

## FORT CROGHAN.

In April, 1842, while the Pottawattamie Indians were located in what is now the eastern portions of Pottawattamie county, it was thought necessary to send up the Missouri river a detachment of troops for their protection. Capt. John H. K. Burgwin therefore arrived on a steamer from Fort Leavenworth, with a company of U. S. troops, and established the post on the edge of the timber at Section 10, near the present southwest corner of the city of Council Bluffs. This he first named "Camp Fenwick," but afterwards changed it to "Fort Croghan." There has been some dispute about the location, but "there is certain evidence," says Hon. D. C. Bloomer, "that it stood at the point mentioned." The troops stayed there during the remainder of 1842, and until the spring of 1843, when a great flood covered the Missouri bottoms, compelling the command to remove to a temporary location on the western side of Little Mosquito creek, on high grounds occupied by Mr. J. P. Casady in later years for farming purposes. Here they remained until the water, which covered the entire valley, subsided, when they returned to the fort. In September following, the presence of the troops being no longer deemed necessary for the protection of the Indians, the company, still under the command of Capt. Burgwin, returned to Fort Leavenworth, and Fort Croghan was abandoned never again to be occupied. For the above information we are indebted to Hon. D. C. Bloomer of Council Bluffs.

Capt. Burgwin saw some years of arduous service in the region now within the boundaries of this State. He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1830, No. 28 in a class of forty-two, and was at once appointed brevet 2d Lieutenant in the 2d Infantry. Three years later he was transferred to the 1st Dragoons, serving (1834-6) at old Fort Des Moines, near Montrose, Iowa. He was absent awhile on recruiting service, but returned to his post in 1837. He was promoted to a captaincy during the latter year. His service was mainly in the West. In 1846-7 he participated

in the war with Mexico, and while gallantly leading the storming party and skillfully directing the attack on Pueblo-de-Taos, New Mexico, February 4, 1847, fell mortally wounded. He died on the 7th.

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### THE IOWA HISTORICAL BUILDING.

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It seems to be as fixed as fate that projects of this character shall "drag their slow length along" through many years before they crystalize into success. In one way or another difficulties almost always arise which require time and patience to surmount. As this is the usual course, situations must be accepted and no complaints made. The 26th General Assembly appropriated the sum of \$25,000 for the purchase of a site and the procurement of plans for this purpose, but as nothing farther could be done by the terms of the statute, it was decided to await the action of the extra session of the same body, when provision was made for the construction of a wing of the future great building. But by reason of an unlucky amendment which was thrown in at too late a moment to secure its proper consideration, the law limited the entire cost of the building to this inadequate sum. A site on the east front of the capitol, on the south corner of Capitol avenue and Eleventh street, was, however, purchased by the Executive Council for the sum of \$4,300, and plans for the building were also secured; but as the appropriation was so limited the matter was again referred to the legislature. Upon the earnest recommendations of Governors Drake and Shaw the matter was taken up in the regular session of the 27th General Assembly. The sum of \$30,000 was added to the appropriation, and at the same time it was decided to abandon the site which had been selected and secure a new one. Another law also authorized the sale for \$15,000 of the building and lots formerly occupied by the Adjutant General's office, on Locust street, on the west side of the river, which amount the Executive Council is authorized to use in the purchase of a new site.

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