

Grave of a Pawnee Chief

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I am privileged to quote from a private letter written by Charles L. Kelsey, Balboa, California, under date of August 30, 1951. He resided at Missouri Valley, Iowa, for many years. The informative portion reads:

Wish I had thought to have told you about the Pawnee chief found in a sitting position on the high point of the hill directly above and north of Mr. Epperson's new house on the highway just out of town. This find was by George H. and Harold Culavin and their father, of Missouri Valley.

The skeleton was accompanied by a flint spear point, some arrowheads and drilled bear claws, and a short, rusty, iron tube, thought to have been a gun. Also, there were two tiny infant's skeletons, wrapped in what appeared to have been some kind of hide.

Dr. Keyes happened to be in the vicinity at the time, and on hearing about it, he examined the find and in my presence gave George \$5.00 for the exceptionally tall Indian's bones, which George had in a bushel basket on the back porch.

Confirmation of Mr. Kelsey's statements may be found in the *Geology of Harrison and Monona counties*, by Prof. Bohimel Shimick, (1913), pp. 413-414. His description of the find and the material excavated was as follows:

A particularly interesting mound was carefully examined by Mr. George H. Culavin of Missouri Valley. It was discovered on the ridge north of the entrance to Snyders Hollow about eighty-five feet above the valley, and contained the skeleton of an adult male and parts of skeletons of two children.

The large skeleton, which is now in the collection of the State University, was buried in a sitting or reclining posture, facing toward the south. The skull was about three feet below the surface, and above it, evidently intended for protection, was a layer of much decayed bur oak sticks and small logs, some of them reaching more than six inches in diameter. Mussel-shells were found in the upper stratum, and

fragments were also strewn on the slope near the mound. The skeleton is almost complete and evidently belonged to an individual whose height exceeded six feet. The limb bones were long and rather slender, like those which are commonly found in the mounds of this region. The right forearm was crippled as the radius was broken and the ends failed to unite. The skull is in fine condition, and contains teeth which are remarkably regular and perfect, though somewhat worn with age.

Various articles of interest accompanied the skeleton. There were two pipestone pipes; more than two dozen perforated bony cores of bears' claws, which evidently formed a necklace; a bone scraper; a mass of ochre which was so shaped and situated that it had evidently been carried at the belt in front in a pouch; a badly rusted tube, which probably formed the barrel of a short rifle or long pistol; a wooden key of some musical string instrument with flattened head and wrapped with flattened wire; several small hawk-bells; a flint arrowhead; flattened copper tubes—probably bangles; a mink's skull and two smaller skulls—probably belonging to the weasel; the lower mandible of a large bird; and various unidentifiable metallic fragments.

The Indian graves that I opened in the vicinity were Cherokee and Sioux. All of the "wheel burials" were Cherokee. This was not only my opinion, but also that of Fred Yocum of Logan, and A. V. Jensen of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Some skulls from the Bone valley, much older than the above find, one mile north of Missouri Valley, Iowa, on the farm of Amand McIntosh, were sent to Washington, D.C., to Dr. Alex Hedlicka for classification. He said they were Iowa Sioux, and since so many of the forty-odd skulls were adult female, the moot question arose as to the cause of demise. The bones were water-strewn and exposed in a ditch for one hundred yards. Mr. Kelsey was the discoverer.

The St. John creek flowing north into the Boyer river had exposed numerous other skulls, which boys with target rifles had burst in practice shooting.

Incidentally, it was from the sands in this creek that Jack DeWitt and the writer panned some very fine flower gold. The samples of this gold are to be seen in a vial in the Pottawattamie county Log Cabin Museum.

Iowans in National Statuary Hall

Absence of essential data as to representative Iowans officially designated and assigned to positions in the National Statuary Hall at Washington, D.C., recently occasioned research upon this subject by the ANNALS editor, the results of which merit definite recording.

It was by an act of congress on July 2, 1864, that the president of the United States was authorized to invite all the states to provide statues, not to exceed two in each state, "of deceased persons who had been citizens thereof and illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military service," to make such designation and present to the government these marble or bronze statues.

