



*Your very truly
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ALONZO ABERNETHY.

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IOWA UNDER TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE REMOVAL OF THE INDIANS.*

BY COL. ALONZO ABERNETHY.

THE PURCHASE OF LOUISIANA.

The territory from which the State of Iowa was formed became a part of the United States through the Louisiana Purchase of April 30, 1803. The title was acquired subject to the rights of the Indians who were in possession.

This acquisition was a marvelous one in many respects. In area it more than doubled the territory of the United States; adding 1,171,931 square miles to its previous area of 827,844 square miles. The fertility of its soil and the possibilities of cultivation were incomparably greater. It came practically as a gift from the great Napoleon, to save him from the prospective humiliation of its capture by the English. The Westerners had blazed their way down the Ohio, and into the Mississippi valley. New Orleans was the only outlet for their produce, but an order had been issued to close the Mississippi. "The French Intendant at New Orleans deliberately threw down the gage of battle to the Westerners. They at once united in earnest protest against this injustice. They threatened to organize an army of invasion to capture New Orleans. President Jefferson had dispatched Monroe to France to try to buy the city with a little territory adjoining on the east, but before he reached Paris Napoleon said to Livingston, our minister, "I will sell you Louisiana." Without authority to buy, without money to pay, Livingston hesitated. "Jefferson had led his party into power as the special champion of States' Rights, and the special opponent of national sovereignty." Impatiently Napoleon pressed his offer to sell, and after some parleying, \$15,000,000 was named in the treaty of purchase. This province cost our government less than two cents an acre. It solved some national and some international problems that had already become acute and serious. Most of all, it settled in the simplest possible manner

* This paper was read at the tenth biennial meeting of the Pioneer Law Makers' Association.

and for all time, the civil, industrial, and international status of North America. It dedicated the continent to governments "of the people, by the people, for the people." It made later acquisitions easy and natural. At the end of a century, the power and possibilities given this government by that purchase, over the destiny of humanity, are beginning to be revealed.

IOWA TERRITORY UNDER SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS.

Our Iowa part of this territory, about one-twentieth, passed under various names in its progress toward statehood, eight altogether. In the original treaty of cession it was termed, the colony or province of Louisiana, or simply Louisiana. March 26, 1804, Congress passed an act dividing the territory; that lying north of the 33d degree of north latitude being organized as the District of Louisiana, and attached for civil purposes to Indiana Territory, which at that time joined it on the east, and was under the administration of Mr. William Henry Harrison as territorial governor. The act to take effect October 1, 1804, and continue for one year. This act of Congress vesting the executive power in the governor of another territory was not satisfactory to the people of the district. They held that they were being placed under "the dictates of a foreign government," that is, across the river. They objected strongly also to the provision authorizing the President to arrange with Indian tribes owning lands east of the Mississippi to remove and settle on the west side. Congress accordingly made haste to give them a territorial government of their own, changing the name to the Territory of Louisiana, and providing for a governor, secretary, and three judges, and later some other civil officers. This act to take effect July 4, 1805.

This territory of Louisiana was continued until 1812, when the name was again changed to the Territory of Missouri, the act to take effect December 7 of that year, and giving additional powers to the governor and other executive officers, providing also for a legislative body to consist of two houses, the lower house to be elected by the people.

When Missouri was admitted as a state, August 10, 1821, the remainder of the Territory of Missouri was left practically

without any civil government. This was not, under the circumstances, so very serious an oversight, since about the only white people within its bounds, after Missouri had been cut off, were fur traders or trappers, who were as a rule scattered at long distances from each other over this vast territory. But now that Missouri was filling up on the south, and Illinois on the east, with the steady and ever-increasing army of invasion crowding westward, it was in the nature of things impossible for the fairest region in all this great western world to much longer remain the happy hunting grounds of the roving and untutored red men, in their eager and exultant pastime of scalping each other.

June 28, 1834, Congress rather tardily attached this region to the Territory of Michigan for the purpose of temporary government.

