

HISTORY OF MARSHALL COUNTY.

Prior to the time of the settlement of this county by the whites, it was inhabited by the Sac and Fox tribes of Indians, remnants of the once powerful Indian nation presided over by the famed Black Hawk. A portion of these Indians have returned here, and live in this and Tama county, by permission of the State Legislature, at the request of the citizens of these two counties. They now call themselves Musquakas, and appear to be incapable of civilization. A few Pottowattomies are also in this county.

In the winter of 1847, a body of Mormons, in their Hegira from Nauvoo, in Illinois, camped and stayed through the winter, on the bottoms, in the timber just north of where Marshall now stands. Here famine and disease attacked them and many of them perished. They peeled nearly all the red Elm trees in the timber and used the powdered bark as a substitute for meal in the making of bread.

The first permanent settler in this county, was Joseph Davidson, in the east part of the county, near the line of Tama, in year 1847, who was soon followed by his brother, William Davidson. These men had considerable trouble with the Indians, between whom there was no good feeling.

The first settlement of any considerable size, was opened on Timber Creek, the south side of the grove, in 1848. The pioneers of this settlement were Joseph M. Ferguson, and Josiah Cooper. After this, the country filling up pretty rapidly, the county was organized in 1849, J. M. Ferguson acting as organizing Sheriff.

In May 1850 some of the settlers, having no love for the Indians, and wanting to get rid of them, went down to the Indian village on the river, just east of the county line, and the Indians being absent on a hunting party, burnt all their wigwams, corn &c. The people were alarmed; fearing the

Indians would wreak their vengeance, indiscriminately, upon all the white settlers as soon as their Chief, who was absent at Washington, should return. They therefore got together and having despatched John Braddy and another person after arms and amunition, erected a stockade fort out of puncheons, on Berk's hill, just east of where his house now stands, which they called Fort Robinson; and in this twenty-four families took refuge. It was commenced on the eleventh day of June 1850, and was occupied as soon as it was finished.

While they were engaged in building the fort, some of the Indians having returned and found their village burned, visited the white settlement on Timber Creek to find out if their suspicions as to who had burned their town were correct. They felt no ill will only towards the perpetrators of the outrage, and these they would have, undoubtedly, scalped could they have got at them. The whites fearing treachery, told the Indians, who were somewhat surprised when they saw the fort in process of erection, that they were building it as a protection against the Sioux, whom they expected were going to make an inroad into the settlement. Upon hearing this, the Musquakas who have ever been the sworn and hereditary enemies of the Sioux, offered their services in defence of the whites in giving battle to the Sioux, side by side with the white men. This offer, so generously made, was declined; and after showing the whites how to make loop-holes for their rifles, they went away. James A. Logan was the Captain of the forces in the fort.

After remaining fortified-up for a month, they were relieved by the appearance of a battalion of United States Dragoons, who came to remove the Indians to the west of the Missouri River. After the removal no more trouble was had, and the settlers came out and went back to their farms.

In the Fall of 1851 the first Court ever convened in Marshall County was held in a little log building, in the edge of the timber, just north of where Marshall now stands, the Grand Jury meeting in the bushes just across the slough from the house. No Bill of Indictment was found, and the Grand Jury was in session only about ten minutes. The building then

used for a Court House, is now used as a horse stable, by N. L. Bunce, in Marshall. Only one case was tried at this term, and that a divorce suit.

In 1851 the highest water ever known in these parts occurred. Streams became so high that it was impossible to get to mill, and the nearest was sixty or eighty miles distant. The settlers had to do the best they could under the circumstances, and resorted to corn boiled whole and the near-failing hog-meat, for food.

The first settlement made on the town site of Marshall was made in the Spring of this year by Henry Anson. He then built the house, a log one, lately owned and occupied by Samuel Dwight, and made a pre-emption of the land now covered by the town. While Mr. Anson was cutting the logs and building his house he had to make his living off of "hog and hominy."

In 1851 the County Seat was located at Marietta. A controversy immediately sprang up between that place and Marshall in regard to the County Seat, and continued for several years, much of the time with great bitterness, until it was finally settled by the removal of the County Seat to Marshall on the last day of December 1859. The ill feeling engendered is fast dying out, and our county no longer distracted with strong counter interests and local broils, is on the highway to wealth and prosperity.

RELICS OF FRENCH REVOLUTIONISTS.—A discovery of some historical importance has just been made in Paris. The bones of Robespierre, St. Just, and Lebas were found by some masons who were laying the foundation of a house at the corner of Rue de Rocher, in the Batignolles. It was there the remains of these men, who performed so remarkable a part in the first Revolution were deposited, the churchyard of the Madeleine being too full at the time of their execution to receive any more corpses. Public balls were held for many years at the place where the skeletons were discovered.

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