

county, and done much towards advancing the interests of the settlement. In 1856 or '57, he erected, at a heavy cost, a large steam flouring mill near his residence in Valley City, which has done a very good business.

Capt. Isaac Hawley, another old settler, is, with his sons George B. and Daniel S. Hawley, one of the largest farmers in the Valley. His early success in raising onions was his first step towards his future prosperity. His life has been lengthened out to a good old age, and he lives, blest with all the comforts of life, respected by all who know him, happy in his declining years to look back upon the scenes through which he has passed, and feel that his life has not been spent in vain.

Stephen Henley was another of the pioneers who settled in the Valley at an early day, and did much towards the progress of agriculture, besides manufacturing lumber to considerable extent. He died about the year 1850, leaving a large estate to his children, and an unblemished character.

Christopher Rowe settled in 1851, and although he has been for many years a non-resident of the Valley, yet his early efforts in behalf of the infant settlement will long be remembered. His open and generous heart has often made glad the weak and discouraged, while his aid and his counsel inspired confidence in those who languished under the severe trials incident to a frontier life.

Andrew J. Hyde and brother were among the first who opened farms upon the prairie back from the river, and still retain the lands upon which they first settled, and rank among the best farmers of Scott county. Andrew J. Hyde was the member elect to the Legislature in 1846, and served with much acceptance to his constituents.

CHAPTER VI.

LE CLAIRE TOWNSHIP.

1834.—At the treaty in 1832, with the Sac and Fox Indians, at Davenport (see chap. first of this Hist.) they gave to Antoine Le Claire, Esq., a section of land at the head of the

Rapids, (640 acres.) They had at the same treaty, presented Mrs. Le Claire with a similar amount of land where the city of Davenport now stands. The reason of this gift was none other, we believe, than out of friendship and respect for Mr. and Mrs. Le Claire. He had been with them from boyhood, either in the employ of the Fur Company or of the Government, as interpreter, and was very popular with them. The American Fur Company, at an early day, had a trading house on a small island some three miles below Le Claire, called "Davenport's Island," afterwards "Smith's Island," and now Fulton's Island." The Indians came across from Rock river, Meredocia swamp, and from the Wabesipinicon river to this "Post," to trade. The Indians ever loved to live along the thick timber lands of the "Pau-ke-she-tuck," (Rapids) or *swift water*, where they found abundance of fish. There was much game also. The forest was dense all through the country lying along the Mississippi river, from Spencer's Creek, at the head of Pleasant Valley, to Princeton, and was of large growth. A corresponding tract also of like character lay along the opposite side of the river.

The Township of Le Claire, in its general character, is similar to other river townships; perhaps rather more uneven along a portion of its bluffs, but its prairie lands back are among the choicest in Iowa, and well settled by enterprising and industrious farmers.

The first settlement of Le Claire was not upon that portion given to Mr. Le Claire by the Indians, but was made by Eleazer Parkhurst, Esq., we believe from the State of Massachusetts. He purchased the claim just above the North line of the "Reserve," of George W. Harlan, who built the cabin thereon. This cabin stood on or near the place of the present residence of Waldo Parkhurst in the present limits of the city of Le Claire, and was the first actual settled claim in the Township. We believe this cabin was built in February, 1834. His brother, the late Sterling Parkhurst, Esq., was the second settler, but the same season Nathan and Martin W. Smith settled below the town where the old mill now stands. Ira F. Smith came in the Autumn of that year, and now lives on the old place of Martin W. Smith. All of these early pioneers are now dead except Ira F. Smith.

But there seem to have been others, even at an earlier day, anxious to secure so desirable a site for a town. The importance of the location had attracted the attention of some who, at an early day, were passing up and down the Mississippi river, and were not blind to the coming future. I here insert a document dated the next year after the treaty, and after Mr. Le Claire came into possession of the land, in which a contract is made for the town site of Le Claire proper :

WHEREAS, It is agreed by and between Antoine Le Claire of the one part, and Geo. Davenport, Enoch C. March and John Reynolds of the other part, witnesseth, That the said Le Claire agrees to convey by Deed in fee simple to the said Davenport, March and Reynolds, forty acres each—to be taken out of a section of land at the head of the Rapids, which was granted to said Le Claire by the late Treaty with the Sac and Fox Indians. Said land is situated on the Mississippi river, on the west side thereof. Said Le Claire reserving forty acres himself of said section, making in all one-quarter section.

Said quarter-section is to be located so as to be the most suitable for the purpose of laying out a town thereon. And all the parties to this contract agree further to lay out a town on said quarter-section of land, and to be equal partners and proprietors thereof.

Said quarter-section of land is to be located and surveyed as soon as practicable, and the same surveyed also as soon as practicable into lots.

Said Davenport, March and Reynolds in consideration of said land, agreed to pay him (Le Claire) Eighty Dollars each one.

27th March, 1833.

Test,

K. MCKENZIEY.

Signed,

ANTOINE LE CLAIRE,
GEO. DAVENPORT,
ENOCH C. MARCH,
JOHN REYNOLDS,

} With Seals.

