

shady nook, there recount the scenes through which they have passed, and "fight their battles o'er again." Although the trials and hardships of the pioneers of Scott county may not compare with the early settlement of Kentucky, Ohio, or some other Western States, yet there are many incidents connected with its early history that are worthy of record, and should be gathered before they pass beyond our reach.

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## CHAPTER I.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

The County of Scott being situated on the Mississippi River, and having a water front of some thirty-five miles upon its South and Eastern boundary, has many natural advantages not found in more inland counties. Upon the North it is bounded by the Wau-bessa-pinnecon Se-po, which in the Indian language signifies "the place of white potatoes." The name is derived from the two Indian words "Waubessa," white or swan like, and "Pinne-ac," a potato; Se-po being the Indian name for river. The river was probably so named from the fact of great quantities of the wild artichoke being found in that region.

This stream is some ten or twelve rods wide, with a swift clear current, and its banks generally skirted with timber. Its bottom lands are from a half to a mile or two wide, and are subject to annual overflow, affording great pasturage for stock, not being in general dry enough for cultivation. The Western boundary of the county is upon rich rolling prairie extending along the fifth principal meridian, separating it from the counties of Cedar and Muscatine.

There is much in the early history of this country to interest and excite the antiquarian and lover of research. Long before the discovery of the Great River by Marquette and Joliet, on the 17th of June, 1673, tradition tells us that the spot of ground

now occupied by the city of Davenport, was a large and populous Indian village. There can be but little doubt, from the history of those early Pioneers, that it was here they first landed in their voyage down the Mississippi, after they entered it from the mouth of the Wisconsin, on the 17th of June.

The first landing made by them on record, was on the 21st, four days after they entered the Mississippi, and was upon the Western bank, where, say they, "We discovered foot-prints of some fellow mortals, and a little path (trail) leading into a pleasant meadow." Following the trail a short distance, they heard the savages talking, and "making their presence known by a loud cry," they were led to a village of the "Illinies."

There could not have been sufficient time between the 17th and 21st for the voyagers to have descended beyond this point, or to have reached the lower or Des Moines Rapids; which some historians claim to have been the landing places spoken of. There having been an Indian village here from time immemorial according to Indian tradition, fixes the fact most conclusively, that it was at this place, Davenport, that the soil of Iowa was first pressed by the foot of a white man. The legends of the Indians are full of historic lore, pertaining to this beautiful spot, comprising Davenport, Rock Island and their surroundings.

Black Hawk was ever ready to tell of the traditions of his people, and often dwelt with much interest and excitement on the traditions of his fathers. He says they came from Gitche Gammee, "the big water," Lake Superior, and Indians that are yet living say that the home of their fathers was at Saukie Creek, that empties into Lake Superior, and that as they traveled westward, they encountered foes whom they fought and conquered, and that in turn they were conquered by their enemies, and tribe fought tribe for possession of the land, until they reached the great river, the Massa-Sepo, which signifies "The Father of Rivers."

The tradition of the Saukies who have always lived upon the prairies is, that their name means "Man of the Prairie," or prairie Indian.

They also aver that their friends, the Musquakies, which signifies "Foxes," were a sly and cunning people, and united with them for strength to fight their enemies, the tribes of the Kickapoo and Illini, and that they have ever lived in peace, as one tribe and one people.

These were the Indians in possession of the country when the United States assumed jurisdiction over it, and of whom it was purchased.

There were many traces of the aborigines existing when the first settlers came to Iowa. Several Indian mounds, or burial places of quite large dimensions, were still used by wandering bands of Indians as late as 1835 and 1836, situated on the banks of the river, about two miles below this city, where was formerly the farm of the Hon. E. Cook. Indian graves have been found in excavations about this city; and relics of ancient date discovered, showing that this spot has been the home of the red man for centuries, and corroborating the testimony of Black Hawk and others, as to the traditions of their fathers.

The scenery presented, in ascending the Mississippi, taking in the whole view from the point of the bluff below Rockingham, as far up as Hampton, on the Illinois shore, is one of unexcelled beauty and loveliness. Its islands, dotting the broad expanse of waters, the scenery of the bluffs upon the Iowa side and Rock Island with old Fort Armstrong, have been admired, and more sketches taken of this panoramic view, by home and foreign artists, than any other portion of the Mississippi valley.