In the meantime, however, the barrier of the Mississippi had been removed, and what is now eastern Iowa had been opened up for settlement, and for thirteen months a steady stream of immigration had been pouring across the river and spreading itself out everywhere miles away to the west.

Two months after the organization of this Territory a Legislative Council convened at Detroit and organized two counties west of the Mississippi—called the Iowa District—divided by a line running due west from the lower end of Rock Island. They were named Des Moines and Dubuque, and constituted each a township, namely, Flint Hills, and Julien. This act gave the first semblance of government to this new district, and soon led to important results. George W. Jones was sent as a delegate to Congress the next year and soon secured the law creating the Territory of Wisconsin, which took effect July 3, 1836, covering the same territory as the former, with a portion left out which a few months later became the state of Michigan. Governor Henry Dodge of the new Territory ordered a census in the following August, which showed a population of 10,531 within the district. But meantime not a township of its land had been surveyed. This Wisconsin Territory continued just two years, and was followed July 3, 1838, by the Territory of Iowa, eliminating from the former territory what is now the state of Wisconsin. Thus

cut down, Iowa embraced still all that portion of the original territory of Louisiana lying between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, extending from the northern boundary of the state of Missouri on the south to the British possessions on the north; that is, all of Iowa, all of Minnesota west of the Mississippi river and a line drawn due north from its source, and all of the Dakotas east of the Missouri and White Earth rivers.

At this date not a quarter section of land had been offered for sale by the government, though a census taken the previous May showed a population of 22,859. December 28, 1846, the State of Iowa was formed with its present boundaries.

INDIAN OCCUPANCY AND OWNERSHIP.

During the forty-three years from the Louisiana Purchase to the organization of our state the Indians had exclusive control for thirty years and partial control the remaining thirteen. Their right to the territory occupied was recognized from the first, notwithstanding the slender grounds for any very valid claim, oftentimes based largely on their ability to drive away other claimants who also wanted the same territory for occasional use as hunting ground.

Forts were established and occupied by United States troops, successively on the border, at Fort Madison, Rock Island, and Prairie du Chien, at an early day; and later at Council Bluffs in 1839, Fort Atkinson in 1840, Des Moines in 1843, and Ft. Dodge in 1849, to protect the Indians from the encroachments of whites and to guard frontier settlements in territory already ceded, from depredations of the Indians.

The early Presidents all voiced the sentiments of the people generally in their solicitude for the future of the aborigines found here at the time of the discovery. President Monroe, who had earlier proposed to colonize the Indians west of the Mississippi, "as they would never be disturbed there by white men," said to Congress in 1825:

Being deeply impressed with the opinion that the removal of the Indian tribes from the lands which they now occupy within the limits of the several states and territories, is of very high importance to our Union, and may be accomplished on conditions and in a manner to promote the interest and happiness of those tribes; the attention of

the government has been long drawn, with great solicitude to the subject. Experience has clearly demonstrated that in their present state it is impossible to incorporate them in such masses, in any form whatever, into our system. The great object to be accomplished is the removal of these tribes on conditions which shall be satisfactory to themselves, and honorable to the government.

It has been estimated that there were as many as ten thousand Indians who claimed their home in Iowa when the first treaties were made for their removal. Some estimates make the number as high as fifteen thousand. Prior to June 1, 1833, the entire territory of Iowa was in the undisputed possession of the Indians—Sacs and Foxes mainly—while north of their territory, in what is now northern Iowa and Minnesota, were the hunting grounds of various tribes of the Sioux. Boundary lines were unknown to the savages and bloody conflicts between these hostile and warlike tribes were of frequent occurrence as they made incursions upon each other's territory.

Mr. Willard Barrows, United States Deputy Surveyor, Cincinnati, Ohio, in his Notes on Iowa, published in 1845 with map, says:

It was not till the summer of 1833 that any Indian title was extinguished to the territory of Iowa. The country had been in possession of various Indian tribes for centuries; its rich and fertilizing soil had for ages drank the blood of contending foes for possession. Its hills and valleys, its rivers and prairies, have witnessed the most bloody conflicts ever fought by the savages of our western world, as the numerous battle grounds that everywhere strew the land will testify.

