention before the public, and in the legislature. The charter required that the bank should be located at Dubuque, the capital stock to be two hundred thousand dollars, divided into shares of one hundred dollars each. And, by the law itself, Ezekiel Lockwood, Francis Gehon, John Kirk, William Myers, Lucius W. Langworthey, Robert D. Sherman, William W. Carrill, Simeon Clark, and E. M. Bissell, were appointed commissioners to receive subscriptions to the capital stock, and constituted the Board of Directors until there was an election by the stockholders. One-tenth of the amount of each share was to be paid to the commissioners at the time of the subscription, and the balance at such times as the directors might order, by giving the stockholders ninety days notice.

It was provided that the persons who should become stock holders in the Bank were to be a body corporate, till the

first day of May 1857, and the charter granted other privileges usual to banks, but made a provision that it said "corporation should fail to go into operation, or should abuse, or misuse their privileges under this charter, it should be in the power of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory, at any time to annul, vacate, and make void this charter."

At this session of the Legislature, the county of Des Moines was divided, and the counties of Lee, Van Buren, Henry, Louisa, Muscatine, Cook, (now Scott) and Des Moines were made in the southern part of the Territory. The counties of Van Buren, Henry, Louisa, Muscatine and Cook, were bounded on the west by what at that time was called the Indian country. The act creating these new counties, made provisions that the new counties should help pay the debts (which at that time were quite large) of the old county of Des Moines, in proportion to their populations. But for some reason these bdrdrs were not assumed by the new counties so as to relieve the county of Des Moines of her liabilities, but that county was for many years embarrassed with heavy debts.

John King, from Ohio, who came to Dubuque in 1834, and had the honor of being the presiding Judge of one of the two first Courts ever established within the limits of the Territory, which afterwards composed the State of Iowa, brought a printing press to Dubuque and started a newspaper, which was the first paper printed on the west side of the Mississippi River, north of the boundary line of Missouri. The first number of this paper was headed "Dubuque Visitor," "Truth our Guide," "The Public Good our Aim," "Dubuque Lead Mines, Wisconsin Territory, May 11, 1836." On the first page there was an article entitled "The Worth and Devotion of Woman's Love;" on the second page was an article on "The Advantages of Dubuque, and the Surrounding Country, by 'A Citizen.'" On the third page was an article by Hannah Moore, entitled "Good House Wives." On the fourth was a speech of George W. Jones, then a delegate in Congress, on the propriety of dividing Michigan Territory

into three separate governments, the new one to be called Wisconsin. The paper was printed by Wm. C. Jones, on a Smith press, manufactured in Cincinnati, by Charles Mallett.

Though Jones was regarded as the publisher of the paper, "the first type-setting in Iowa was done by Andrew Keesecker," who for many years afterwards was associated with the Iowa Press.

There seems to have been a pioneer charm attached to this printing press, for after remaining at Dubuque about six years it was sold and taken to Lancaster, in the western part of Wisconsin; after having been used there a while, it was taken to St. Paul, Minnesota; and in 1858 it was again moved to Sioux City Falls, a town on the Big Sioux River, in Dacotah. So, that on this press was printed the first paper published in Iowa; the first in Western Wisconsin; the first in Minnesota; and the first in Dacotah.

In March, 1862, after this press had been used at Sioux City Falls about four years, a band of Sioux Indians made a raid upon the place, set fire to the town, killed a large portion of the inhabitants, and among other buildings burned was the one in which the old press was used, and there being no one to rescue it from the devouring flames, it was rendered unfit for further use as a printing press.

Soon after the appearance of the Dubuque Visitor, (Doctor) Isaac Galland commenced the publishing of a paper at Montrose, in Lee County, which was called "The Western Adventurer," but this location for a newspaper did not bring to its aid the requisite patronage for support, and the publication was suspended before it had been in existence two years. This office was subsequently purchased by James G. Edwards, who came from Jacksonville, Illinois, and moved the material to Ft. Madison, and on the 24th of March, 1838, issued the first number of "The Ft. Madison Patriot." About this time there was much interest felt in the States on political issues, and the two dominant parties were known by the names of Democrat and Whig.