In line with this action the old house chamber in the national capitol was reserved for this purpose and renamed the National Statuary Hall. It is a semi-circular room 96 feet in diameter, extended on the flat side by a colonnaded bay. During occupancy from 1807 to 1857 as the house of representatives chamber, the accoustics were found to be faulty, and to smother reverberations great curtains were hung between the columns on the south side.

In this historic hall Madison and Monroe were inaugurated presidents. Here John Quincy Adams was elected president, and here this aged ex-president was stricken with paralysis during a roll call in 1848, dying at his post of duty, a metal plate in the floor marking the spot where he fell. Due to over-crowding, some of the numerous statues of statesmen and other notables were removed later to the Hall of Columns, which serves as a monumental foyer to the south portal of the capitol, also to the several principal floor corridors and elsewhere.

Compliance by Iowa with the president's request was somewhat tardy. Finally provision was made at separate times for the statues of Samuel J. Kirkwood and James Harlan, stalwart early Iowans, to repre-

sent the state in bronze in this capacity, funds being appropriated for that purpose. The Thirty-first General Assembly authorized the moulding of the statue for Kirkwood, and Governor Cummins signed the act April 5, 1906. The Thirty-second General Assembly followed suit by naming James Harlan for the second honor, the signing of this act, also by Governor Cummins, occurring March 20, 1907, the operation of the amendment to the state constitution providing for biennial elections bringing the two sessions of the legislature in consecutive years. No other Iowans were seriously considered for these honors, then regarded so well deserved by these two distinguished Hawkeye statesmen.

Kirkwood's outstanding service to the state and nation was acknowledged, beginning with aggressive leadership in the Iowa senate in 1856, then as governor in 1860-64 during the Civil war period, and again in 1875-77, following his term in the United States senate in 1865-67. He was described by James G. Blaine as "a man of truth, courage and devoted to love of country; distinguished for comprehensive intelligence, for clear foresight, for persuasive speech, for spotless integrity, for thorough acquaintance with the people; he was a model of efficiency."

When the legislature voted to issue \$800,000 in bonds to carry on Iowa's part in the war, only \$300,000 was expended, so strict and careful was his practice of economy, as the state's executive. Favoring the nomination and election of Lincoln, he was urged by John A. Kasson, though he did not need the letter of the latter, saying: "Pray be at Chicago, if possible, to aid and influence the indiscreet by your counsel." Taking his seat first in the United States senate in 1865, he succeeded James Harlan, who had resigned to take a seat in President Lincoln's cabinet as secretary of the Interior. Following his last term in the United States senate, 1877-81, he was appointed by President Garfield as secretary of the Interior, serving only a short time

as such in 1881-82, and then resigned. The bronze statue of him standing in the National Statuary Hall is the work of an Iowa sculptress—Vinnie Ream Hoxie.

The high tribute paid to the memory of James Harlan, likewise was well deserved. First prominent in Iowa as an educator, he was elected as its first superintendent of public instruction over Charles Mason, the first chief justice of the supreme court. He at once put into operation a sound and efficient school system, and established wise procedure in the handling of the state's school lands and educational funds.

Mr. Harlan was president of Iowa Wesleyan university at Mount Pleasant, in 1853; served as United States senator from Iowa from 1855 to 1865, and returned to the senate from the president's cabinet, serving from 1867-73; appointed by President Lincoln as secretary of the Interior just prior to the assassination of the latter, and his daughter Mary married Robert T. Lincoln. The statue provided as a memorial to the public life of Senator Harlan was first executed in clay and then in bronze, by Nellie V. Walker of Chicago, and occupying its place at the national capitol, reflects the signal honor conferred by his state.

Art is said to look to posterity for its approval. Should these statues endure, citizens of the remote future, if interested in these outstanding representations of the great men of Iowa and other commonwealths, will search the records and literature of the state's past, as well as the nation, wherein these men, with their own hands and deeds wrote the measure of their greatness. These statues, like monuments erected by admiring neighbors and a grateful people, symbolize the tributes of a state in recognition of the eminence of the attainments of those thus honored.