1835.—At a subsequent date the interest of Enoch C. March, Esq., consisting of one-fourth of the town site, was purchased by our fellow townsman Capt. James May, who still retains a large portion of it. Mr. Eleazer Parkhurst opened the first farm upon the prairies back of the town. The town of Le Claire was laid out into lots in the Spring or Summer of 1837, by the Town Company, surveyed by Wm. R. Shoemaker assisted by

Henry S. Howell, both U. S. Deputy Surveyors. About the same time, Mr. Parkhurst, having disposed of a part of his claim to Col. T. C. Eads, they jointly laid out the town of Parkhurst.

1836.—During the Summer of 1836, Mr. Parkhurst applied to the Post Office Department for a Post Office at that place. He immediately received a favorable answer, with the appointment of Postmaster, and the office was named "Parkhurst," after the name of the petitioner.

During the years 1835 and 1836, immigrants came in and made settlements. Among these were Mr. William Rowe, Josiah Scott, John M. and Griswold Vanduzer, Eli Smith, Dr. Zachariah Grant, William Cousal, Philip Suter, Noble McKinstry, Rockwell McKinstry, John Lewis, and others. A son of M. E. Parkhurst, the Rev. Wm. J. Parkhurst, still resides in this township, and is the oldest inhabitant now resident in the place. The two towns, LeClaire and Parkhurst were for many years rivals, in point of progress, and exhibited many of those traits so common among the embryo cities of the West. Soon after Parkhurst was laid out, its name was changed, with that of its Post Office, to Berlin, and finally to LeClaire.

1837.—Col. T. C. Eads made the first important improvement in Parkhurst, in the Summer of 1837, by the erection of a large frame dwelling, thirty by forty feet, two stories high, and it was one of the wonders of the age. Our fellow citizen Nathaniel Squires was the builder, and it stands, a worthy monument of the genius, enterprise and ambition of those early pioneers.

1838.—In the Spring of 1838, Ralph Letton, Esq., of Cincinnati, purchased a portion of Col. Eads' interest in the town, and a disagreement among the owners retarded the settlement and improvement of the place for several years. No decided improvements in either of the towns took place, however, until 1841. But the progress of settlement by farmers upon the edge of the prairie, was considerable, and many farms were opened along the river up to the Wabesipinicon bottoms.

1839 and 1840 were, however, dark days in the West, alike to all, and every new enterprise, or even a new comer, was

hailed as an acquisition to the infant colony. Lemuel Parkhurst, Esq., now a resident of Le Claire, first opened a store in 1839, in the little stone building in Parkhurst now owned by Mr. W. Gardner. In 1840, the old stone building yet standing on the bank of the river, at the foot of Walnut street, was erected by Eleazer Parkhurst. The same year, he and his nephew, Waldo Parkhurst, who settled there in 1837, and is still a merchant in Le Claire, opened in the stone store a large stock of goods of all kinds, and continued in the same until 1849, when the firm was dissolved.

1841.—In 1841, Charles Ames, William Allen, A. K. Philleo and Martin W. Smith made improvements and settled in the town of Le Claire. Mr. Ames was from Port Byron, on the opposite side of the river, and brought with him a stock of goods. He built the house now owned and occupied by his widow, it being the first house built in the city of Le Claire, or on the "Reserve." Here he opened the first stock of goods ever offered for sale in that place. Mr. Ames died in 1846. Mr. Philleo built the house occupied as a bakery now, by Mr. Sheck. These were the dark days of Le Claire. Many an old settler will call to mind the few little tenements scattered along the banks of the river, through both of the villages, and well remember the stately oaks that grew along the streets, where now the beautiful mansions and the merchants' blocks rear their massive piles.

From this date to 1847, but little progress was made at either town in the way of improvements. Steamboats generally laid up there in low water and windy weather, on account of the difficulty of crossing the Rapids at such times, and often in extreme low water lighters or flat-boats were used to convey freight over, as at the present day, employing many men. It is the residence of the Rapids pilots, for boats and rafts. The settlement of the prairie back from the town continued slowly, and occasionally a new edifice would appear in Le Claire or Parkhurst.

In February, 1837, Messrs. A. H. Davenport and Samuel Lyter, of Rockingham, opened a store of dry goods and groceries. Mr. Lyter soon gave place in the firm, to

Robert Christie, Esq., and Winchester Sherman; and, in the Autumn of 1848, this firm erected the first saw-mill in LeClaire and the following year a flouring mill was added. In the Summer of 1851, this mill was burned down, and in four months after, the firm of Davenport & Rogers, who then owned it, erected the "Rapids Mill," upon the same ground.

