



*Photo. by De Young NY*

*Eng. by J. C. Butler Co.*

*Chas. A. Clark*

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

---

VOL. VI, No. 2.

DES MOINES, IOWA, JULY, 1903.

3D SERIES.

---

## INDIANS OF IOWA.

BY CHARLES A. CLARK.

The earliest Indians in Iowa of whom we have any record were found there by Marquette and Joliet, the first white men whose feet pressed Iowa soil. It was on Father Marquette's famous voyage of discovery and exploration of the upper Mississippi. He made his way from Lake Michigan up the Fox river, thence across a narrow portage to the Wisconsin river. In two frail, birch bark canoes, with his companions, Joliet and five other Frenchmen, he sailed down the Wisconsin to the Mississippi, thus discovering the upper portion of the great "Father of Waters." On June 25, 1673, they debarked upon the soil of Iowa, and discovered the Des Moines river. Let the historian Bancroft tell the story:

About sixty leagues below the mouth of the Wisconsin, the western bank of the Mississippi bore on its sands the trail of men; a little foot-path was discerned leading into a beautiful prairie; and, leaving the canoes, Joliet and Marquette resolved alone to brave a meeting with the savages. After walking six miles, they beheld a village on the banks of a river, and two others on a slope, at a distance of a mile and a half from the first. The river was the Mou-in-gou-e-na, or Moingona, of which we have corrupted the name into Des Moines. Marquette and Joliet were the first white men who trod the soil of Iowa. Commending themselves to God, they uttered a loud cry. The Indians hear; four old men advance slowly to meet them, bearing the peace-pipe, brilliant with many colored plumes. "We are Illinois," said they, that is, when translated, "We are men," and they offered the calumet. An aged chief received them at his cabin with upraised hands, exclaiming, "How beautiful is the sun, Frenchmen, when thou comest to visit us! Our whole village awaits thee; thou shalt enter in peace into all our dwellings." And the pilgrims were followed by the devouring gaze of an astonished crowd.

A banquet given in their honor, even if primitive, was typical of the hospitality for which Iowa is noted. It consisted of four courses. First a porridge of Indian meal, enriched with grease. This was fed to them by the master of ceremonies. Then came fish, also fed to them with the bones carefully removed. Then came a large dog, which was too much for the cosmopolitan stomachs of the Frenchmen. The whole was concluded by a course of buffalo meat. Thus they were feasted for six days, and then proceeded down the Mississippi.

We have here the first mention in history of the Des Moines river. It is easy to see how the name was derived. The first two syllables of Mou-in-gou-e-na, or Moingona, "Mou-in" or "Moin" were spelled in French fashion "Moines;" the particle "des" or "the" was added, and we have Des Moines, or "the" Moines river.

At the time of the Louisiana purchase the State Department, under direction of President Jefferson, compiled what was known of the grand area thus acquired, and we read in that compilation: "About seventy-five leagues above the mouth of the Missouri river, the river Moingona, or Riviere de Moine, enters the Mississippi on the west side." Des Moines has been the accepted name of the river since that date.

The Moingona were a band or tribe of the Illinois Indians,\* and they gave the name to one of Iowa's principal rivers, and to its capital and largest city. Marquette, on his map of this voyage of discovery, laid down the river and Moingona as the name of the Indian village upon it visited by him.† This name was transferred from the village to the river. Thus we have Moingona associated with the river by Marquette himself. Then we have it as the name of the river associated with its abbreviated form, De Moine, which fin-

---

\*Parkman's LaSalle and the Discovery of the Great West, new library edition, 1898, p. 223.

†Ibid, p. 65.

ally came into universal use. The evolution of the modern Des Moines is too clear to call for discussion. The hamlet of Moingona in Boone county perpetuates in full the earliest recorded word of Iowa history proper.

The name Iowa, as is well known, is derived from the Iowas, a tribe of Indians of the Siouan or Dakota stock, who at the time of the visit of Marquette and Joliet, the two great discoverers, were located in central Iowa, along the Des Moines river. In their own tongue they called themselves "Pachouta," or "Dusty Noses," which might be appropriate in a dry season. Marquette names them on his map as the Pahoutet (Pahouta), a close approximate to their own tongue. The Algonquins called them the Iowa, meaning "beautiful land,"\* and we have fortunately accepted the name of a hostile stock with its apt and appropriate signification, rather than that of the "dusty noses" themselves. Iowa is sometimes said to mean "drowsy,"† a signification neither so appropriate nor so satisfactory to the Hawkeye of to-day.

The Iowas were great walkers; it was claimed for them that they marched twenty-five to thirty leagues a day, but this smacks strongly of Indian boasting and exaggeration. They certainly covered great distances when on the war path. When Montcalm, in 1757, mustered from his savage allies what was probably the greatest army of Indians ever assembled on the American continent in historic times, he had in the aggregation a band of Iowas from the banks of the Des Moines, whom no interpreter could understand.‡ As they were of the Siouan or Dakota stock, while the interpreters knew only the Algonquin stock and dialects, this circumstance is easily understood.

Their pride in their pedestrian feats is shown by the names of their chiefs attached to government treaties: Washcommanee, "Great Marcher;" Manuhanu, "the Great Walk-

---

\*Eleventh Census U. S., Indian Vol., p. 322.

†Ibid, p. 54.

‡Parkman's Montcalm and Wolfe, Vol. I, pp. 492, 500.

er;" Tarnomun, "a Great Many Deer;" Ta-ca-mo-nee, "The Lightning;" Seenah-ty-yaa, "the Blistered Foot." The name of one of their chiefs, Ma-hos-ka, "the White Cloud," has given to Iowa the name of one of its counties, Mahaska.

