every year. It has had the substantial aid of some of the greatest men and women at home and abroad. Really, in spite of any adverse criticism, it "has done the State some service and they know it."

Mention should be made here of the cases in which this collection is carefully preserved under glass and in such convenient shape that visitors may see it at their pleasure. A little drawer or horizontal picture frame is pulled out and you have before you letters and small portraits of some distinguished person. Manuscripts are well known to fade when exposed to the light. These are secluded from the light except for the brief periods when they are under observation. The general form of these cases was designed by me. I had the aid of Hon. Robert Finkbine in reducing my rough drawings to shape. The cases answer their purpose admirably. They have been copied in the Masonic Library at Cedar Rapids and in the libraries of Boone, Council Bluffs, Oskaloosa, and partially in Burlington. Inquiries in regard to their style and the expense of manufacturing them have come from the libraries of Omaha, Denver, St. Paul and other places, but I am not informed as to whether any have been manufactured.

## THE UPPER DES MOINES VALLEY-1848.

The manuscript of the article printed herewith is a fragment of a journal found among the papers of Edwin Goddard of Keosauqua, Iowa. While the author's name is unknown, the journal is valuable for the minute and very interesting description it gives of the country explored. With the fragments there were found two pencil sketched maps respectively of the St. Anthony Falls and the Fort Snelling localities on the Mississippi, drawn to a scale of two miles to the inch.

Mr. Goddard was a careful collector of materials bearing on the settlement and civilization of Iowa and the west. He served as a private in Co. F, of the Second Iowa Infantry, being severely wounded at the capture of Fort Donelson. He

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[^0]was recorder of Van Buren county. His residence was continuous in Van Buren county from territorial days until his death in 1881. A mass of his collected papers was found by the writer in 1906 while renovating the old court-house at Keosauqua, and they have been added to the collections of the Historical Department. E. R. H.

June ${ }^{28} /$ as. Leave Fort Des Moines at 9 o'ck morning. In company with A. Randall \& - Lott.

Up Des Moines $11 / 2$ miles on old trail under bluffs Strike prairie \& main road up E side of River. Pass grove 8 miles from Fort and travel paralel with river at a distance of from 3 to 5 miles from it. 15 miles at 1 o'clock Stop one hour at Bebes for dinner. The timber appear to be of good quality and to extend out to a distance of several miles on the small creek. Big creek is 30 feet wide with a depth of 20 inches and is some 25 miles long course south nearly. Bebee has a fine location on this creek formed by an elevated situation of prairie between the timber \& creek 3 miles from river. The Ridge between this creek \& the River is of gentle ascent good 2nd rate soil and covered with a growth of white Bur \& Red oak and hickory suitable for farming purposes. 2 or 3 miles the prairie opens to the west bearing southwest where we leave the timber. the prairies after leaving the timber a short distance is much obstructed with small ponds or basins and has no regular ridges \& divides \& valleys as we have farther south In fact all the prairie that I have seen north of Fort Des Moines appears to have a different character from that south having but few small streams, all the water being drawn off by these basins or depressions, they vary from $1 / 2$ to 10 acres and are generally miry \& producing falgg Bull Rush or a large kind of cane grass there is however many desirable localities on the margins of the prairies where the highland break off such places affording good water in never failing spring \& the ridges \& slopes towards the river are well timbered Points project far out into the prairie a few miles apart where an abundance of good water is mostly found The prairies are generally flat with the exception before stated and from the appearances in the ravines are underlaid with a stiff clay sub-soil that prevents the speedy sinking of the water from the basins before spoken of, so that the water scarcely ever dries up in some of them that have scarcely any depth The elevations in the prairie apper to be gravelly and freely take up the water that falls on the and probably may be the cause of the ponds continuing full so long. Reach Peas point after passing a number of handsome locations for farms at most of which a commencement has already been made, though many have only marked out the place for a future farm.
29. Peas has a handsome location for a farm excellent dry prairie \& good timber joining it, is three miles from Des Moines. Proceeding north the prairie opens to the west and extend far towards the river \& farms appear to be making along its margins. The prairies along the trail still possess the same character as described yesterday [ponds] and rather approch the timber more nealy. at a distance of 10 or 12 miles from Peas we reach what is called by some the Mineral Ridge though we saw nothing to justify even calling it so, except that the [mounds] partake in some degree of the form of this in mineral regions.