THE NEUTRAL LINE.

The government had begun early in the century, through its Indian agents and other officers, to check the spirit of savagery between the more hostile tribes, and various treaties of "peace and amity" had been concluded with them when Gov. William Clark of St. Louis, then Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and Gov. Lewis Cass of Michigan Territory, negotiated a treaty with various Indian tribes at Prairie du Chien, August 19, 1825, by which it was agreed that the government should run a line between the Sioux on the north, and the confederated tribes of the Sacs and Foxes on the south, which

should be a boundary between their countries. Section 2 of this treaty read as follows:

It is agreed between the confederated tribes of the Sacs and Foxes, and the Sioux that the line between their respective countries shall be as follows: Commencing at the mouth of the Upper Ioway river, on the west bank of the Mississippi, and ascending the said Ioway river to its left fork, thence up that fork to its source, thence crossing the fork of the Red Cedar river in a direct line to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines river, and thence on a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet (Big Sioux) river; down that river to its junction with the Missouri river.

The line provided for in the above excerpt was surveyed by Nathan Boone, United States Deputy Surveyor, beginning April 19, 1832, as follows:

Beginning at a point inaccessible in the middle of the main channel of the Upper Iowa and its confluence with the Mississippi river, thence running up the Iowa river, south 62 degrees and 20 minutes west, 23 miles and 20 chains to a big spring near the mouth of the left hand fork of that river, 50 links wide. On the lower side of the fork is a cliff about 20 feet high. Thence up said left hand fork, south 17 degrees and 15 minutes east, 8 miles and 20 chains, thence south 73 degrees and 15 minutes west, 133 miles and 43 chains to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines river.*

The first point named is supposed to be the mouth of Trout Run in or near Section 9, Township 98, Range 7, about six miles below Decorah, Winneshiek county; the second, in or near Section 23-97-7; the next section of the line ran to the Des Moines river. Capt. Boone in his Field Notes describing this latter line says:

From this point ran a random line south 75 degrees west, to strike the second or upper fork of the Des Moines river—ran this line 130 miles and 46 chains to the east bank of the second or upper fork of the Des Moines river, 150 links wide, running southwest, which was found to be 4 miles and 5 chains northerly of the said fork. Thence a meandered line to the upper or second fork of the river, making the length of the true line 133 miles, 43 chains from the source of the left hand fork of the Upper Iowa river to the upper or second fork of the river Des Moines. Here established a corner on the east side and at the junction of said fork with the river Des Moines and planted

*Surveyor's Field Notes. Copies of the Field Notes kindly furnished the writer from the Office of Indian Affairs at Washington, for the preparation of this paper, are deposited in the State Historical Department at Des Moines.

a post in prairie at high water mark, on the southwest side of a natural mound of from 40 to 50 feet in width at base and 10 feet in height. Immediately opposite this mound is the head or upper point of an island, the main channel of the river passes on the east side of the island. The true line from this point to the head of the left hand fork of the Iowa river is north 73 degrees, 15 minutes east.

The point was also witnessed by two elm trees standing near the post—one 24 inches in diameter, the other 12 inches; but these trees have probably long since disappeared.

This point is doubtless at the confluence of the east and west forks of the Des Moines, in Section 19-91-28, three miles below Dakota City in Humboldt county. No other forks on the river would comply with the length and direction of the lines given in the Field Notes. A number of early maps which show this neutral line and the boundaries of the neutral ground on either side of it have been consulted, and all corroborate this view; among the number are Lieut. Albert M. Lea's Map of 1836, John Plumbe's and J. H. Colton's Maps of 1839, J. H. Colton's and Jesse Williams' Maps of 1840, Newhall's Map of 1841, Willard Barrows' Map of 1845.*

Lieut. Lea's map shows the mouth of the Lizard a few miles below the line of the Boone survey of the neutral line, the mouth of the Boone river 12 or 15 miles below the southern boundary of the neutral ground, and the north line touching Clear Lake on the north.

