

should provide a new monument at the grave of Gen. Crocker. That which marks the place where he sleeps is quite small, and having been made of common white marble, a material which disintegrates more or less rapidly in our climate, its durability will be comparatively limited. We believe that a proposition to place at this patriot grave a more distinguishing monument would meet with general approval. Many of Crocker's friends would doubtless gladly contribute, if contributions should be solicited, but the work could more appropriately be carried out by the city of Des Moines. If legislative authority is necessary it can be readily secured.

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#### GENERAL NATHANIEL B. BAKER.

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The old settlers of Clinton county held their annual reunion at Joyce's Park, Clinton, on the 8th of June. The occasion brought together a host of pioneers of the county; glad of the opportunity to meet once more, and recount adventures full of interest. An address was delivered by Mr. William H. Fleming, private secretary to the Governor. Mr. Fleming was for a short time in the '60's a resident of Clinton county, to which he had removed from the county of Scott, after a residence in the latter of nearly eleven years. The address was in the main devoted to a sketch of the races that have done the peopling of America. In discussing the history of the county of Clinton, the speaker alluded to one who will always be held in high regard by the people of Iowa. After referring to the fact that more than one-eighth of the population of the county had borne arms in the struggle for the maintenance of the Union, Mr. Fleming said:

This recalls the name of one of the best men the county ever gave to the service of the State. A man of fine presence, of unflinching courage, of admirable tact, of a disposition which well suited him for composing differences among the men who ventured forth in defence of the integrity of the Union, Nathaniel Bradley Baker was happily fitted for the place he so well filled during all the years of the war for the Union. This man, who

had been governor of his native state, New Hampshire, well deserved for his public services the encomium given him by the great war governor, who happened to be governor again at the time of General Baker's death. Said Governor Kirkwood, "To his skill, his indomitable energy, and his tireless industry, our State owes not a little of the high reputation her military record has made for her. To the soldiery of Iowa, of whose deeds he was ever proud, and whose record he did so much to preserve, he was especially dear; and so long as that history shall be read will the memory of Iowa's great adjutant-general be perpetuated." The record to which the governor referred was indeed a happy thought of General Baker. With the aid liberally extended, although then not required, of the officers in the field, that record was made very ample. It has since been of great service in helping complete the records of the war department. Time and again has that department called upon the adjutant-general of Iowa to furnish data regarding the members of the various regiments from Iowa during the civil war, which the files of the department seemed not to have. Perhaps it was because of the value of such records in the several states that the department required the officers in the various regiments in the recent war to furnish information desired to the state authorities in order that a satisfactory record could be kept within the state from which the men came.

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#### A LETTER BY JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The following historical letter was written by Jefferson Davis to Gen. George W. Jones of Dubuque. It was published soon after in *The Herald* of that city, and the original presented to "The Aldrich Collection" in the Historical Department of Iowa, where it is now preserved. The handwriting is remarkably plain and distinct. The writer of these lines met Mr. Davis at his home at Beauvoir, Miss., about two years before his death. In a conversation he mentioned going into the country west of Dubuque in command of scouting parties, for the purpose of watching the movements of the Indians. "How far out did you usually go, Mr. Davis?" "About as far as possible and return the same day," he replied; "sometimes as far as the Maquoketa river." He mentions these reconnoissances in this letter. His peculiar spelling of the word "Dubuque" with a capital "B" was adopted by many persons, but it did not have the sanction of the man who bore it. His spelling was the same as that

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