The papers which had been published in Iowa previous to

this time, were either neutral in politics, or democratic. The Ft. Madison Patriot was a strong partizan sheet, and the first whig paper ever published in Iowa. The first number was a twenty-eight column paper, and contained matter of much interest. Among other items on the first page was a very interesting official report of (then Captain) Z. Taylor, of a hard fought battle with the Florida Indians; on the second page was an interesting sketch of Ft. Madison, and a minute account of a duel fought between Cilley, a member of Congress from Maine, and Graves, a member from Kentucky, in which Cilley was killed; on the third page was a long obituary notice of the distinguished southern Indian Chief, Osceola; and on the fourth, was the bill then pending before Congress for dividing the territory of Wisconsin and creating the new territory of Iowa. And to the suggestions of the editor of this paper, made in the first number, are the Iowans indebted for their cognomen of "Hawk-Eyes." In one of his editorials, he says: "If a division of the territory is effected, we propose that the Iowans take the cognomen of Hawk-Eyes; our etymology can thus be more definitely traced than that of the Wolverines, Suckers, Gophers, &c., and we shall rescue from oblivion a memento, at least, of the name of the old chief. Who seconds the motion?"

After the territory of Iowa was created, the seat of government was first located at Burlington, which induced Edwards to move his press to that place, and on the 13th of December, 1838, issued a specimen number of a paper called "The Burlington Patriot," but for some reason it appears that he did not commence the regular publication of his paper till the 6th of June, 1839.

The name of Hawk-Eye, suggested by the editor of the Patriot, seemed to be popular with the people, and on the 5th of September, 1839, Edwards issued his paper under the name of "The Hawk-Eye and Iowa Patriot." The name of Iowa Patriot was subsequently dropped and the paper was known as "The Hawk-Eye." Edwards continued to be editor and proprietor till his death, which took place on the 5th of Au-

gust, 1851. This paper was ably conducted, and did much in shaping the destinies of Iowa. After his death the establishment went into other hands, but the paper retained the name given it by the first publisher.

By the treaty of January 15, 1830, the western slope of Iowa had been purchased from the Sacs and Foxes for the purpose of settling the Pottawattamies in that country, and in the fall of 1836, Henry Dodge, then Governor, and Superintendent of Indian affairs and Commissioner on the part of the United States, held a convention with the Sac and Fox tribes, who lived west of the Missouri River, and on the 27th of September closed a treaty by which all Indian titles to that tract of country which lay between the western boundary of the State of Missouri and the Missouri River, generally known as the Platte purchase, was relinquished. This tract of land was by the General Government given to Missouri, and became a part of that state. And on the next day, he concluded another treaty with these Indians, by which the United States obtained the reservations made by the treaty of September 21, 1832, embracing Keokuk's village on the Iowa River, and containing four hundred sections of choice land.

By the first article of this treaty it was provided that "the confederate tribes of Sacs and Foxes, for the purpose above expressed, and for and in consideration of the stipulation and agreement hereinafter expressed, do hereby cede to the United States forever, the said reservation of four hundred sections of land, as designated in the second article of the treaty made between the United States and the confederate tribes of Sacs and Foxes, as the same was surveyed and laid off by the President of the United States." And that all rights of the Indians to this tract of land might be entirely extinguished, the sixth section of the treaty provided, "that the said confederate tribes of Sac and Fox Indians hereby stipulate and agree to remove from off the lands herein, in the first article of this treaty, ceded to the United States, by the 1st day of November next ensuing the date hereof; and in

order to prevent any future misunderstanding, it is expressly agreed and understood, that no band or party of the said confederate tribes of Sac and Fox Indians shall plant, fish or hunt in any portion of the country herein ceded after the period just mentioned."

After disposing of this reservation on the Iowa River, the Indians mostly settled in the Des Moines valley, and Keokuk established his village on the west bank of the river about two miles below where Ottumwa, the county-seat of Wapello County, is situated, near which were located several licensed trading houses, from which the Indians obtained their goods.

The second legislature of Wisconsin Territory convened at Burlington, in Des Moines County, on the 1st Monday of November, 1837. This was the first time that ever a legislative body met within the limits of Iowa.