Part II of the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology for 1896-97, Plate 131, contains a small map of Iowa showing these and later Indian boundaries, but rather inaccurately drawn.

The remainder of the treaty line—"and thence in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet river; and down that river to its junction with the Missouri river"—was never run. It was expressly stipulated in the same article of the treaty that this line was not to be considered as settled until the assent of the Yancton band should be given. And if the said band should refuse their assent, the arrangement of that portion of the boundary line should be void and the right of the parties to the country bounded thereby should be the same as if no provision had been made for an extension of the line

*The libraries of the State Historical Department at Des Moines, and of the State Historical Society at Iowa City, contain each very interesting and valuable collections of these early maps of Iowa.

west of the forks of the Des Moines river. By the eleventh article of that treaty (1825) a council was to be held with the Yancton band of Sioux, during the year 1826, to explain to them the stipulations of the treaty and to procure their assent thereto, should they be disposed to give it, but no record is on file in this office that such a council was ever held.*

THE NEUTRAL GROUND.

A second treaty of peace and amity was held at Prairie du Chien, July 15, 1830, at which the Sioux Indians ceded a tract 20 miles in width north of the neutral line, and the Sacs and Foxes a like tract south of the line, between the Mississippi and the Des Moines rivers; this forty mile tract to be held as neutral ground. Both lines were run in three sections as the neutral line had been, and parallel to it. The northern boundary began at the Mississippi 20 miles north of the Upper Iowa, the first section being 44 miles and 41.50 chains in length, apparently terminating in the northwest corner of Winneshiek county. The second was 5 miles and 40 chains long, and the west section 127 miles in length, passing south of Osage, north of Mason City, and touching the north bank of Clear Lake at one point, and reaching the Des Moines near the southeast corner of Palo Alto county.

The southern boundary of the neutral ground began on the west bank of the Mississippi river at a stake 5.40 chains southeast of a very noted rock of about 200 feet in height. This conspicuous cliff was known as Painted Rock, on which was drawn at some very early date the figure of an animal, and the word "Tiger" with some other names and symbols. Judge Murdock said the painting was there in 1843, and looked ancient at that time. This rock is in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 3-96-3, about half a mile north of Waukon Junction in Allamakee county. The survey was commenced by Nathan Boone, June 19, 1832, from the mouth of the Upper Iowa to Painted Rock and two miles west where he set a two mile post, when he quit work in consequence of the hostility of the Indians. September 8, 1833, James Craig resumed the survey at the point where Major Boone left off, running the line south 62 degrees 20 minutes

*Letter from Commissioner of Indian Affairs, March 23, 1906.

west 19 miles further, where he planted the twenty-one mile post; thence south 17 degrees 15 minutes east 7 miles, crossing the Turkey river on the seventh mile; thence south 73 degrees and 15 minutes west, 125 miles and 33 chains to the Des Moines river. The first section of this line passed near the town of Luana, to about Section 27-95-6; the next to Section 36-94-6, in Meadow and Marion townships, Clayton county. The southwest corner of the neutral ground, that is, the point where the southern boundary reached the Des Moines, is easily and accurately determined by the surveyor's field notes recording the meanderings of the river north to the post established by Capt. Boone in the earlier survey. This survey begins four miles above the mouth of the Boone river at the northeast corner of the northern loop of the river, in Section 15-87-27, and follows the various windings of the river throughout, as they are given in the new maps of Webster and Humboldt counties in the Iowa State Atlas of 1904. The line passed very near the present towns of Fayette and Iowa Falls.

CESSION OF WESTERN IOWA.