By treaty of September 17, 1836, the Iowas were removed west of the Missouri into what is now Nebraska. They are now on reservations in Kansas and Oklahoma. In 1890 their number was reduced to 267. Early in the present century they numbered about 1500, but lost heavily in wars with the Omahas, Sioux and Osages, and later by ravages of the smallpox. In 1846 they numbered 700; in 1861 only 305.\*

It should be noted that in all treaties with them up to 1854 the name is spelled "Ioway." That was also the spelling of the "Ioway" river in all Indian treaties up to 1838 when the territory "Iowa" was established. The original pronunciation of the last syllable must have been "way" as the spelling indicates. It admits of doubt if the shortening of this syllable has added euphony to the aboriginal name. The pronunciation might be retained with the modern spelling, but it has not been.

As a whole, Iowa was originally peopled by the tribes of the Siouan or Dakota stock. A thin belt of the Algonquin stock lay along the Mississippi where Marquette found the Illinois of that stock. But no Algonquin tribe had its abode permanently west of the great river. The Illinois were found east of the river in 1769, and were then practically exterminated for the murder of Pontiac by one of their tribe. This roused the vengeance of all the tribes friendly to that great chief, and wiped out the Illinois as a tribe.

The Sacs and Foxes were Algonquin but they did not take up their abode west of the Mississippi until late in the 18th or beginning of the 19th century. Their original abode was in Wisconsin. "The ruthless Sacs and Foxes, ever

---

\*Eleventh Census, Indian Vol., p. 323.

dreaded by the French, held the passes from Green Bay and the Fox river to the Mississippi, and with insatiate avidity roamed defiantly over the whole country to the upper branches of the Illinois."\*

The Foxes were celebrated warriors. Parkman says there was no more implacable, tireless, and bloodthirsty tribe east of the Mississippi, and that they were especially dreaded by the French and their savage allies.† At times they acted with the French. They visited Montreal in 1672.‡ Like the Iowas, they fought under Montcalm at the capture of Fort William Henry at the head of Lake George, N. Y., in 1757;|| and they no doubt participated in the horrible massacre of the defenseless prisoners after the surrender of the fort. They were not inferior to the Iroquois of the Five Nations in ferocity and courage.§

In an attempt to drive the French from the west in 1712, they with the Mascoutins (Muscatines), numbering about 300 warriors in all, attacked the fort at Detroit. They fell into their own trap and were in turn attacked, besieged and captured. About 100 of the Mascoutin and Fox warriors escaped from this foray.¶ In 1730 they attacked a French fort on the Illinois river and were again slaughtered in great numbers by the French and their Indian allies.\*\* In 1736 they were reduced to sixty or eighty warriors and then incorporated themselves into the tribe of the Sacs, their kindred and neighbors, and from that time are known in history as the Sacs and Foxes. Early in the 19th century they were settled on both banks of the upper Mississippi.†† The Algonquins called them the Outagamies or "Foxes;" hence the French called them Reynards, and the Americans,

\*Bancroft's History U. S., Centenary Ed., 1897, Vol. II, p. 399.

†Parkman's Half Century of Conflict, Vol. I, pp. 340-350.

‡Parkman's LaSalle, etc., p. 45.

||Parkman's Montcalm and Wolfe, Vol. I, pp. 492, 500.

§Parkman's Half Century of Conflict, Vol. I, p. 278.

¶Ibid, pp. 275-297.

\*\*Ibid, p. 340.

††Ibid, p. 344.

Foxes; and thus their name in history originated. They called themselves Musquawkies, said to mean "red earth," from the color of the soil near one of their villages.\*

It was this confederated Algonquin tribe which thrust itself into Iowa, the home of a hostile stock, the Sioux or Dakotas. The first government treaty with Indians relating to the soil of Iowa was made August 19, 1825; it recited recent wars "between the confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux, and also between the Ioways and the Sioux." To prevent further wars between these savages they stipulated for a "firm and perpetual peace," and the treaty fixed a boundary line dividing the country of the Sioux from that of the Ioways and Sacs and Foxes. That line began at the mouth of the Upper Iowa river near the northeast corner of the now State of Iowa, and ran southwest to "the second or upper fork of the Desmoines (sic) river; thence in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet river; and down that river to its juncture with the Missouri river." The "Calumet" river referred to is now the Big Sioux. Its Indian name was Tchan-kas-an-data.

This boundary does not seem to have kept the hostile tribes from each others' throats, for July 15, 1830, a further treaty was made by which the Sioux ceded a strip twenty miles wide north of this line from the Mississippi to the "Demoine" (sic); and the Sacs and Foxes and Ioways ceded a like strip twenty miles in width south of that portion of the boundary line of 1825.

Thus was created an area forty miles wide, extending from the Mississippi southwest to the Des Moines, known as the "Neutral Ground." Its southwest corner was near the present city of Fort Dodge.

By the same treaty a large portion of western Iowa was ceded to the United States, but the treaty provided:

It is understood that the lands ceded and relinquished by this treaty are to be assigned and allotted, under the direction of the President of the

---

\*Parkman's Half Century of Conflict, Vol. I, p. 500.

United States, to the tribes now living thereon, or to such other tribes as the President may locate thereon, for hunting and other purposes.

The Pottawattamies, on their removal west of the Mississippi were located by the government on this cession along the Missouri. Not a foot of Iowa soil was as yet acquired by the government for other than Indian purposes.

These treaties were signed, among other chiefs, on behalf of the Sacs, Socs, or Sacks, as they were variously called, by Ke-o-kuck, or "the Watchful Fox," and on behalf of the Foxes by Wapalaw, "the Prince." Hence we have Wapello county, and the city of Keokuk and Keokuk county.

In 1832 the Sacs and Foxes crossed the Mississippi river and participated in the Black Hawk war which was waged by that celebrated chief to recover lands ceded by the Winnebagoes and the Sacs and Foxes east of the Mississippi. To punish the Sacs and Foxes for their participation in this war General Scott compelled them to cede a portion of their lands in Iowa, by treaty, concluded September 21, 1832. This cession was of a tract practically fifty miles in width, along the Mississippi, and extending from the south boundary of the "Neutral Ground" to the northern line of the state of Missouri. From this tract they were bound to remove before the first day of June, 1833, and it was "expressly understood that no band or party of the Sac or Fox tribes shall reside, plant, fish or hunt in any portion of the ceded country after the period just mentioned." The government, however, out of this cession granted these Indians a reservation of a tract "containing four hundred square miles to be laid off under the direction of the President of the United States, from the boundary lines crossing the Ioway river, in such manner that nearly an equal portion of the reservation may be on both sides of said river, and extending downwards so as to include Keo-o-kuck's principal village on its right bank, which village is twelve miles from the Mississippi river."

