

GENERAL ROBERT LUCAS.

General Robert Lucas, the present Governor of Ohio, was born on the first day of April, 1781, in Jefferson county, and state of Virginia. He received a common school education, and was instructed in the mathematics by a Mr. McMurrin, of Sheperdstown. In 1802, he moved with his father and family, and settled near the mouth of the Scioto river. The next year, shortly after the organization of the state government, he was commissioned a lieutenant of volunteers, directed by the President of the United States, to be raised in Ohio, and held in readiness, to march and take possession of Louisiana, in case the officers of the Spanish government should refuse to give possession of that country, in accordance with our treaty with France. For several years after he held numerous offices, both civil and military; and in 1808, while a lieutenant-colonel of the militia of the state, he raised a company of volunteers, from his regiment, under the act of congress of the 18th of April, 1806; and was elected and commissioned captain of the same.*

In 1812, having previously been commissioned a brigadier-general of a brigade composed of the counties of Scioto, Pickaway and Ross, he raised a battalion of volunteers, therein, marched to Dayton, and organized there, under the command of Major-General James Denney, and while at Dayton, was employed by Governor Meigs, as a special messenger to Detroit, and performed the duties required of him to the satisfaction of the governor. He met General Hull's army in the wilderness, attached himself to the spies, marched into Canada with the first detachment of troops, and was one of the "forlorn hope." General Lucas was the first man who crossed the river Aux Canards, when Colonel Cass dispossessed the British of the bridge over that river. He was with the spies during the whole of Hull's campaign, and with

*That commission is now in the possession of the Historical Department of Iowa.

Major Vanhorn's detachment at Brownstown, at the battle of which he had a horse shot under him.

In the year 1813, he marched with his brigade to the relief of Fort Meigs and Lower Sandusky, under the immediate command of Governor Meigs.

After the close of the war he was elected, by joint ballot of both houses of the general assembly, a major-general of the militia of the state; which office he held at the time he was elected governor.

General Lucas' public services, in a civil capacity, have been as valuable to the country as those rendered during his military career. As early as the year 1808 he served in the house of representatives; and was, subsequently, repeatedly elected to the senate, in which body he presided as speaker several sessions. In 1820, he served as an elector of President and Vice-President of the United States, and voted for Mr. Monroe and Mr. Tompkins; and in 1828, acted in the same capacity, voting for General Jackson and Mr. Calhoun. He was elevated to the distinguished position he now holds, in the autumn of 1832.

Governor Lucas is now and always has been, a warm friend to internal improvements by roads and canals—he is friendly to common schools, and to the cause of education generally; and has voted for every appropriation which has ever been made by the legislature (while he had a seat in that body), for the benefit of education. In his manners, he is a plain, modest, gentlemanly man, moral in his habits and benevolent in his disposition. He has been a surveyor of lands, and a farmer all his days. It is scarcely necessary to add, that his immediate neighbors have always testified strongly in favor of his merits, as a man, and as a public officer. Though in very comfortable circumstances, as to property, he has been too much in office to be very wealthy. He has been twice happily and respectably connected in marriage, and is now surrounded by a large and interesting family of children.

The above brief sketch is all that my leisure now enables me to give of the life of my friend Robert Lucas; but as soon as I find the leisure, I will endeavor to fill it up with such incidents as my long personal acquaintance with him enables me to furnish hereafter. And, I have long been collecting materials for biographical sketches of a large number of our first settlers—such as Governors Meigs, Morrow, Trimble, and Worthington; of our members of congress; of the general assembly; judges of the supreme court; our most distinguished lawyers, physicians, and divines. A future edition of this work will offer me a place for all such writings or sketches.—*Writings of Caleb Atwater, Columbus, O., 1833.*

THE EASTERN BORDER OF IOWA AS SEEN BY EDWARD TANNER IN 1818.

Edward Tanner, of New Madrid county, Missouri Territory, was an elder brother of John Tanner, who when a boy was taken captive by Indians, in 1790, in one of their raids into Kentucky, and was carried off no one knew where. In one of his journeys in search of him Edward Tanner went up the Mississippi river. He left St. Louis on the 15th of August, 1818, in company with Thomas Forsyth, the long-time and faithful agent of the Sac Indians (ANNALS, v, 546-7). An account of his voyage was published in *The Detroit Gazette*, Jan. 8, 15, 1819, and reprinted in *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, viii, 287-292.

The following extract relates to the eastern border of Iowa:

The Mississippi is generally from three-fourths of a mile to three miles wide, interspersed with numerous islands clothed with the richest growth of timber, but subject to inundation. The river is at no time so low as not to afford water sufficient to float crafts drawing four feet of water. There are two rapids in the river, but neither of them materially obstructs navigation. About ninety miles from Prairie du Chien, and seven miles from the west side of the Mississippi, is a lead mine which is worked by

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