

FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

A SCRAP OF HISTORY OF JOHNSON COUNTY.



THE first court was organized in Johnson county May 12th, 1839, at the embryo town of Napoleon, two miles south of the site of Iowa City, on the east side of Iowa river. The first remarkable trial ever held in this county was at the May term, A. D., 1840. The grand jury had indicted one Canloque for larceny and burglary, committed on the premises of Samuel Brown, living at that time in what is now Newport township, Johnson county.

The court convened on the morning of May 15th, 1840. Judge Joseph E. Williams, on the bench, and Samuel C. Trowbridge, sheriff. The case of the United States against Samuel Canloque now came on for trial with Hall & Woodward, attorneys for the plaintiff, Hastings & Wright, attorneys for the defendant.

The defendant appeared in person and plead not guilty. The trial jury was called and empaneled, composed of the following:

Joel Dourt, John N. Headly, Harvey Lyman, Warner Styles, John Mathews, Wm. Sturgis, James McGruder, David Sweet, Wm. Kelso, James Herron, Henry Felkner, John A. Street. They were men in every way up to the standard of an intelligent and unprejudiced jury, good and true, but now most of them have gone to explore that mystic world, to them new and untrodden.

The evidence was all in. The opening of the case for the government was made by Woodward, in a masterly manner, and he was followed by Hastings for the defense. Young Wright was to close the case for the defendant. He was a graduate of an eastern college, fair complexion and of medium size. He was the very ideal of young manhood, following

the Star of Empire, which at that time was flowing into the land of Black Hawk and Poweshiek. He came to the new Capital of the Territory of Iowa, and here he determined to make his home. Young, ardent, and impulsive, he engaged to defend Samuel Canloque in his imperiled rights. He had thrown his whole soul into the defense, fully believing that his client was innocent.

He commenced his address to the jury in a clear, calm, dispassionate manner, reviewing the evidence of the prosecution and that of the defense, fully answering the arguments of Woodward, also, anticipating the closing remarks of Judge Hall, fairly tearing the theory of their case to shreds, he paused for a moment and then addressed the court, then went on with a plea of mercy to the jury for his client, picturing the wrongs and sufferings of his client in case of an unjust judgment. His outbursts of oratory towered to the very sublimity of a Demosthenes or a Patrick Henry, but it was the last flickering rays of reason—he was a maniac—he fled from court and abandoned the case. The trial went on, misfortune sent his client to prison and himself to the insane asylum.

A CURIOUS STORY.

About a Welsh Settlement in this Country in the year 1170.

FROM AUTHUR'S MAGAZINE.



IN a lecture delivered by Mr. Jas. Wood, of Albany, N. Y., he related the following curious tradition which exists among the Welsh: In 1170, two brothers, David and Medoc, quarreled for the throne. The younger, Medoc, becoming disgusted, gave up the struggle, and, fitting out a ship, sailed west. The next year he returned, said he had discovered a fruitful country,

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