By article 6 of this treaty it was provided:



At the special request of the said confederated tribes, the United States agree to grant, by patent, in fee simple, to Antoine LeClaire, interpreter, a part Indian, one section of land opposite Rock Island, and one section at the head of the first rapids above said island, within the country herein ceded by the Sacs and Foxes.

Hence originated the little town of LeClaire, which at one time thought itself the rival of Davenport.

Among the signatories of this treaty were Kee-o-kuck, or "He who has been everywhere;" and on behalf of the Foxes, Wau-pel-la, or "He who is painted white;" also Pow-sheek, or "Roused Bear," for whom Poweshiek county was named. The descriptive appellations of Kee-o-kuck and Wau-pel-la seem to have been materially modified by their experience in war.

The 400 square miles or sections reserved to the Indians by this treaty were surveyed and laid off in a parallelogram along the Iowa river. The northwest end was close to Iowa City. The southeast end extended to about the present towns of Northfield and Elrick Junction, in Louisa county.

By the treaty of September 28, 1836, which recites that it was entered into "in the county of Debuque, (sic) and territory of Wisconsin," Henry Dodge acting as commissioner on the part of the United States, the Sac and Fox Indians ceded back this tract of 400 sections. For this cession the government paid 200 horses, \$9,341, and small amounts to other beneficiaries under the treaty. But it was stipulated that the "Ioway Indians having set up a claim to a part of the lands ceded by this treaty," the President of the United States was to investigate their claim, and "cause the reasonable and fair valuation thereof to be paid to said Ioway Indians, and the same amount be deducted from the sum stipulated to be paid to the Sacs and Foxes." Outside of the Indians, there was to be paid, under this treaty, to Madame LeClaire \$125; to Antoine LeClaire, \$2,436.50; also for the use and benefit of a child of Ka-kee-o-sa-qua, a Fox woman, \$1,000. This last would seem to be the name from

which Keosauqua, one of our Iowa towns, is derived. Its signification is not given in the treaty.

The early settlers in Iowa upon the lands thus thrown open for settlement were brought in contact principally with the Sac and Fox Indians, who, from their predatory character and bloodthirsty disposition, could not have been pleasant neighbors. October 21, 1837, accordingly, a new treaty was made with them by which a further area, occupied by them, was acquired for settlement. This area contained 1,250,000 acres lying immediately west of and adjoining the lands already ceded. It left the eastern boundary line of the Indians' lands running nearly due north and south from Missouri to the south line of the "Neutral Ground;" the north end of this line was in township 92, range 10, and the south end in township 67, range 12, as we now reckon. By the same treaty they also ceded all interest in the twenty mile strip already mentioned, which they had ceded for Indian purposes by the treaty of July 15, 1830, and which comprised the south twenty miles of the so-called "Neutral Ground." The Indians agreed to remove from the lands ceded within eight months from the ratification of the treaty, "with the exception of Keokuck's village, possession of which may be retained two years." Various sums were paid to the Indians by the government for this cession, the principal of which was an annuity of five per cent on the sum of \$200,000, to be invested in "safe state stocks." Among other signatures to this treaty, on behalf of the Indians, were Keokuck, "the Watchful Fox," principal chief of the confederated tribes; Appan-oze-o-ke-mar, "the Hereditary Chief," or "He who was a Chief when a child." From this chief we have the name of Appanoose county.

It was also signed, among others, by Waa-co-me, "Clear Water," a chief; Nar-nar-he-keit, the "Self-made man," which sounds as though there may have been politicians among the Indians of that day. Also by Wa-pella, "the Prince," a principal chief; by Paa-ka-kar, "the Striker,"

probably not a walking delegate; by Po-wa-sheek, "Shedding Bear," principal chief; by Con-no-ma-co, "Long Nose Fox," a chief (wounded); Waa-co-shaa-shee, "Red Nose Fox," a principal chief, Fox tribe, (wounded); by Kish-keekosh, "the Man with one leg off."

From these names it would seem that their hereditary predisposition for fighting was still kept up. Nar-nar-wau-kehait, "the Repenter," or "the Sorrowful," may have had a touch of religion, or he may have been defeated in combat.

Finally, by treaty of October 11, 1842, the Sacs and Foxes ceded:

All lands west of the Mississippi river, to which they have any claim or title, or in which they have any interest whatever; reserving a right to occupy for a term of three years from the time of signing this treaty, all that part of the land hereby ceded which lies west of a line running due north and south from the painted or red rocks on the White Breast fork of the Des Moines river, which rocks will be found about eight miles, when reduced to a straight line, from the junction of the White Breast with the Des Moines.

The government agreed to assign them a "tract of land suitable and convenient for Indian purposes for a permanent and perpetual residence for them and their descendants, which tract of land shall be upon the Missouri river, or some of its waters." It also undertook to pay an annuity of five per cent on the sum of \$800,000, and to pay certain debts of the Indians. They agreed to remove to the west side of the line running through the red rocks on the White Breast before the first of May, 1843, and later to remove to the lands selected for them west of the Missouri.