This Ridge appear to extend from the Des Moines to Skunk river and probally farther the mounds are fom 75 to 120 feet above the level of the surrounding prairie being about on half or $3 / 4$ of a mil wide at the base stretching easte and appearing to widen as they approch Skink no stone to be seen on the mounds except granite boulders and ricks of a primative character detached. From this range we have a fair vew of a small grove of timber E. N.E. 9 or 10 miles said to be at a lake near the head of skink or Checauqua river. no other tim- perceptible of East. One mile north of the Ridge past the township corner of T. 85 \& 6 Rang 26 \& 7 Heare again the prairie stretches several miles west toward the Des Moines river. it is flat and has a great number of ponds, and the rout is many times circuatous. at about 4 miles from the Ridge past an elevated mound $21 / 2$ or 3 miles east in the flat prairie at 5 miles prairie runs up to bluff 150 feet high generally not so abrupt as to prevent the growth of timer on it. The prairie bear a N.E. course from this bluff, the river here running S.S.W. fine looking prairie both bottom and upland on the opposite side interspersed with groves of good timber fine spring along the Bluffs one mile north of this place is the mouth of the East fork, or Boons, or as called on some maps Cottonwood, River, not so large as Racoon river probably makes $1 / 4$ of the Des Moines below it. On the Bottom above the mouth of this stream are two considerable mounds supposed to be artificial one of an obling shape the Bottoms are from one half to one mile in wedth then the bluff rising to the level of the prairie so steep that it is not convenient to ride up them. About on half mile above the East fork on the E. side of the desMoines is the furthes up that any settlement has been made. Henry Lott settled here in the spring of 46 and was robbed by the Sioux Indians in the latter part of that year and has abandoned it for the present. On the top of the ridge east of the house where Lott lived is a level prairie. I think it is one of the prettyest I have seen on the river, it is dry so what [lower] in the middle and has the best quality of timber around it. North after crossing a narrow belt of timber the prairie streches of N.E. between a small creek and the East fork. The prairie appear to be good with fewer ponds. Above Lotts 2
miles is the mouth of a creek 20 feet wide falling into the Des Moines. on this creek near the mouth the Sioux Indians robbed Henry Nothington and Boman last fall. On mile farther up the river at the foot of a steep hill 175 feet high is the line of the Neutral Land the present location of the Winebago tribe of Indians The course of River south bottom-on west side from $1 / 2$ to $3 / 4$ wide but little timber on the bottom-back from river said to be of first rat quality extending 3 or 4 miles west. one and a half miles further north the River makes a great bend to the west Prairie bears N.E. up brushy creek. This prairie is of better quality than any I have seen above the fork of Coon and Des Moines considering its extent, though it would generally be thought to wet in many places for cultivation

There are many desirable locations around this prairie for making farms the best quality of oak timber around the head of the ravines, all of which are abundently supplied with springs. At a point 9 or 10 miles above the Neutral line the prairie bears off N.W. where we presume the mouth of Lizard to be we will see however when we reach it. All the points round this prairie with but few exceptions present fair prospects for settlements The only thing objectionable is the number of little ponds met with the moment you leave the timber in many parts of the country. The River timber here is from 2 to 5 miles wide in most places and of good quality. After leaving the point last spoken of we come some 5 or 6 miles N.W. to this point and camped at the hed of ravine at the timber, quite a handsome location for a farm provided a man wished to make one here.

July 1st, 1848. This morning we visited the river from which we are now about one mile The bottom on this side is not more than $1 / 4$ of a mile wide bluff on the west side washed by the river Here on a small Brook at an elevation of 80 feet above the river is deposits of Plaster Paris to the depth of 18 or 20 feet which appear to be of good quality it is found in abundance on both sides of the river and appears to be inexhaustable. The place may be known by a bluff on the west side that has been nearly cut away by a brook the lower end is elevated from the river about 30 feet, and up the river it rises abruptly present an appearance of coal and Iron [bank] on that point is the [nearest plaster] that is found to the river. The river at this point runs S.S.E. is about 250 or 300 feet wide from on to 2 feet deep brisk current, handsom banks and bottom. by a more minute examination the Gypsum is found to extend farther up the brook on the East said [side] and compose quite bluffs on each side of the same som places to the height of 20 feet. A strata of soft sand stone lies a few feet below. The ridge between the Brook \& the river is flat and rich covered with a growth of hickory Lind

Black Walnut red oak \& about the bluffs Lind white walnut sugar tree Ironwood. On top of flat white oak and near prairie Bur oak \& hickory. The Soil is better here than general in timber and is mostly covered with pea vine and other vegetation denoting good soil.