Another clause of this treaty of July 15, 1830, was as follows:

The said tribes (Sacs and Foxes) cede and relinquish to the United States forever all their right and title to the lands lying within the following boundary, to-wit: Beginning at the upper fork of the Des Moines river, and passing the sources of the Little Sioux and Floyd rivers to the fork of the first creek which falls into the big Sioux or Calumet on the east side; thence down said creek and Calumet river to the Missouri; thence down said Missouri river to the Missouri state line, above the Kansas; thence along said line to the northwest corner of the said state;* thence to the high lands between the waters falling into the Missouri and Des Moines, passing on said high lands along the dividing ridge between the forks of the Grand river, thence along said high lands or ridge separating the waters of the Missouri from those of the Des Moines, to a point opposite the source of the Boyer river, and thence in a direct line to the upper fork of the Des Moines, the place of beginning. But it is understood that the lands ceded and relinquished by this treaty are to be assigned and allotted under the direction of the President of the United States, to the tribes now living thereon, or to such other tribes as the President may locate thereon for hunting and other purposes.

*At this date the western boundary of Missouri extended both north and south from the mouth of the Kansas.

The above described cession, though not made for the purpose of opening this large western section of our state to the settlement of whites, finally facilitated such a result fifteen years later.

THE HALF-BREED TRACT.

A treaty had been signed at Washington, August 4, 1824, with the Sacs and Foxes providing that: "the small tract of land lying between the rivers Des Moines and Mississippi, and the extension of the state boundary line of Missouri, is intended for the use of the half-breeds belonging to the Sac and Fox nation." This treaty was made for the benefit of the families of early traders and trappers who had married Indian women. The tract contained 113,000 acres, and was held by them until 1834.

THE BLACK HAWK PURCHASE.

The first land in Iowa acquired by the government from the Indians for the purpose of opening it to permanent settlement, consisted of a tract extending along the Mississippi from the northern boundary of Missouri to the southern boundary of the neutral ground about 50 miles wide, and called the Black Hawk Purchase. The Keokuk Reserve, a strip 10 by 40 miles in extent along the lower Iowa river, about half being on each side, and extending down to Wapello's village below the present site of Wapello in Louisa county, was reserved from this purchase. This tract was surveyed in October, 1835, by Charles DeWard, Assistant Surveyor; commencing at a point on the northern boundary of the state of Missouri, 50 miles west of the Mississippi, and 9.90 chains east of the 122d mile of the boundary, thence on a course north 28 degrees east, 95 miles and 43.15 chains to the intersection of the Red Cedar river 40 miles from the Mississippi, and thence north 29 degrees 15 minutes west, 75 miles and 14.50 chains to the intersection of the south line of the neutral ground; thence along that line 27 miles and 50 chains to the Turkey river, and along said south boundary to Painted Rock. The southern terminus of this line was 28 miles and 30 chains west of the Des Moines river, and about 5 miles west of the southwest corner of Van Buren county. The angle was near

where the Cedar river crosses the east line of Johnson county, and the northwest terminus, in the northern part of Fremont township, 92-10 in Fayette county.

The treaty by which this tract was acquired was negotiated September 21, 1832, by Gen. Winfield Scott,* and Gov. John Reynolds of Illinois, with the Sacs and Foxes and Winnebagos, at a council held on the west bank of the Mississippi, where Davenport now stands.

The council had been called at Rock Island, but the meeting was changed to the west side of the river because the small-pox had broken out among the troops on the island. This purchase of some five million acres cost the government ten or twelve cents an acre. The treaty was ratified by Congress February 13, 1833, and the Indians gave possession June 1. This tract seems to have been demanded of the Indians as a kind of indemnity for the expenses of the recent Black Hawk war.

September 28, 1836, Gov. Henry Dodge made a treaty with the Sacs and Foxes at Davenport, for the purchase of the Keokuk Reserve; and secured possession November 1 following. Young James W. Grimes was secretary of this council. This tract of 256,000 acres cost \$195,988, about seventy-seven cents an acre.

SECOND BLACK HAWK PURCHASE.