By separate article it was provided as follows:

The Sacs and Foxes have caused the remains of their late distinguished chief, Wa-pel-lo, to be buried at their agency, near the grave of their late friend and agent, General Joseph M. Street, and have put into the hands of their agent the sum of one hundred dollars to procure a tombstone to be erected over his grave, similar to that which has been erected over the grave of General Street; and because they wish the grave of their friend and chief to remain in the possession of the family of General Street, to whom they were indebted in his lifetime for many acts of kindness, they wish to give to his widow, Mrs. Eliza M. Street, one section of land, to in-

clude the said graves, and the agency house and enclosures around and near it; and as the agency house was built at the expense of the United States, the Sacs and Foxes agree to pay them the sum of one thousand dollars, the value of said building, assessed by gentlemen appointed by them and Governor Chambers, commissioner on the part of the United States, to be deducted from the first annuity payable to them under the provisions of this treaty. And the United States agree to grant to the said Eliza M. Street, by one or more patents, six hundred and forty acres of land in such legal subdivisions as will include the said burial ground, the agency house, and improvements around and near it, in good and convenient form, to be selected by the said E. M. Street, or her duly authorized agent.

Among the creditors to be paid was the inevitable Antoine LeClaire, the amount being \$1,375.

The treaty was signed by practically the same chiefs as the last preceding. It opened for settlement in May, 1843, an area as far west as the west line of township 88, range 19. Eldora, in Hardin county, is now practically upon the northern end of this line, and Knoxville, in Marion county, towards the southerly end. By 1845 the Sacs and Foxes had removed from the whole tract ceded and thus the government public lands were carried as far west as township 88, range 36, on the north, and township 67, range 29, on the south, at the Missouri state line.

Mention should be made of a small reservation in southeastern Iowa called the "half-breed tract."

By treaty of August 4, 1824, the Sacs and Foxes ceded all their lands in the state of Missouri and provided:

It being understood that the small tract of land lying between the rivers Desmoin (sic) and the Mississippi, and the section of the above line between the Mississippi and the Desmoin, is intended for the use of the half-breeds belonging to the Sock and Fox nations; they holding it, however, by the same title, and in the same manner, that other Indian titles are held.

The "half-breed lands" were not ceded by the Sacs and Foxes in any of the treaties already set out, except that the final treaty of October 11, 1842, was no doubt broad enough in its terms to relinquish any remaining claim or interest which the confederated tribes may have had in these lands.

On the 30th day of June, 1834, congress, by an act of

that date, relinquished to and vested in the Sac and Fox half-breeds all interest and title of the United States in these lands "with power to said half-breeds to transfer their portions thereof by sale, devise, or descent," and thus the half-breeds became owners and tenants in common of this valuable area. The city of Keokuk is located on these lands.

The legislature of the territory of Wisconsin, of which Iowa was then a portion, and subsequently the legislature of the territory of Iowa, passed laws for the partition of these lands among the half-breeds, and for the settlement of titles thereto. There was protracted and fierce litigation over the "half-breed titles" which forms an interesting chapter in the early judicial history of Iowa, and which resulted finally in settling titles to the disputed lands, and in enabling them to be transferred, so that they passed into the hands of the white men.

The early history of Iowa is perhaps more closely interwoven with that of these savages than any other of its aboriginal inhabitants. After their removal west of the Missouri river a band of Foxes returned to Iowa and purchased from the white settlers 1,452 acres of land along both sides of the Iowa river in Tama county. This purchase was made with their annuity money; and is in no proper sense a government reservation. The Indians own this land in fee, the deed to the same being held in trust by the Governor of Iowa. They are commonly called Musquawkies.\* Probably the people of Iowa generally look upon the name "Musquawkie" as a term of contempt. It is, in fact, as has been already pointed out, the real aboriginal name of the Fox Indians, one of the most courageous and redoubtable tribes in all Indian history.

The Tama Indians are the lineal descendants, and the part survivors of the Foxes, or Musquawkies, of Wisconsin and northern Illinois, who in history stand among the most celebrated Indians of the American continent.

---

\*Eleventh Census, Indian Vol., pp. 318-319.

As to the acquisition of the title of the Ioways, it has already been shown that they removed west of the Mississippi under a treaty of September 17, 1836. By this treaty they then released their claim only to the lands lying between the Missouri river and the state of Missouri, which were afterwards attached to and became a part of that state. It would seem from the language of that treaty that the Ioways were at that time located with the Sacs and Foxes of the Missouri upon the tract of land thus definitely ceded. This would imply that the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi were then in possession of Iowa south of the "Neutral Ground," and considerably west of the Des Moines river. Be this as it may, no evidence is to be found in the treaties of the occupancy of Iowa soil by the tribe of Ioways after about the date of the treaty of September 17, 1836. This treaty besides being signed by Mo-hos-ca, or "White Cloud," was signed by Man-o-mo-ne, or "Pumpkin;" by Con-gu, or "Plum;" and by Ne-o-mo-ne, or "Rainy Cloud."

This treaty indicates, as already said, that the Ioways had withdrawn from their ancient seat on the Des Moines and Iowa rivers. It will be remembered, however, that the treaty with the Sacs and Foxes by which that tribe ceded their four hundred sections along the Iowa river, recited that the Ioways still made claim to an interest in these lands, and authorized the government to settle with them for such interest, deducting the amount thereof from the sum to be paid the Sacs and Foxes under that treaty. It should also be remembered that the treaty of July 15, 1830, under which the Sacs and Foxes and the Ioways ceded the south twenty miles of the "Neutral Ground," established a cession of that tract for Indian purposes only. So as to the large area ceded by the same treaty by these tribes in common with various bands of the Sioux Indians west of the Des Moines river. This qualified cession left the possessory rights of the Indians so nearly what they were in the absence of any treaty whatever, that it is difficult to see why the cession should have been made at all,

except in so far as they tended to restrain warfare between the various tribes then located in Iowa. All such reserved title or claim was now extinguished.

An earlier treaty (1815) of simple peace and amity with the Ioways was signed, among others, by Shong-a-tong, "the Horse Jockey." The resonance of this name suggests that the aboriginal horse sharper was fully as vociferous as his Caucasian brother of our own age.