Of the early history of Scott county, we have a most vivid and truthful history, compiled from living witnesses.

At the close of the Black Hawk war, in 1832, there were no settlers upon this side of the river. The purchase from the Sac (or Saukie) and Fox tribe of Indians, of the soil of Scott county was made, in common with that of all the river counties, on the 15th of Sept., 1832, upon the ground now occupied by the depot buildings of the Miss. & Mo. R. R. Company in this city. The treaty was held by Gen. Scott.

The cholera was raging among the troops at Fort Armstrong, at the time, and for prudential reasons it was thought best to meet the Indians upon this side of the river.

In this sale, the Indians reserved a section, (640 acres), and presented it to Antoine Le Clair, Esq., their interpreter. This reserve was located upon the river between Harrison street and Bridge Avenue, in Fulton's addition to the city of Davenport, running back over the bluff to a line due East and West, a few rods this side of Locust street. They also gave Mr. Le Claire another section of land at the head of the rapids where the city of Le Clair now stands.

The treaty of Gen. Scott with the Indians was ratified by Congress at their session in the winter of 1833. Thus did the United States come into possession of the soil of Scott county.

Of the Indians from whom it was purchased, and of the tribes who had been in possession in earlier days, we should like to give a more extended notice than we are permitted, in this brief history of Scott county.

The Sacs and Foxes were provided with homes in Kansas, where they now reside. They are fast dwindling away; and but a remnant is left of the tribes of the Winnebagoes, the Chippewas, Pottawattamies, Ottawas, Menominees and other powerful bands that were in possession of all the country from the Lakes to the Missouri, at the termination of the American Revolution. Where the sad remnants of any of these tribes are found, they present but a faint resemblance of their former greatness and renown, or of their warlike and noble bearing. A few squalid families may be found loitering about the frontier towns, made beggars by the low and wasting vices of the white man.

But their destiny is written. The onward march of the Anglo-Saxon race tells, with unerring prophecy, the fate of the Red Man! Already have his haunts been broken up in the quiet dells of the Rocky Mountains; already have the plains of Utah drunk the blood of this ill-fated and unhappy race and ere long his retreating foot-prints will be found along the shores of the Pacific, hastening to the spirit land, the "Great Hereafter."

We now enter upon our history more in detail, considering each township, beginning with Buffalo.

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## CHAPTER II.

### FIRST SETTLEMENT OF BUFFALO TOWNSHIP.

In 1833, Capt. Benjamin W. Clark, a native of Virginia, who had settled and made some improvements on the Illinois shore, where the town of Andalusia now is, moved across the Mississippi and commenced a settlement upon the present site of the town of Buffalo, and was probably the first settler on the soil of Scott county. He had been Captain of a company of mounted volunteer Rangers in the Black Hawk War, under Gen. Dodge. Here, in Buffalo, he made the first "claim," erected the first cabin, broke the first ground, planted the first corn, and raised the first produce in the county. His nearest neighbors at this time upon the Iowa shore, then called the "Black Hawk Purchase," were at Burlington and Du Buque.

The first stock of goods ever opened in the county, was at Buffalo, by a Mr. Lynde, of Stephenson, now Rock Island. The first orchard planted, and the first coal ever discovered and dug in this county, were by Capt. Clark, in 1834. The first public Ferry across the Mississippi, between Burlington and Du Buque, was at Buffalo, and for several years, "Clark's Ferry" was the only place of crossing in all this region of country. In the early part of the year 1835, he erected a public house, which is still standing, a large frame building two stories high, which, at that time, was considered a great enterprise. He brought the lumber from Cincinnati, at a cost of sixty dollars a thousand feet.

In 1836, Capt. Clark laid out the town of Buffalo, it being the first town regularly laid out in this county. He succeeded in building up quite a village; but there was much need of flouring and lumber mills, and in 1836, he erected, near the mouth of Duck Creek, the first saw mill in the county, or in this part of Iowa; and although it was on a small scale, and quite inadequate to the wants of the settlers who began to seek homes beyond the Missis-

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