1848.—The comparative size of the two villages at this date, may be seen by an article which we quote from the *Le Claire Republic* of March 23d, 1859, from the pen of E. Russell, Esq., then Editor of that paper :

"In 1848, (says Mr. Russell) when we first visited the locality, Le Claire and Parkhurst were separated by a 'gulf,' which though easily passed, kept each town entirely separate from the other. A beautiful and dense grove of oaks extended from Reynolds street up to Holland street, and no 'cabins' or fences marred the scene. Le Claire then contained nine frame dwelling houses, two brick do, one brick store, one frame do, occupied, and one or two unoccupied, one brick building used as a pork house, one blacksmith shop, the Baptist church, occupied but not finished, and the old Methodist church, in course of erection. Parkhurst boasted of eight frame dwelling houses, one brick do, two log do, one stone do, two stone store houses, one frame barn, and one log do."

It was not until 1840 or 1850, that either of the towns began to assume the appearance of a village, but from that time both increased in population and buildings, as well as in extension of the limits of their towns. In 1851, Messrs. Davenport and Rogers purchased of Mr. Le Claire the remaining strip of land lying between the two towns of Le Claire and Parkhurst, and laid it out into building lots. This gave a new impetus to business of all kinds. Mills and Manufactories were erected. Mechanics of all kinds settled in the place, and many large brick stores were erected, so that in 1855, on petition of the inhabitants of both towns, the Legislature, by act, incorporated the City of Le Claire, including within its limits the town of Parkhurst.

At this date, there were within the limits of this city, no less than eleven dry goods stores, two clothing stores, one watch-maker, one saddler, two boat and provision stores, one bakery, five blacksmith shops, three wagon shops, one tin shop and

stoves, one hardware store, one boot and shoe store, five churches, two cooper shops, two tailor shops, two shoemakers, two livery stables, five hotels, one banking house, one printing office, two steam flouring mills, one steam saw-mill, three lawyers, six physicians, two cabinet shops, candy shops and oyster saloons in any quantity. House and ship carpenters, stone masons and brick layers, a boat yard, where steamers are repaired, and keel boats made and repaired, and a ferry across the Mississippi river.

There are many interesting anecdotes connected with the early history of this Township, like many others in the country. All the pioneer laws of a new country were enforced here, and that same rigid regard for the rights of all was duly noticed. Some very rough specimens of humanity were of course among the early settlers, and many a kind heart covered up by a very rough exterior. It was deemed, in those days, a very dangerous thing for one man to "jump" another's "claim." The man who had the temerity to attempt such a thing was looked upon as likely to do worse deeds when opportunity presented. A rather laughable farce of this kind took place in September, 1837. At a meeting of the inhabitants of the settlement, matters had been talked over as to the peace and good order of things, and the meeting about to adjourn, when a young man, a stranger, rather casually remonstrated against any one holding more than one "claim," and not that unless he lived on it. He was from Hennepin, Ill., and most evidently had not traveled "the country all over," assuming rather more airs than seemed necessary for the occasion. His remarks were heard by one Simeon Cragin, a discharged soldier, and one of those unceremonious, back-woods, frontier, half-civilized *humans* that lurk around the border settlements, who immediately presented himself before him and thus addressed him: "My name, Sir, is Simeon Cragin. I own *fourteen* 'claims,' and if any man 'jumps' one of them I will shoot him down at once, Sir. I am a gentleman, Sir, and scholar. I was educated in Bangor, have been in the United States army and served my country faithfully—am the discoverer of the 'Wopsey'—can ride a grizzly bear, or whip any *human* that ever crossed the

Mississippi; and if you dare to jump one of my claims, die you must. My name is Simeon Cragin, Sir, all the way from Bangor, and you must leave these diggings, with but few remarks." The increasing rage of "Simeon" became alarming to the young *Sucker*, and he found the shortest road possible to the State of Illinois, and we presume has never since visited Iowa with a view at least of "jumping claims."

There are also many striking reminiscences of the Indians and their sojourn, both before and after the whites took possession of the country, that might be interesting, and may be added hereafter. There are those now living in Le Clair who remember with what satisfaction the Indians often returned to their forest home at the head of the rapids. In 1837, over one thousand were encamped where the city now stands.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

LETTER OF THE LATE COL. W. M. G. TORRENCE.

[The following copy of a letter of the late Col. Torrence, of Keokuk, Iowa, relating to two flags carried by his regiment, and presented to the State Historical Society, will be read with interest. A memoir of this much lamented officer may be expected in a future number of the *Annals*.]—EDITOR.

HEADQUARTERS 30TH IOWA VOLUNTEERS, }
IUKA, Miss., Oct. 13th, 1863. }

N. B. BAKER, Adj't Gen'l State of Iowa :

Sir :—Accompanying this, you will receive two Flags, worn out in the service. They were carried by the 30th Iowa during their marches, a distance of *five thousand seven hundred miles*, between the 26th of October, 1862, and the 10th of October, 1863.

They were carried in the following named Battles, to wit :

Chickasaw Bayou, December 28th and 29th, 1862.

Arkansas Post, January 10th and 11th, 1863.

Jackson, Miss., May 14th, 1863.

Seige of Vicksburg, from May 18th to July 4th, 1863.

Clinton, Miss., July 11th, 1863.

Jackson, Miss., July 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th, 1863.

Brandon, Miss., July 18th, 1863.

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