Notwithstanding the removal of the Ioways west of the Missouri under the treaty of 1836 it was found desirable to extinguish their rights and claims under the peculiar cessions of 1830 and the agreement made by the government with the Sacs and Foxes touching the tract of four hundred sections. Accordingly, November 23, 1837, the "Ioways," as they were still called, ceded all right and interest which they might have "by virtue of the phraseology employed," in the lands ceded July 15, 1830, already referred to. For this cession they were paid \$2,500 in horses, goods and presents.

Afterwards, October 19, 1838, they ceded "all right or interest in the country between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers," and the boundary between the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux described in the second article of the treaty made on August 19, 1825, "and all interest or claim by virtue of the provisions of any treaty since made by the United States with the Sacs and Foxes of the Mississippi."

These treaties ended all form of claim on the part of the Ioways to any interest in Iowa lands. They were signed, among others, by "Frank White Cloud," probably Mo-has-ka; by Tharaw-ing-go, "the War Eagle;" by Po-she-ing-ga, "the Cock Nose;" by Roto-ro-to-gra-zey, or "Speckled Rib;" by Ta-ro-do-hah, or "Pile of Meat."

This is the last appearance in Iowa history of the tribe for whom the State was named.

There remains for consideration other bands of Sioux Indians (for the Ioways were Siouan) who were aboriginal inhabitants of Iowa. The name Sioux is derived from

the last syllable of the name given them by the Algonquins, "Na-do-wes-sioux," which means "snake-like ones," or "enemies." From our earliest knowledge of them the fitness of the name has been apparent. Their own name for themselves is Dakota or Lakota, which means "leagued." The bands of Iowa, other than the Ioways, and the significance of their names were:

- Mde-wa-ka-to-wa, or (Medewakanton), "Spirit Lake village."
- Wahpeton, "Dwellers in hard-woods."
- Santee, "People of the further end."
- Yankton, "End village."
- Yanktonai, "Little end village."
- Teton, "Dwellers on prairie."
- Omahas, "Up stream people."
- Wahpahkoota, "Leaf shooters."
- Ottoes, "Lovers."
- Missourias, "Muddy water."

Of these bands or tribes the Ottoes and Missourias seem to have been united tribes, who, with the Omahas, maintained some semblance of permanent occupancy of southwestern Iowa, northwestern Missouri and lands along the west bank of the Missouri as far north as the present north line of Nebraska. They were far more peaceable and quiet than the remainder of the Sioux in Iowa.

The other bands of Sioux above mentioned seemed to have roamed occasionally through southwestern Iowa. They held permanently to the north part of the State, and to northwestern Iowa, as well as Minnesota, and a vast country west and northwest, through which they roamed at will.

All of these tribes, except the Yanktons and Ottoes, participated in the treaty of August 19, 1825, by which a boundary line was established between the Sioux, and the Ioways, Sacs and Foxes. Because of their absence the treaty stipulated that they should not be bound. As already said, no lands were ceded to the government by this treaty, but it was the first treaty by which the untamable Sioux surrendered any form of control over a foot of the vast domain where they had maintained their predatory existence, except that



in 1805 they had ceded a small tract nine miles in width on each side of the Mississippi from its confluence with the St. Peters, now the Minnesota, up to and including the Falls of St. Anthony.

By the treaty of July 15, 1830, the "Neutral Ground" was established, as already pointed out, and there was also ceded to the United States for Indian purposes by these various tribes of the Sioux, all of whom were represented, a large body of land in western and northwestern Iowa, which has been mentioned in connection with the Ioways and the Sacs and Foxes. This was the first formal cession to the government, except the small tract in Minnesota, of even a qualified interest in lands over which they roamed, which was ever made by the Sioux Indians. October 21, 1837, the Yankton tribe ceded all claim to lands in the "Neutral Grounds" and western Iowa, already ceded for Indian purposes by the above treaty of July 15, 1830.

No further cessions were made by the Sioux Indians of lands in Iowa until the treaty of July 23, 1851, between the Susseton and Wahpeton bands, of all their lands in Iowa and Minnesota, and a treaty of August 5, 1851, with the Mde-wa-ka-to-wa and Wahpahkoota bands of the same purport. These treaties were amended by the United States senate, and were not finally signed anew by the Indians until September 18, 1852. Then for the first time the Sioux Indian title in Iowa was extinguished. Up to the dates of these treaties the Sioux Indians continued to occupy east of the Des Moines river the land north of the old "Neutral Ground," extending from a point twenty miles north of Dakota City on the east branch of the Des Moines practically to the northeast corner of the State. They also continued to occupy the lands in northwestern Iowa west of the Des Moines as far south as Fort Dodge, and from that point about northwest to the Missouri river.

The southern portion of the tract in western Iowa ceded for Indian purposes by the treaty of 1830 seems to have been

abandoned by the Missouriias, the Omahas, and the Ottoes, who occupied it, or hunted in parts of it, at the time of that treaty, and they were removed across the Missouri river where they were located on reservations by the government. It seems by the treaty of September 1, 1833, that the Ottoes and the Missouriias were then dwelling on the Platte river in Nebraska. It was recited in that treaty that "the Ottoes and Missouriias declare their entire willingness to abandon the chase for the agricultural life." By treaty of October 15, 1836, it appears that the Ottoes, Missouriias and Omahas were all west of the Missouri river, were just going upon new reservations, and that the government made them an allowance to assist them in their removal, and to establish them in their new homes. Afterwards, March 15, 1854, "the confederated tribes of the Ottoe and Missouriia Indians," and March 16, 1854, the Omahas ceded all claim to lands east of the Missouri river, and their title was extinguished in Iowa.

Thus we have traced the original Indian inhabitants of Iowa to their final removal and disappearance from the State.

It was the Wapahkoota and Med-awakanton, or Mde-waka-to-wa, "Spirit Lake village," tribes of the Sioux who engaged in the Spirit Lake massacre of 1857. It will possibly surprise many to find that date to be only five years after the extinction of their title to the beautiful Spirit and Okoboji lakes which have now become Iowa's great summer resort.