October 21, 1837, another treaty was made at Washington, D. C., for the cession of an additional 1,250,000 acre tract adjoining the Black Hawk Purchase on the west; the northern and southern points to correspond with the northwest and southwest corners of the former purchase, the lines to meet at a point west of the angle, and about twenty-five miles distant.

This tract was partially surveyed by Chas. Bracken in 1839. The line ran from a point on the Red Cedar river, 40 miles from the Mississippi, west 25 miles, 51.10 chains; thence north 9 degrees 55 minutes west, 69 miles, 2.32 chains; thence with the cession line of 1832,

*The writer well remembers seeing Gen. Scott and being greatly impressed with the majestic appearance of this one of his early heroes, as he was passing through Ohio during the presidential campaign of 1848. The governor, Lewis Cass, also previously mentioned, was another boyhood hero, viewed with awe at an earlier date as he was traveling through Ohio in his private carriage from Detroit to Washington while representing Michigan in the U. S. Senate.

south $29\frac{1}{4}$ degrees east 75 miles, 14.50 chains to beginning. This constituted the upper half of the cession and contained 544,035.84 acres. The survey was then suspended on account of sickness of the surveyor.*

The south leg of the western boundary crossed the Des Moines river at the old town of Iowaville, a mile above Selma in Van Buren county.

This tract cost some twenty cents an acre. Thus was opened for settlement five months after Iowa Territory was created nearly three hundred townships of land, which was about one-fifth of what eight years later became the state of Iowa.

PURCHASE OF CENTRAL IOWA TERRITORY.

When, however, the government had once removed the Mississippi barrier, and permitted the steadily advancing army of civilization to plant its feet on the nether banks of the Father of Waters, no second halting place could long be maintained within the beautiful land, short of the Missouri, and the government agents were kept busy seeking new treaties. At the end of another four years so many had come into the new territory to find homes, and crowding up to the borders, while wild game was seeking refuge in the forests of western rivers, that when Gov. John Chambers met the Sac and Fox Indians at their agency near the Des Moines, ten miles west of the border, and a few miles east of where Ottumwa now stands, October 11, 1842, he was finally able to convince them that Iowa would no longer afford them hunting grounds suited to their needs; and a treaty was concluded by which they conveyed all their remaining lands in Iowa to the United States. They were to vacate the eastern portion May 1, 1843, and the remainder October 11, 1845. The line of division was to be: "A line running due north and south from the Painted or Red Rocks on the White Breast fork of the Des Moines river, which rocks will be found about eight miles, when reduced to a straight line, from the junction of the White Breast with the Des Moines."

The red rocks, however, were found to be, not on the White Breast which enters the Des Moines from the south, but on the

*18th Annual Report, Bureau of Ethnology, Pt. 2, p. 767.

north side of the Des Moines itself, about eight miles above the mouth of White Breast creek, to follow the river, or 5 1-3 miles in a direct line. There are no other such rocks in the county nor indeed in the state. They form a very conspicuous ledge of deep red sand-stone, just such as would become a landmark to these roving peoples, and known far and wide; and are situated very near the center of Section 35-77-20, in Marion county. The line ran about a mile west of Knoxville and struck the south boundary of the neutral ground three miles west of Ackley in Hardin county. The late Senator Alfred Hebard of Red Oak, Iowa, was present at the negotiation of this treaty and signed it as a witness.

The Indians generally removed as they agreed, only about two hundred remaining beyond the allotted time, and they soon left. Before the first day of May, 1843, large numbers of white people assembled along the border, awaiting the hour when they could enter the portion of the new purchase then thrown open. Up to that date United States soldiers guarded the Indian country from intruders, as ten years previously they had guarded the Black Hawk Purchase. Eager for the choicest locations, some explorers, when the midnight hour struck, crossed the border with blazing torches, and set stakes, and blazed trees, to mark their claims. The rest of the Purchase was guarded by United States troops until the time fixed by the treaty for the removal of all the Indians, when there was another rush for choice locations.*

Two treaties of purchase and removal were made in 1846; one, June 5, by Col. Peter A. Sarpy, at Trader's Point on the Missouri river, in Mills county, with the Pottawattamies, for the re-purchase of the 5,000,000 acre tract on which they had been located by the government in 1835, and their removal within two years to Kansas; and another, by which the Winnebagoes, October 13, 1846, ceded their lands in the neutral grounds along the Upper Iowa, Turkey, Wapsipinecon, and Cedar rivers, for territory on the St. Peter's river in Minnesota, from which they were removed in 1848.