“Hawkeye” the Nickname for Iowans

The individual originally called “Hawkeye” was a white man, not an Indian, either brave or chief, although so credited by some. It was a nickname applied to early settlers of the Iowa district long after its first appearance in American literature as that of a heroic character given imperishable renown by J. Fenimore Cooper in *The Last of the Mohicans*, the most popular of his “Leather Stocking Tales.” They were published in America beginning in 1826, and later in England, and created a furor in British and French literary circles, where the character of the American Indian was a novelty.

According to Cooper’s story, the Delaware Indians bestowed the name of “Hawkeye” upon a white scout and trapper, who lived and hunted with them, who also braved their perils in war against the Iroquois and Hurons. The incidents related by Cooper “occurred during the third year of the war which England and France last waged for the possession of a country that neither was destined to retain.” Of himself the scout said: “I am the man that got the name Nathaniel from my kin; the compliment of ‘Hawkeye’ from the Delawares, and whom the Iroquois have presumed to style ‘Long Rifle.’”

Twelve years after the publication of Cooper’s book, Iowa and its people, in 1838, acquired the sobriquet “Hawkeye,” through suggestion and publicity by Judge David Rorer of Burlington, a scholarly and cultured man of literary attainments, assisted by James G. Edwards, the talented and alert editor of the *Fort Madison Patriot*, who in 1843 moved his paper to Burlington and changed its name to the *Burlington Hawk-eye*. Subsequently frequent references to Iowa as the “Hawkeye State” were made in the paper at the suggestion of Judge Rorer. This was done to popularize the nickname and to prevent citizens of other states giving Iowa a more opprobrious title, similar to that

by which the people of Missouri are frequently designated even to this day. The judge wrote a series of lively letters to other Iowa papers signed "A Wolverine Among the Hawkeyes," referring Iowans thus, which were widely read, quoted and commented upon.

The nickname received formal approval at a meeting of prominent state officials and others who gathered at the rooms of Governor Lucas in the Burlington House in the fall of 1838. Among those present besides Lucas were: W. B. Conway, territorial secretary; Ver Planck Van Antwerp, receiver of public moneys; Joseph Williams, supreme court justice; T. S. Parvin and Jesse Williams, secretaries and aides of the governor, and James G. Edwards. The matter of perpetuating a nickname for Iowa was discussed. After various sobriquets were mentioned, "Hawkeye" was proposed and all agreed upon its appropriateness.

Burlington Rated Several "Firsts"

The city of Burlington has a distinguished place, not only in the early history of the state of Iowa, but also in the history of the settlement of the Middle West as a whole. Long before it became a white man's town, it had been an Indian center and for that reason became at a very early time an important trading-post.

After the Middle West began to be organized, the area in which Burlington stood belonged to the vast territory of Michigan; and when a large portion of the latter was cut off to form the territory of Wisconsin the whole of Iowa was included in it.

Wisconsin held its first territorial legislature in 1836, at Belmont, and during its sessions Madison was selected as the first capital. But the necessary public buildings at Madison were not completed—they could not be until 1839—therefore the new legislature met at Burlington, the first meeting on November 6, 1837, the second on June 11, 1838. Thus it was that Burlington became for a brief period the capital of a territory,

out of which the states of Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota later were carved.

For such reasons it was historically fitting that the first Masonic lodge in the territory of what is now the state of Iowa should be organized in Burlington. Theodore Parvin described the event at length and in detail in an article contributed by him in *The Evergreen Magazine*, in 1868, which was only three years after the end of the Civil war.—H. L. Haywood in *Masonic Grand Lodge Bulletin*.

Jefferson Advocated Economy

I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt as the greatest of dangers to be feared. To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our choice between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debts we must be taxed in our meat and drink, in our necessities and in our comforts, in our labors and in our amusements. If we can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of caring for them, they will be happy. The same prudence which in private life would forbid our paying our money for unexplained projects, forbids it in the disposition of public money.—Thomas Jefferson, (1816).

Deadwood Dates "Wild Bill" Hickok

Up at Deadwood, South Dakota on June 21, 1951, occurred the dedication of a twice-life size Black Hills granite bust of James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, the unique character that gave that area much of its color in the early days. The gift of George Hunter, a prominent Deadwood citizen, the heroic figure is the work of sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski. The occasion marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of the arrival of "Wild Bill" and his party in Deadwood, as well as the year of the gold rush to that locality.

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