

ROBERT HARPER was born in Franklin county, Indiana, August 17, 1820; he died at Fairfield, Iowa, May 15, 1900. He settled in Buchanan township, Jefferson county, in 1852, but removed to Fairfield in 1875. Mr. Harper was a soldier in the Mexican war. He had a large acquaintance among the early settlers of Jefferson county by whom he was highly esteemed.

### AN IOWA ARMY NURSE.

Soon after the lamented death of Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer, Hon. George D. Perkins, of *The Sioux City Journal*, made the following mention of that illustrious woman:

"She belonged to Iowa during the civil war. She was a leader among Iowa women in the collection and distribution of sanitary supplies for soldiers in the field. I was a member of Co. B, Thirty-first Iowa, and soon after our regiment reached Helena, Arkansas, I was taken violently ill. Our camp was utterly destitute of hospital supplies. The boys had fixed me up as well as they could. It was in the winter season and the rain fell almost incessantly. The boys gathered leaves and dried them and made a bed for me. My soldier overcoat was my pillow: In this situation, too weak to move more than my eyes and fingers. Mrs. Wittenmyer found me. She was just spying out the ground. She talked with me in such a cheery way, and when she left she said that in a few days they would have me in better shape. I do not remember all that followed, but I do remember that one day soon after her visit a real pillow took the place of my overcoat under my head. I was weak at the time, and I may as well confess that I instantly began to moisten it with tears. Of course, this is only one small incident in the army work of Annie Wittenmyer; but it is enough to enshrine her in my sacred memory."

### OLD LETTERS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
BURLINGTON, IOWA, Nov. 11, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of an act of Congress entitled "An act granting certain lands to the Territory of Iowa," etc., approved July 8, 1846, I have this day appointed Jesse Williams, Josiah H. Bonney and Robert Cook, Esquires, agents to select the lands therein granted for the improvement of the Des Moines river, in this Territory.

Any information or instructions which may be deemed proper or called for in relation to the selection of these lands should be communicated at an early day. Communications on this subject should be addressed to Jesse Williams, Esq., at Iowa City.

Very respectfully, your most obt' serv't,

HON. R. J. WALKER,  
Secretary of Treasury.

JAMES CLARKE.

BURLINGTON, IOWA, Nov. 1, 1857.

SIR: It is impossible to give satisfactory replies to the questions pro-  
pounded in yours of the 6th ultimo.

The railroad companies are not required by the laws of the State to make returns to any department of the State government, hence I have no means of making even an approximate estimate of the capital stock, debts, income, etc., of the several companies in this State.

Your obdt. servt.,

HON. HOWELL COBB,  
Washington, D. C.

JAMES W. GRIMES.

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