At this session of the legislature the old county of Dubuque was divided, and from the territory embraced within its limits, the counties of Clayton, Fayette, Delaware, Buchanan, Jackson, Jones, Linn, Benton, Clinton, Cedar and the present county of Dubuque, were created, and by the same act the counties of Johnson, Keokuk (now Iowa) and Slaughter (now Washington), and the county which the previous legislature had formed and called Cook, was included in its limits and called Scott.

All the country which at this time had been purchased from the Indians on the west side of the Mississippi River was divided up into counties of size containing from twelve to twenty townships of land. The counties of Clayton and Fayette were thus bounded on the north by the neutral grounds.

Notwithstanding the United States had purchased from the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux the lands which were embraced in the counties of Winneshiek and Alamakee, yet by the terms of the purchase, they were to remain as neutral grounds and not to be occupied by either of those nations of Indians, or by the whites.

At this session of the legislature there was a law passed

creating a board of County Commissioners for each county, consisting of three persons, who were to be classified after the first election, so that there should one be elected each year, and hold his office for three years, and it was made the duty of this board to attend to all county business.

During this time the whites had been permitted to pass over the Mississippi and make settlements on the new purchase, the tide of immigration had been flowing rapidly into the new country, and many settlements had been made on the very borders of the Indian Territory, and it had become quite an object with the United States to extend the boundaries of her domains.

In the fall of 1837 the General Government called to Washington a deputation from most of the tribes residing in the valley of the Mississippi. Prominent among others were delegations from the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux, between whom at the time open hostilities existed. The ostensible object in calling these deputations to the seat of government, at this time, was alleged to be for the purpose of restoring peace among the hostile nations, but negotiations were held for the purchase of lands. Cary A. Harris, Commissioner of Indian affairs, under the direction of J. K. Pointset, Secretary of War, conducted the business. The council was held in a church, and the negotiations between the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux were spirited and attracted much attention.

After the council was opened by a few remarks on the part of the United States, the representatives from the Sioux spoke. Their great effort seemed to be to show that it was useless to undertake to make a peace with the Sacs and Foxes, for they were treacherous and no confidence could be put in anything they might agree to do. "My father," said one of their orators, "you cannot make these people hear any good words unless you bore their ears with sticks." "We have often made peace with them," said another, "but they would never observe a treaty. I would as soon make a treaty with that child (pointing to Keokuk's little boy) as with a Saukeee or Musquakee."

Keokuk did most of the talking on the part of the Sacs and Foxes, and with the spectators was the Cicero of the occasion, and in reply to these philippics of the Sioux, he said: "They tell you that our ears must be bored with sticks, but my father, you could not penetrate their thick skulls in that way, it would require hot iron. They say they would as soon make peace with a child as with us; they know better, for when they make war upon us, they find us men. They tell you that peace has often been made, and that we have broken it. How happens it then that so many of their braves have been slain in our country? I will tell you, they invade us; we never invade them; none of our braves have been killed on their land. We have their scalps and can tell where we took them."

THE PIONEERS OF MARION COUNTY.

BY WILLIAM M. DONNEL.

DRAGOONS—TRADING HOUSES—INDIAN PAYMENTS, AND HOW MADE—INCIDENTS—CHARACTER OF THE TRADERS—THE INDIANS—LANGUAGE OF THE SACS AND FOXES—BRIEF SKETCH OF THEIR HISTORY—BLACK HAWK BEHEADED—INSTALLATION OF KEOKUK AS CHIEF—INDIAN TRAGEDY NEAR RED ROCK—POVERTY—SETTLEMENTS—MARKING OFF CLAIMS—PRIMITIVE HOUSES AND THEIR FURNITURE—FIRST CROP—GRATING CORN FOR MEAL—HOMINY—SAMP.

Soon after the purchase of 1842, or about that time, a garrison of United States dragoons was quartered at Ft. Desmoines, between and at the junction of the Desmoines and Coon Rivers, for the purpose of guarding the Sac and Fox Indians, the late proprietors of the lands, against the warlike encroachment of the Sioux, who had long been known as their most implacable foes; and also to prevent the settlement of those lands by the whites previous to the first day of May, 1843, and the eleventh day of October, 1845, agreeable to the

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