July 2nd. After making more thorough examination of the Plaster Paris this morning which we find more abundent than had been anticipated, we travel N.W. 3 miles and passing two points of timber on our left a high grove on the right, we strike the DesMoines bearing $\mathrm{S} .30^{\circ}$.E. this we suppose to be the point at which the centre line of the Neutral Ground crosses the river, on its continuation towards Lake Boyer. Round the points and the curves in the timber are some of the most desirable locations for farms that I have met with on the Des Moines. The prairie rises butifully from the timber Surface undulating but very few of those basins or ponds so commonly met with farther South. The soil is dry and rich and the timber adjoining of the quality of white Bur and Red oak, some hickory, good water is found in all the points of timber.

The prairie here runs $u p$ on both sides to the margin of the river, where it slopes down to the waters edge making a bank of from 18 to 25 feet high to the level of the bottom. the bottom are from 3 to 600 yards wide generally rising back towards the hills dry \& suitable for cultivation. the hills back of this rise from 75 to 90 or 100 feet but not so abruptly as to prevent travelling any direction over them.

The scenery at this place is the finest I have seen on the river. from the hills the DesMoines is to be seen for 3 miles winding its course through the green prairie, with a stripe of a deeper hue immeat the edge of the water. the current is brisk but not rapid width 250 to 300 feet. opposite where we touched the river is a bluff of dark coloured slat or shale with a small grove of timber extendding a short distance back. The prairie here bears N.W. we north to point one mile The prairie here bears west to river which make a considerable bend west. N. some West over rolling dry prairie strike the river from north one mile along prairie bottom on both sides reach a rocky Branch 12 or 15 feet wide not much water above this a low bluff sets in on the side for $1 / 2$ mile limestone from 20 to 30 feet high. west side prairie, timber between the bluff and creek back some distance. here prairie comes again to the river for $1 / 2$ mile cours N - to a point of timber into prairie Timber on west side of river running out some distance. from description must be the place where The Sioux Indians murdered the Delawares in 1841. one mile strike river at the head of prairie bottom at a rapid, where the river fall probally 2 feet in 100 yards over a bed of limestone, open prairie on the west and a sandstone bluff timber as far
as we can se up on this side. Think the East fork must be within a few miles.

From here we followed a north west cours struck timber at the distance of $3 / 4$ of a mile and a Brook 8 or 10 feet wide from N.E. and one half mile travel north brought us to the mouth of Lizard creek a small stream from the west from 30 to 50 feet wide near the or at the mouth surrounded with high hills and limestone bed and banks to the height of several feet. This is a good mill stream and in the afternoon as we travelled over the hills considerable bodies of timber were perceptible on and about in vally.

Course from here N.E. at $1 / 4$ mile bluff approches river at 130 feet high sand stone shale, and here the plaster paris again makes it appearance though not in such quantities as below. After ascending the bluff and passing $1 / 4$ mile over a flat rich soil well timbered with Bur and red oak, Elm, Lind hackberry \& some sugar tree a butiful prairie of small extent streches of East rich dry and level surrended except the S.E. end with the kind of timber spoken of of all the desirable places I have seen this I think excels We passed the west end and continuing our course through the woods one mile struck the open prairie, considerable timber off east on the head of brook passt below the mouth of Lizard.