The possession of northern Iowa which these Indians retained up to the treaties of 1851 and 1852 was not merely nominal; it was actual and exclusive. In 1850 the surveyor general of Iowa reported "about seven-eighths of the whole area of the State of Iowa has been purchased of and vacated by the respective Indian tribes originally occupying it, and the remaining one-eighth is still possessed and occupied by the Sioux tribes."

In 1849 he reported with reference to surveying the

northern boundary line of Iowa, as required by act of congress:

This boundary throughout nearly its whole extent traverses the territory of the Sioux Indians—a tribe who, upon a recent occasion, fearlessly and ruthlessly plundered a party while in the execution of a public land survey under authority of the government, and who have upon previous occasions shown no hesitancy in perpetrating open and unprovoked robberies. In view of these facts I respectfully suggest the importance of occupying Fort Atkinson with a force of dragoons to awe, and, if necessary, chastise these Indians during the survey of the boundary line.

In 1851 the commissioner of the general land office and the surveyor general of Iowa reported that the northern boundary of Iowa would be promptly surveyed if the treaties then recently negotiated with the Sioux Indians were ratified by the senate. The commissioners who negotiated these final treaties with the Sioux set forth in their report that the lands ceded included "five or six millions of acres lying in the State of Iowa, between the line of the old 'Neutral Ground' and the northern and western boundaries of the State."

The names of the northern Sioux Indians have left little trace in the geography of Iowa, and are probably of not as much interest as the musical names of the Sacs and Foxes and the Ioways, but some of them, with their significance, as gleaned from the various treaties, are given below:

- Man-ki-hum-dee, "Puts his foot in it."
- Aam-pa-waa, "The speaker."
- Cha-pon-ka, "The musqueto."
- To-ka-oo, "The one that kills."
- Wah-ta-ken-do, "The one who comes from war."
- To-qui-in-too, "The little soldier."
- O-e-te-kah, "The brave."
- Man-to-dan-za, "The running bear."
- Wa-be-la-wa-con, "The medicine war eagle."
- Wabasha, "The leaf."
- Wa-ma-de-tun-ka, "Black dog."
- Wan-na-ta, "He that charges on his enemies."
- Wa-ka-u-hee, "Rising thunder."
- Po-e-ha-pa, "Eagle head."
- Masc-pu-lo-chas-tosh, "The white man."
- Wa-sa-o-ta, "A great storm of hail."

Tah-sau-ga, "The cane."  
 Wahkon-Tunkah, "Big thunder."  
 Koc-ko-mec-ko, "A float."  
 Marc-pee-wee-chas-tah, "Chief of the clouds."  
 Tah-chunk-washtaa, "The good road."  
 Tah-tape-saah, "The upsetting wind."  
 Mah-kuah-pah, "He that shakes the earth."  
 Tee-oh-du-tah, "The red lodge."  
 Ee-tay-wa-keen-yan, "Limping devil," or "Thunder face."  
 Ma-za-sh'a, "Metal sounding."  
 Wash-tay-da, "Good a little."  
 Eenk-pa, "The upper end."  
 Wa-kan-ma-nee, "Walking spirit."  
 A-kee-tchee-ta, "Standing soldier."  
 Wa-kan-o-zhan, "Sacred light."  
 Tee-tchay, "Top of the lodge."  
 Na-ghee-yoo-shkan, "He moves the ghosts."  
 Heen-han-doo-ta, "Red owl."  
 Wa-koo-tay, "The shooter."  
 Am-pay-sho-ta, "Smoky day."  
 Wa-pa-ma-nee, "He strikes walking."

Treaties with the Ottoes and Missouriias were signed, among others, by the following:

OTTOES.

Ar-ke-kee-tah, "Stay by it."  
 Heh-cah-po, "Kickapoo."

MISSOURIAS.

Ah-hah-che-ke-saw-ke, "Missouria chief."  
 Maaw-thra-ti-ne, "White water."

There remain for consideration tribes of Indians removed by the government to Iowa from east of the Mississippi river. The first of these were the Winnebagoes. Following the Black Hawk war and on the 15th of September, 1832, they ceded to the United States their lands east of the Mississippi river. The government, on its part, by this treaty granted to the Winnebagoes, "to be held as other Indian lands are held, that part of the tract of country on the west side of the Mississippi river known at present as the 'Neutral Ground,' embraced within the following limits." The boundaries specified confined the Winnebagoes to that portion of the "Neutral Ground" extending forty miles west of the Missis-

issippi river. This treaty was signed, among others, by Khay-rah-tshoan-saip-kaw, or "Black Hawk."

A former treaty with the Winnebagoes, dated August 1, 1829, was also signed by Hay-ray-tshoan-saip, or "Black Hawk."

This is mentioned in view of the fact that Black Hawk is often mentioned as a chief of the Sacs and Foxes. Possibly he was in the sense of exercising control over them when they were on the war path with the Winnebagoes. A careful examination of the Sac and Fox treaties shows that he never signed one of them as a chief of either of these confederated tribes.

By the above mentioned treaty of September 15, 1832, the Winnebagoes agreed to remove to the "Neutral Ground" by June 1, 1833, and that agreement appears to have been carried out. By treaty of November 1, 1837, all other Winnebagoes were removed from east of the Mississippi to the east twenty miles of the "Neutral Ground." The Winnebagoes relinquished their right to occupy the west twenty miles of the "Neutral Ground" originally granted them, but retained the right of hunting thereon. Here they remained until 1846 when by treaty of October 13 of that year they were removed from the State of Iowa, such removal to take place within one year from the ratification of the treaty.

Wee-no-she-kaw, one of their chiefs, no doubt gave the name to Winneshiek county; the significance of this name does not follow the signature attached to the treaty where it appears. The name of the city of Decorah evidently comes from Maw-he-coo-sha-naw-zhe-kaw, "One who stands and reaches the skies," or "Little Decorie." Perhaps the name of Chickasaw county is derived from the Winnebago, Chey-skaw-kaw, or "White Ox." The name Waukon in Allamakee county evidently comes from the Winnebago word Wau-kaun, or "Thunder," which appears in various combinations in the names of several of their chiefs. Probably Waucoma in Fayette county comes from Waa-co-me, or "Clear Water," a Sac chief of 1837.