When the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of the Sioux finally surrendered the Spirit Lake country, by treaty of July 23, 1851, more than 200,000 white people had homes in Iowa, yet a year later than that even, a fierce battle was fought

*Dr. Wm. Salter's "Iowa, the First Free State in the Louisiana Purchase," p. 251.

twenty miles northeast of Algona in Kossuth county, between a band of Musquakies and a party of Sioux who had come to hunt on the Upper Des Moines. They defeated their enemies, leaving sixteen dead Sioux to be scalped by their victors, left on the field and never buried nor removed.

Allusion was made above to the fact that when Iowa Territory was organized in 1838, 23,000 people were residing within its bounds on the 6,000,000 or more acres previously opened for settlement by the first and second Black Hawk Purchases; and that the government was not yet ready to sell an acre of land. The people had simply gone in and selected their claims, some of them—many of them—had been there waiting to buy for more than five years. Homesteaders in those days had no special privileges, as in later years, of securing their homesteads without cost, nor even to buy at a fixed price. The law then provided that when the lands had been surveyed, and land offices opened, the lands must all be offered at public auction, to the highest bidder; no bid to be accepted for less than \$1.25 an acre.

The first surveyors who entered the Black Hawk Purchase to lay off township lines came in the autumn of 1836, after Gov. Dodge's census takers had recorded the names of 10,531 residents.

At the end of two years' surveying enough land had been divided into quarter sections to open land offices. One was opened at Dubuque, November 5, 1838, and the other at Burlington, November 19, 1838.

At the Dubuque office twenty-three townships were placed on sale, in townships ranging from 78 to 92, and ranges from 1 to 8.

At the Burlington office twenty-five townships were placed on sale, in townships ranging from 67 to 77, and ranges from 1 to 10.

October 21, 1839, six more townships were placed on sale, all at the Burlington office; and in 1840, 140 additional townships had been divided up and were placed on sale.

There are many interesting phases connected with the early history of Iowa, including the character of the pioneers, methods of travel in those days, kinds of homes first occupied,

occupations of the emigrants, means of subsistence, absence of both market and marketable products, the unique and effective methods adopted by the homesteaders for adjusting their claims after the surveyor's lines had been run, and of securing their farms at the lowest price without competitive bidding. Most of these can be gleaned from the current histories of the State, *THE ANNALS OF IOWA*, the Historical Record of Iowa, and the interesting volumes published for the last twenty years by the Pioneer Law Makers' Association.

A POWER PRESS.—A queer looking article was hauled up in a wagon before the entrance to the Globe Building yesterday, which for a time was the observed of all observers. It was evident to every one that it was some sort of a machine, but whether for grinding corn, threshing wheat, or splitting shingles, various and conflicting were the conjectures. Although quiet looking enough perched up in the wagon, it was regarded with a sort of suspicious uneasiness, till a printer from the Herald office, recognizing the appearance of the stranger, smiled a welcome and approached it with extended arm. Suspicion was at once superceded by a conviction that it had some relation to the art of arts. And so it has. It is a Power Press, the first in the State of Iowa, we believe, brought hither by the proprietors of the Dubuque Herald to keep pace with the increase of job work in this place, and to do it at such prices as will enable every person to help along his business, by circulating cards, circulars, etc., among the people. This machine will probably be in operation in a few days, when the public will be invited to gratify their curiosity.—*Dubuque Daily Herald, January, 1854.*

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