July 3 d 1848. Start at 10 oclock persue a N.E. course over the bluff through timber the bluff is some 40 feet high the lind [land] running back level as far as we could se for the thick growth of timber, good soil, covered with a tolerable growth of Red \& Bur oak Elm hickory some lind \& Ironwood small brook from the East rocky bottom but little water. 2 miles cross river and leave bottom course north over dry rolling prairie Timber at points on E side of river and at 3 miles appear to be a small creek falling in from east, could not tell the size. ac about 5 miles reach The Moingonan or Brother fork it is difficult to tell at the junction which is the larger of the two rivers. The East Branch seems to be as large as the main fork but looks rather more deep and sluggish near the mouth at the junction the wedth of each stream is from 125 to 150 feet wide and an avarage of 2 feet deep, brisk current rock bottom and banks up 3 or 4 feet. There is but little timber about the fork but both streams seem to have timber farther up.

There is no timber in the forks, but $1 / 4$ of a mile up the Moingonan north a grove sets in running north along the point of the ridge between the Rivers and there seems to be considerable timbered land north on the same river.

North 20 west 3 miles past the point of grove on the main or west branch of the Des Moines grove bears N.W. \& S.E. and looks like it extends down to the river bur and red oak. The prairie here is generally dry and rolling with occasionally a slue or pond, the bluff and hills here apear to be much lower than a few miles
below N.W. one mile past the [Iron] bank where Capt. Allen [crossed] on his first capaign in [1844] There are many elevation over the bottom prairie, here covered with small particles of limestone of from $1 / 8$ to $1 / 4$ inch thick and from $1 / 4$ to 3 inches square. the stone appears to be near the surface in many part of the low ground and the bed of the stream is principally limestone, current brisk stream not to exceed one hundred feet wide.

Continue N.W. 3 mile no timber on north side scattering groves on south come to river again at bend, small willow Island, no timber except scattering trees along the margin for some distance up and down.

River bears west several miles course N.W. to south point of a high grove running N. \& S. along the top of the bluff between the high and low prairies after passing the south point of grove $3 / 4$ of a mile strike the river bearing south, course to fort N. 5 miles, above forks 18 to 20 miles N.W. The river below this runs south 3 or 4 miles, thence E . to where we left it. good groves of timber about the bend from appearances, but narrow down for some distance below this point.

July. After striking east across the grove on to the high prairie and following the grove $21 / 2$ miles $N$. with two or three bluffs washed by the bends of the river, we take a course for a point of timber up the river $\mathrm{N} .30^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$. at $21 / 2$ miles pass the mouth of a small stream 8 or 10 feet wide keeping the course of the highland. at 1 mile farther cross the stream above spoken of, which we called Allen's run from the difficulty Capt. Allen experienced passing it on his expedition. he says it head in a small lake or large pond some miles north. The prairie here is much cut up with slues and irregular elevates, and would be difficult to pass in wet season. The grove we passed this morning was principally bur oak some red oak \& hickory, the prairie adjacent of good quality for cultivation. abt the mouth of Allens creek the timber appear to be narrow and mostly confined to the bottom along the margin of the river. Elm \& maple, some bur oak. At 10 miles strike a point of timber in the river bottim at a slue or old channel of the river geese \& duck abundent sign of otter on the bank and some signs of elk in the bottom prairie. the low ground here are rather inclined to be wet with a high heavy coat of grass difficult to get through.
strike N.W. to small clmp of trees that seem to be in prairie, at $21 / 2$ miles come in sight of elk on an elevation. they had the wind of us and could not be approached. I attempted to go round through the bottom and get a shot at one whilst Mr. Randall would go north but did not succeed. they had the wind of us and commenced gathering on the rise snuffing and looking at us, all marching up into line to take a look at us and then they bounded of over the prairie North. there were 52 of all sizes from the young fawn to the old
buck with his majestic horns. at 14 miles reach small grove before - spoken of which proved to we some tall willow trees on the edge of a slue or lake about 50 feet wide bearing along the foot of hills, E. S.E. at this point there is some current and the water is passably good gees young \& old in abundance much sign of elk along the bank the bottom between this lake and the river appear to be dry and level and about one mile wide.

July 5th. course N.W. for first 2 miles come to a small creek 8 or 10 feet wide probably the outlet of some lake up north in the prairie and supplies the lake where we camped last night, and appear to be the only branch flowing into it. 2 miles further N. $30^{\circ} \mathrm{W}$. come to a lake one mile long and from 2 to 300 yards wide. The prairie here aboinds with small lakes where you leave the river any distance. They are generally connected by irregular slues, or outlets, with elevation of the same irregular character sometimes rising into moinds and at others running off to a distance.