The united nation of the Pottawattamie, Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, by the treaty of Chicago, September 26, 1833, ceded their lands east of the Mississippi and agreed to remove west of that river within three years. By that treaty there was assigned to them the principal portion of the lands in western Iowa ceded to the United States for Indian purposes by the treaty of July 15, 1830, by the Sacs and Foxes, the Ioways, and various tribes of the Sioux Indians, as already set forth. Here the Pottawattamies made their homes until by treaty of June 5 and 17, 1846, they ceded all their lands in Iowa, and agreed to remove to their new homes on the Kansas river within two years from the ratification of that treaty.

Thus disappeared from Iowa the last of the Indians removed from east of the Mississippi river.

It would be a grave error to suppose that the Indian population of Iowa was ever very considerable. Probably from the day of Father Marquette's visit there never were 15,000 savages within the geographical boundaries of the State at any one time.

The villages of the Illinois, which he found on the Des Moines, soon withdrew to the east of the Mississippi river.\* The Ioways, as we have seen, were never very numerous. The Sacs and Foxes were greatly reduced in numbers when they were crowded west of the Mississippi by their savage enemies. The Ioways, Missouriias, and Ottoes, in the order named, were mere offshoots from the Winnebagoes who were of the Siouan family, thrust forward, a narrow wedge of that stock, into the great Algonquin stock, by which they were practically surrounded, and dwelling between Green Bay and the lake that bears their name in Wisconsin. These offshoots from a parent tribe so situated were certainly not very strong. The Yankton and Yanktonai passed from the upper Mississippi to the Missouri, along the southwestern portion of Iowa and northwestern portion of Missouri

---

\*Bancroft, Vol. 2, p. 298.

shortly prior to 1800. Like other Indians crowded from their original abodes, their numbers were not large. The Omahas, from the earliest day when they were known to history, did not exceed 1,500 to 2,000. The Sioux Indian tribes, who maintained possession of northern and northwestern Iowa, made their homes largely upon the St. Peters, now the Minnesota, river, and upon the Missouri river west and northwest of Iowa. Their presence was largely predatory, and for fishing and hunting rather than a continuous abode.

It is remarkable that Lewis and Clark in their expeditions to the Pacific, 1804-1806, in coming up the Missouri, did not see the face of an Indian, except a few Omahas, Otoes and Missourias brought in by their runners, from the time they left St. Louis until they encountered the Teton Sioux near the present location of Yankton. Along that river where it is now the western boundary of Iowa, they sent out runners to discover Indians, but were wholly unsuccessful in finding any, except as above stated. So, on their return trip down the river, after passing the Teton Sioux about where they had encountered them in 1804, and a few Yanktons near the James river, South Dakota, they did not see an Indian between that point and St. Louis. In passing the Chariton river going west they recorded—"Ay-au-way (Ioway) nation, consisting of 300 men, have a village near its head waters on the River De Moines." Three days later, and before reaching the mouth of the Kansas river, while about five miles east of the mouth of the Grande river, the explorers recorded passing two creeks on the north side of the Missouri, called the Round Bend creeks, of which the explorers say:

Between these two creeks is the prairie, in which once stood the ancient village of the Missouris. Of this village there remains no vestige, nor is there anything to recall this great and numerous nation, except a feeble remnant of about thirty families. They were driven from their original seats by the invasion of the Sauks and other Indians from the Mississippi, who destroyed at this village two hundred of them in one contest, and sought refuge near the Little Osage, on the other side of the river.

The encroachment of the same enemies forced, about thirty years since, both these nations from the banks of the Missouri. A few retired with the Osage, and the remainder found an asylum on the river Platte, among the Ottoes, who are themselves declining.

From this it seems that the Missourias and Ottoes were already, at that early date, driven west of the Missouri. A little further up the Missouri they recorded, "In view of our camp is the situation of the old village of the Missourias after they fled from the Sauks." After passing the mouth of the Platte they again say:

The Ottoes were once a powerful nation, and lived about twenty miles above the Platte, on the southern bank of the Missouri. Being reduced, they migrated to the neighborhood of the Pawnees, under whose protection they now live. Their village is on the south side of the Platte, about thirty miles from its mouth; and their number is two hundred men, including about thirty families of the Missouri Indians, who are incorporated with them.

Near the mouth of the Mosqueto Creek, below Council Bluffs, they said:

A little below the bluff on the north is the spot where the Ioway Indians formerly lived. They were a branch of the Ottoes, and migrated from this place to the River Des Moines.

The explorers landed at the present site of Omaha, which they named "Council Bluff." Here they held a council with fourteen Ottoe and Missouriia Indians, for whom they sent out runners, and who were then at war with the Mahas (Omahas) west of the Missouri river. Five miles above the mouth of the Little Sioux they visited what had formerly been the location of an Omaha village on the west bank of the Missouri. They reported that the Omahas had formerly lost four hundred of their number by smallpox at this place, and had abandoned it for that reason. On the map of their explorations they lay down, just above the Big Sioux river, "Yanktons, a band of the Sioux, one thousand souls;" on the Des Moines "Foxes, eighteen hundred souls;" on the Mississippi about the mouth of the Iowa, "Sacs, three thousand souls;" on the St. Peters, north of Spirit Lake, "Wa-pa-toone, a tribe of Sioux, one thousand souls." They located the Ioways



“Ayawas” (sic) on the lower Des Moines, but did not indicate their numbers. Further up the St. Peters they have “Wa-pa-too-ta, a band of Sioux, six hundred souls;” and further on “Sisatone, a band of the Sioux, nine hundred souls;” and about the present location of Yankton, “Tetons, a band of Sioux, fifteen hundred souls.”

It will be seen at a glance how impossible it is to conclude that the Indian population of Iowa was ever very considerable.

