

and restoration of the official journals to their proper place in the files.

It seems needless to emphasize the urgent necessity that always exists for carefully preserving the original papers and all accompanying documents pertaining to the official transactions of each and all departments of government no matter to what office or department or division of government they may relate, whether legislative, judicial or executive, whether State or local. Upon the sanctity and preservation of official records depend, constantly, human life, prosperity and happiness. The efficacy of laws, titles to property, the integrity of families, the assurance of character and reputation to men and women, rest secure only when our public archives contain, safe from fire, rust, mould and disturbance, the official records that show the actions relative thereto, that show the beginnings, development, conditions and guarantees of title to rights. How many laws have been set aside by the courts in recent years because the exhibits of legislative journals have shown that the requirements of the constitution have been ignored or infringed! They have been not a few. Now this means that millions of dollars in property rights, untold human happiness or misery and incalculable disorganization in business and industry, rest upon the due preservation of official records in our public archives.

A FORTHCOMING BOOK.

Sometime during the remainder of the year a book will be published in Cedar Rapids which will possess much interest to the students of early Iowa and western history. The work will be brought out by the "Ioway Club," an organization of four gentlemen of that city who intend to issue a series of historical publications of which this will be the first. In the main it is a reprint of "Notes on the Wis-

consin Territory, particularly with reference to the Iowa District, or Black Hawk Purchase, by Lieutenant Albert Miller Lea, United States Dragoons. With the Act for Establishing the Territorial Government of Wisconsin with an accurate Map of the District." The author describes this as "a duodecimo little book of forty-five pages, prefaced by a letter commendatory from Gen. [Geo. W.] Jones, of which one thousand copies with the map were put up by my friend H. S. Tanner, to whom I paid thirty-seven and a half cents per copy, and put them on sale at one dollar." He adds, however, that other matters claimed his attention and that their distribution was neglected. One half of the edition was shipped on an Ohio and Mississippi river steamboat and never heard from. Only a few copies reached the west, and for all his labor and expense he avers that he never received one dollar.

It is this little work, issued in the year 1836, that is now to be reprinted. It has long been a scarce book and only met with occasionally in the possession of collectors and historical libraries. It gives a general description of what was then known as "the Iowa District," an area of territory "about 190 miles in length, 50 miles wide near each end, and 40 miles wide near the middle, opposite to Rock Island." Lieut. Lea presents very full information in regard to the soil, climate, general appearance of the country, its products, mines, timber, agriculture, game, population, trade, government, land titles, water courses, towns, roads, etc., etc.

The book will include a biographical sketch of Albert Miller Lea, by his daughter, who now resides at Corsicana, Texas; his highly important official report to the commissioner of the general land office on the southern boundary of the Territory of Iowa; together with notes of his public addresses and extracts from his personal letters. It will be illustrated with his portrait and an engraving of his map, which accompanied the official report. The primitive method of spelling the name of this State was "Ioway."

In one of his letters he states that in making his map he dropped the "y," that being the first appearance of our modern spelling in any publication. It will in future be necessary to refer to his report above mentioned for a correct history of the origin of the boundary dispute between Iowa and Missouri.

The career of Lieut. Albert Lea was a most interesting one. Though he rose to no high distinction, his name will have a permanent place in the early history of Iowa and Minnesota. He was appointed to West Point Military Academy from the State of Tennessee, July 1, 1827, and graduated fifth in his class of thirty-three, July 4, 1831. He was immediately promoted to brevet second lieutenant of the 7th United States Regular Infantry. His first service was on topographical duty from 1831 to 1834, when he joined the 1st Dragoons at Fort Des Moines, No. 1, near the present site of the village of Montrose. That old regiment was then commanded by Col. Henry Dodge. He resigned from the army in 1836. From that time forward his labors were generally in the direction of civil engineering, building railroads, etc., until the outbreak of the civil war, when he joined the southern army. His service as a confederate soldier was in the engineering department, and as commissary of subsistence, and therefore inconspicuous. It was understood that he was disliked by Jefferson Davis, who prevented his promotion and thus left an accomplished officer to duties of mere drudgery. After the rebellion he became city engineer of Galveston, Texas. He was at one time Chief Clerk of the War Department, serving also for a short time as Acting Secretary of War. The record of his life is reasonably full and complete, and will be fully comprised in the forthcoming publication. This book will be printed on hand-made paper and issued only to subscribers, in a limited edition, as an undertaking by a private book club. It will be well for those desiring a copy to enter their subscriptions now with Mr. A. N. Harbert, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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