After travelling a distince of 14 miles 12 of it on the course last spoken of over a country such as described we reach a butiful lake of some 4 miles in length and from $\frac{1}{6}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in bredth. General course $\mathrm{N} .20^{\circ} \mathrm{E}$. The land around this lake is fine as could be desired for farming purposes, sloping toward the margin of the water just sufficient to make the soil dry and pleasant. Some of the points along the lake are pretty well timbered but not sufficet to supply the purposes of farming extensively on the rich land adjacent to the lake at least not sufficient to induce speedy settlements. The timber as far as I could see appeared to be bur oak with some ash \& occasionally a cottonwood. there is a handsome little island about half way down the Lake, covered with a rich looking growth of timber and just east of the island is a grove of good looking timber. This Lake appears to have no name on any of our maps if indeed a location on Nicholet map or any other, and we took the liberty of giving it the name of Swan Lake from a flock of swans being the first thing that attracted our attention on reaching its shore. This would be a most desirable location for a residence, the land rises gently from the firm and pebly margin of the clear chrystal water back of a great distance, giving just such an appearance to the country as a person fond of fine scenery would be delighted with. There has been no human being about this part of the country this summer or last spring. The Indians do not frequent this part except late in the fall or during the winter, they have a more abundant field of operation for the summer in the pursuit of the buffalow more north \& west. I can see no remains of buffalow on the prairies probally they are hidden by the grass. We have not seen a deer since we left our camp below the mouth of Lizard Creek a distance of over sixty miles. From the maps as near as we can judge we must now be within 10 miles or less of the boundary line of Iowa
on the North and cannot be many miles east and south of Spirit Lake.

July 6th. This morning is cold after the rain of last night with a strong N.W. wind about 11 o'clock start a N.W. course after going one mile North to pass the head of this lake. The prairie from here to the river a distance of 6 miles slopes gently towards the river which pursues a S.E. course from 2 to 3 miles to left of our rout. The soil is fine and but few places too wet for cultivation, and I was surprised to find so handsome a country in the vally of so small a stream. At $51 / 2$ miles reach a brook 10 feet wide water 10 to 12 inches deep, current brisk muddy bed and banks, running south supposed to be the outlet of some lake in the highlands off N.E. as we can now see timber that [course] which we suppose to be on the bank of a cluster of lakes laid down on Nicolet' map about this point and which have outlets to the DesMoines. At 7 miles reach the river running south. the Des Moines here is from 25 to 35 feet wide water from 12 to 18 inches deep on the rapids or where it runs over gravel, though between those points it is wider more sluggish \& deep sometimes 60 or 70 feet wide and 3 or 4 feet deep. The stream is remarkably crooked here and the banks muddy and alluvial bank from 8 to 10 feet above the level of low water, but not appear to be subject to inundation.

The timber consists mostly of a narrow fringe of elm, maple and willow near the edge of the water and occasionally a few black walnuts and some small ash on the bottom. There just sufficient of timber along the river in many places so as to enable the travellen to define the course of the stream. The DesMoines here is about the size of the North of the three rivers below rackoon and in government survey would be called from 50 to 100 links wide at various places. cross the river \& pursue a course nearly North along the foot of the hills and over the points which are here high and run in all directions. the points are generally filled with grael som of limeston but most of granite of various kinds The soil is dark and rich looking inclined to be sandy generally producing a luxurient growth of grass except on the higher parts where I infer the dry season has ca[u]sed it to be short on the more elevated and dry situations. West \& N.W. of us at a distance of from 5 to 10 miles on an elevated hilly country we can trace a line of groves along some lakes which we thought likely was the east end of Spirit Lake as from where we now are we must be within from 5 to 15 miles of the east and N. end of that lake. Strike the Des Moines 7 miles from where we crossed at a bend and camp for the night, one half mile south we crossed a pretty little brook of from 2 to 4 feet wide with a fringe of willow and occasionally a cottonwood or elm tre the bed is deep and current brisk on to two feet water except at riffles. This may be the outlet of the Lakes on which we saw the
timber supposed to be Spirit Lake but looks like it could not pass water sufficient to drain the extent of country aroung where we could trace the timber and which we suppose to be the lake. Spirit Lake is the head the little Sioux River and flows south. This may still be an outlet on the North and East as those lakes frequently have outlets at different points flowing into different rivers. or the small stream we crossed may be from some small lake that is not connected with the timber we saw.