We learn of the Missouriias from another source: “In 1802 from a tribe numbering about thirty-five hundred they were reduced to less than a tenth of that number by small-pox, when they burned their villages and became wanderers, pursued by their relentless enemies, the other bands of the Sioux.”\* This was about the date of their appearance in southwestern Iowa and eastern Kansas and Nebraska, as already noted.

In 1822 Rev. J. Morse, Special United States Indian Commissioner compiled from all sources known to the Indian Bureau the numbers of Indians in the United States. His estimates of the then number of the Indians in question were as follows:

Sauks (Sacs) of the Mississippi on both sides of the Mississippi, from the Illinois river to the Wisconsin, 4,500; Foxes, 2,000, mingled with the Sauks (Sacs) in the same territory; Ioways, 1,000, mingled with the tribes last mentioned, their principal villages are on the Iowa and Des Moines rivers, the greater part west of the Mississippi;† Ottoes, Missouriias, and Ioways, 1,800, on Platte river forty miles from its mouth;‡ Omahas, 3,000, on Elkhorn river, forty miles northwest of Council Bluffs.¶

The various Siouan tribes are so distributed by these tables that it is impossible to locate them with reference to Iowa.

Catlin, on his map locating Indian tribes in 1833 lays down in Iowa only the Sacs and Foxes on the east and the

\*Eleventh Census, Indian Vol., p. 374.

†Morse's Report to the Secretary of War on Indian Affairs, pp. 120, 140, 204.

‡Ibid, pp. 204, 251.

¶Ibid, p. 204.

Sioux on the north and along the Missouri on the northwest. He locates the Ioways in northwestern Missouri, the Omahas and Ottoes along the Platte river in eastern Nebraska, while the Missourias are not mentioned as a separate tribe.

The "Book of the Indians of North America," by Samuel G. Drake, has a list of the principal tribes of Indians in the United States, with their locations, in 1832. This list shows "Sauks, Sacks or Sacques in Illinois about Lake Winnebago, now about 500 in Missouri." "Otagamies, (Foxes) between the Lake of the Woods and Mississippi, 300 in 1780;" "Foxes, (see Sacques and Foxes)," "Ioways, recently on the Ioway river, now scattered among other tribes of the west, 1,100;" "Ottoes, on Platte river, about 1,500 in 1820;" "Sioux, on St. Peters, Missouri and Mississippi, numerous, 33,000;" "Yanktons, or Big Devils, 2,500, (sources of the Sioux river, etc.);" "Mindawarcarton," (Mde-a-wa-ka-to-wa or Spirit Lake village,) "the only band of Sioux that cultivates corn, beans, &c.," numbers not given.

Here again it should be pointed out that by far the greater portion of the Sioux Indian tribes never were in sight of any portion of Iowa at all. The data which has thus been gleaned varies considerably with reference to the different tribes of the aboriginal population of Iowa, but the conclusion seems inevitable that less than 15,000 savages formerly held possession of the great State whose present white population is more than two and one-quarter millions, with ample room for double that number of civilized people.

These conclusions regarding the Indian population of Iowa are strengthened by the researches of Bancroft, the historian, regarding the number of Indians in the country immediately east of Iowa. After an exhaustive examination of the question he concludes that the Indians in the territory now Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky, could hardly ever have exceeded 18,000.\*

---

\*Bancroft's History U. S., Vol. 2, p. 398.

The cause of humanity has greatly profited by removing the few savages of aboriginal Iowa to the plains of the west and southwest, and by thus giving to civilized man one of earth's fairest and most fertile areas. Only a sentimentalist of the most extreme type can grow either indignant or mournful over their fate. All tribes and bands of them still exist on the various government reservations. They all draw annuities in perpetuity, and they undoubtedly number as a whole more than on the day when Father Marquette first stepped upon Iowa soil.

NOTE.—Charles Amory Clark, author of the foregoing article, was born at Sangerville, Maine, January 26, 1841, the son of William Goding Clark and Elizabeth White Stevens Clark. His original ancestor in the United States was Hugh Clark, who settled in Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1640. He was educated in the common schools at Sangerville, and attended three terms at Foxcroft Academy. He also studied Latin and Greek under a private tutor. He taught school some portion of the time—"boarding around"—from his fifteenth year until 1861, when he enlisted as a private in Company A, Sixth Maine Infantry. He was successively corporal, sergeant, and second lieutenant. In August, 1862, he was promoted to first lieutenant and adjutant, and remained in that position until he was honorably discharged because of wounds, in February, 1864. He returned to the service in April of that year, having been commissioned by Abraham Lincoln as captain and assistant adjutant-general of volunteers. He was again compelled to resign on account of ill health and wounds. He participated in nearly forty battles between Washington and Richmond, aside from several affairs of lesser note. He was severely wounded at Rappahannock Station. He was by the side of General Burnham, his old regimental commander, when the latter was killed in the assault upon Fort Harrison, September 29, 1864. He was brevetted major and lieutenant-colonel, and awarded a special Congressional medal of honor for distinguished gallantry at Brook's Ford, Virginia, May 4, 1863. His brevets were awarded upon the personal recommendation of his old commander, General W. S. Hancock. Colonel Clark settled in Webster City, Hamilton county, Iowa, in 1866, where he soon came to the front as one of the leading lawyers of the State. Ten years later he removed to Cedar Rapids, where he was ten years the law partner of the late N. M. Hubbard. He has been in successful practice in the Supreme Court of Iowa since 1868, in the Federal Courts of Iowa since 1871, and in the Supreme Court of the United States since 1878. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, of the Iowa Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and of the Medal of Honor Legion.

---

LIEUT. GARDNER, of Company D, U. S. Dragoons, passed through our city a day or two since with his company, 49 in number, on a reconnoitering tour through the western part of our State. The headquarters of this company is at Fort Snelling, on the Mississippi.—*Western Democrat, Andrew, Iowa, September 6, 1850.*

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.