

heard the late Granville Berkley, the pioneer lawyer of Webster county, which then included the county of Hamilton, relate an interesting incident concerning these animals. A great flood came in the Boone and Des Moines rivers sometime in the fifties—possibly the memorable one of 1851. The rivers rose so high as to flood the little promontory at the junction of the two streams, leaving a large gopher mound near the point completely surrounded by water. The flood drove out of their holes a dozen or more gophers, huddling them together as the waters rose higher and higher. The animals became infuriated and soon began a deadly fight among themselves. The more powerful easily killed the weaker ones, and at last but one was left, and it was so bitten that it speedily died. Mr. Berkley's vivid description of this gopher fight was always listened to with much interest and accepted as true. While a most unusual incident it seemed quite probable to those who knew something of the habits of the pocket gopher.

THE FLOYD MONUMENT.

The Floyd Monument Association, the headquarters of which is at Sioux City, Iowa, with a membership extending to several other states, has been earnestly working for several years to secure the erection of a fitting monument at the grave of Sergeant Charles Floyd, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, who was buried just below that city, August 20, 1804. Many facts have contributed to render this pioneer grave one of the most noted localities within the limits of the Louisiana Purchase, and for several years there has been a growing sentiment in favor of the erection of this monument. The subject was treated at some length in the 2d volume of the present series of *THE ANNALS* (pp. 305-314), by Hon. George W. Wakefield of Sioux City. That article fully sets forth

the circumstances which led to the organization of the Association and the results which it hoped to accomplish. Hon. George D. Perkins of Woodbury county, who was then a member of Congress, secured an appropriation of \$5,000 to be devoted to the erection of the Monument. At the recent session of the Iowa legislature, Hon. E. H. Hubbard, a resident of Sioux City, and State Senator, secured the passage of an act which appropriated \$5,000 to be added to that by Congress. The people of Sioux City have acquired 22 acres of land surrounding Floyd's grave, which is to be converted into a beautiful park. The project is thus amply provided for. The erection of the monument will go forward during the present year under the supervision of Col. H. M. Chittenden of the U. S. Engineers. The shaft will rise 100 feet above the surface and will be visible for many miles around. A large bronze tablet suitably inscribed will be placed upon the die. The completed monument will doubtless be dedicated the coming autumn.

Credit is due to several distinguished gentlemen aside from those named, for the success of this effort. The late Dr. Elliott Coues, through his new edition of the Expedition of Lewis and Clark, revived the public interest in that great work of exploration. He also wrote the history of the present effort, which was published in a valuable historical pamphlet. Mr. John H. Charles, a most estimable gentleman, a pioneer who has long resided at Sioux City, was one of the earliest as he has been the most zealous and untiring advocate of the erection of this monument. Messrs. C. R. Marks and George W. Wakefield of Sioux City, Mitchell Vincent of Onawa, Dr. S. P. Yeomans of Charles City, Prof. J. D. Butler of Madison, Wis., and other gentlemen in different parts of the country, have given the work a most hearty support.

We are glad that Iowa thus takes another substantial step in the direction of honoring her pioneers. Hamilton

county—the pioneer in this peculiar work of erecting Iowa monuments—in 1887, placed a fine brass tablet in her new court-house to the memory of the Company which she sent into the Spirit Lake Expedition, and the State, during the administration of Governor Frank D. Jackson, erected an imposing pillar at Lake Okoboji, in memory of the settlers murdered by the Indians in 1857 and of the volunteers who hurried thither to relieve the survivors and bury the dead. It is most fitting that this grave of Charles Floyd, the first U. S. Soldier to lay down his life within the limits of the Louisiana Purchase, shall be marked by the magnificent shaft now in course of erection. It is but a just recognition of the interest which has long been manifested by the people at large, and especially by travelers to that portion of our State.

UNFINISHED MEMOIRS.

During the later years of their useful and honored lives the editor of *THE ANNALS* repeatedly urged Hon. George G. Wright, Hon. James Harlan and Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood, to write their recollections of men and events in Iowa. Judge Wright began such a work, confining his writing to recollections of public men. Two of these, relating to Judge Caleb Baldwin and Van Caldwell, have appeared in *THE ANNALS*. The manuscripts of several others are in the keeping of his sons. Mr. Harlan, we hear it stated, had written several hundred pages, but had only brought his narrative down to 1863. The manuscript is in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Robert T. Lincoln. On this matter Governor Kirkwood wrote as follows:

IOWA CITY, IOWA, Nov. 16, 1888.

DEAR SIR: Yours of yesterday rec'd. I think it probable I will commence this winter writing a sketch of my life, and of the changes in the manners and customs of our people as I have seen them in the seventy-five years I have lived. I do not intend to publish this, but leave it in manu-

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