On our rout during the evening we could see groves of timber off East on the high land East of the river which groves on the margin of the numerous lakes scattered over that country between the DesMoines and Blue Earth rivers, most of those on which we [can mark] the timber appear to flow into the DesMoines and in our rout after crossing the river we could distinctly see vallies leding down from the east with streaks of timber which we supposed wer[e] the outlets of the lakes. There is no means of tracing up their connection without spending much time an labour

I am satisfied that we are north of the north boundary of Iowa, and on the edge of the high country, the Coteau De Praire of Nocollet. We will goo up the river tomorrow yet \& then turn East for the Missisippi

Friday July 7th 1848 The valley of the Des Moines during the day has generrally North but the stream has pursued a serpention corse as it generally. Our course was over the high prairie generally North, verry broken with many high ridges and nobs, highlands on our west timber perceptable which must be at lakes on the top of the Coteau De Prairie which is the divide between the waters of the Missourie \& Missisippi rivers. At 3 miles cross a [slender] branch falling in from the west 3 feet wide deepe and brisk running where we crossed but at some points wider and sluggish. Some scattering timber down its vally, scrubby bur oak. nine miles reach a point of timber on a deep ravine and one half mile farther a brook similar to the one last described. The vallies of these little streams here is very deep owing to the elevation of the prairie west

From here we strike N.E. towards the DesMoines and decend the high points towards the river which is here running a south course nearly. Timber on both sides though but little on the west for some distance above this. The stream her is at this time from 25 to 40 feet wide with one foot on the riffles, it rises 7 feet and is then 100 feet wide. Here for the first time we discover fresh sign of the Indians a on rising the bank to the prairie on the east side of the river we find an encampment wnich had been vacated some 10 or 12 days there had been 4 lodges and from the looks of things they had been successful in hunting the buffalo, \&c. We encamped here but kept a more close lookout than common as this
is the first marks of the Indians that we have seen that have been made this season

July 8th Slepte badly not on account of Indians but musketoes. Make an early start. Strike East a little north to a point of timber perceptible to us yesterday from the high hills on the, from where we took the bearing knowing we could not see it from the vally 12 miles strike S.W. arm of a handsome lake it stretches round after running 2 miles East to where there is an outlet south 20 feet wide \& 2 feet deep flowing out rapidly probably on account of a heavy N. wind. This outlet we followed down until we concluded from its south course it must flow either into the East or West branch of the des Moines. We then returned \& followed the lake round further N.E. for one mile and there took our course East for a body of timber about 5 miles where we arrived at sun down and which proved to be a lake extending for several miles in a direction nearly N. \& S. with points putting in from the East covered with a good growth of oak timber and generally elevated. The prairie passed over today was generally of a fine quality \& is not full of knobs \& slues as some we have travelled over Soil of the richest quality. I do not recolect of passing any portion of prairie of a similar character that is better adapted to cultivation as far as soil and handsome locality is concerned.

## JUDGE JOHN F. DILLON. ${ }^{1}$

BY EDWARD H. STILES.
The retirement of Judge Dillon from the bench was the occasion of profound regret; so strikingly and spontaneously profound that I cannot omit some of its public expressions, as they will serve to throw light upon his character as a man, upon his fitness as a Judge, and strongly tend to establish proper estimates of both, as well as to confirm what I have already said or may hereafter say in that behalf.

His letter to the president tendering his resignation was dated May 26th, 1879. By its terms it was not to take effect until the first day of the following September, in order that in the meantime he might dispose of the unfinished business, and his successor be enabled, if nominated and confirmed be-

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[^0]:    Facsimile page of Journal, 1848.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ The first instalment of Mr. Stiles' article appeared in the April Annals. The portrait accompanying that part of the article was made about the time of his removal from Iowa (1879). The one which appears in this number represents him at the present time.

