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## THE EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

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(Continued from page 254.)

The Pottawattamie, Chippewa, Ottawa, and Winnebago Indians.

THE Pottawattamies, who for a short time lived in Iowa, were once a powerful nation. Their early history is very obscure, but previous to their coming to Iowa, they resided in Indiana, the southern part of Michigan, and the eastern part of Illinois. The United States has probably had more business transactions with these Indians than with any other nation. They were received into the friendship and protection of the government by a treaty held with them on the 9th of January, 1789; and since that time, and previous to their removal to Iowa, the government held thirty-five treaties with the Indians of this nation.

In 1755, the French, Pottawattamies, and other Indians of the west were combined in a war against England, which caused a gloomy prospect for the future growth of the colonies, and the emigration to the west for a time was nearly cut off. To retrieve their possessions in the west, the British authorities sent out two regiments of veteran soldiers, under command of General Edward Braddock, "who had learned the art of war on the battle-fields of Europe, but

had little idea of Indian warfare." He landed at Alexandria with much pomp and show, and, being "clothed with the fullest power by the king," he was treated with the greatest attention by the governors and officers of the colonies, and the expectation of success reached the highest pitch. With the skill of an experienced general, Braddock soon had everything in readiness, and, with unusual dispatch, marched with his army across the Alleghenies, and was descending the Monongahela, when, on the 9th of July, they met with the combined force of the enemy, who were concealed in ambush. In an almost incredibly short time, seven hundred men and their officers lay dead on the field, and the advanced column, panic-stricken, commenced a flight, which nothing could check. "The general himself fell, and that proud army, which in the early morning had crossed the Monongahela in gallant array, with drums beating and colors flying, fled like sheep before wolves—abandoning their cannon, their ammunition, and their wounded to the unmerciful foe." Prominent among the red men of the west who achieved this signal victory, were the Pottawattamies.

In the war carried on against the English after Great Britain and France had made peace, under the lead of Pontiac, the Pottawattamies were among the first to join the confederacy, and took a prominent part in the siege against Detroit. In the summer of 1790, hostile demonstrations were apprehended from the Indians of the Wabash Valley, and Colonel Hammer was directed to advance into that country, and endeavor to bring them to terms. On the 30th of September, with a force of one thousand four hundred and fifty-three men, he left Fort Washington (Cincinnati), and when he arrived near the Miami of the Lakes (Maumee) he met with the combined force of the Pottawattamies, Shawnees, and Miamis, and he was forced to make a disorderly retreat, with a loss of nearly one-third of his men.

This invasion of their country by Hammer was considered by the Indians as a declaration of war; and the Pottawatta-

mies, notwithstanding they had been received into the friendship and protection of the United States government, joined the Miamis and others in hostilities against the whites.

Early in March, 1791, Arthur St. Clair, a brave and disciplined soldier, received a commission of Major General in the army of the United States, and, with a force of about twelve hundred men, was sent to subdue these Indians. On the 3d of November he arrived at St. Mary's river, and proceeded up its banks nine miles, where he encamped on an elevated piece of ground, in military order. He was attacked at this point the next morning, about half an hour before sunrise, and a furious and bloody battle ensued, which lasted until about nine o'clock, when St. Clair was forced to make a disorderly and hasty retreat, leaving nearly one-half of his men and sixty-four officers dead on the field of battle.

Subsequently another military force was sent against these Indians, under command of General Anthony Wayne, who gained a decisive victory over them. After this defeat, the Indians became inclined to negotiate for peace; and on the 3d of August, 1795, Wayne held a treaty with them, at which terms of peace were agreed upon. The prisoners on both sides were given up, and the Pottawattamies, in consideration for certain cessions of land, received an annuity of one thousand dollars.

On the breaking out of the war of 1812, the Pottawattamies at first seemed to hesitate about taking up arms; but immediately after the battle at Brownstown, Tecumseh sent a runner to them, claiming a victory, and informing them that General Hull had retreated to Detroit, and that there was every prospect of success. This intelligence at once led them to become allies of the British, and they immediately started for Detroit. General Hull, after the defeat, sent word to Captain Heald, in command of Fort Dearborn, at Chicago, informing him of his defeat, and ordered him to immediately distribute his stores among the Indians, and

retire to Fort Wayne. Captain Heald proceeded to carry out the orders of Hull, but, being suspicious of the integrity of the Indians, refused to give them the powder and spirits in his possession. On the 13th of August, 1812, everything being ready, the troops left the fort; but before they had proceeded more than a mile and a half, they met with the Pottawattamies, who were on their way to Detroit—the refusal to surrender the powder and liquor being made a pretense. Captain Heald and forces were immediately surrounded, and the whole party, which consisted of about sixty persons, including women and children, who followed the camp, with the exception of about fifteen, were killed on the spot, and all their baggage and stores fell into the hands of the Indians.

The Pottawattamies were active supporters of the British during the war, and their people suffered much cruelty in consequence. But after the treaty of Ghent, they again put themselves under the protection of the United States, and it was agreed between the two parties that injuries of the past should be “mutually forgiven and forgotten.”

#### THE<sup>1</sup> CHIPPEWAS.

The Chippewas (sometimes called the Ojibways), previous to the breaking out of the revolutionary war, resided about Lake Huron and the upper part of Lake Michigan, and from thence in a northwest course as far as Lake Superior and the head branches of the Mississippi river. At that time they were estimated to have five thousand warriors. They were described as “a fine race of men, tall in person, active hunters, brave and expert warriors, good arbiters, and shrewd counsellors; and have exercised a prominent part in Indian history.” When Pike explored the Mississippi, in 1805, he represented these Indians as being divided into many bands, called by the traders Sauteurs, Crees, Algonquins, Nepesangs, Ottawas, Iroquois, Chippewas, Muscononges, &c.

The Chippewas were the great and almost natural enemies of the Sioux, with whom they had been waging a war of extermination for a great portion of the time for nearly two centuries. To stop these deadly strifes and make peace had frequently been attempted by the British government, through the traders, who often brought the chiefs of the two nations together for this purpose; but the Sioux chief, haughty and overbearing, spurned the proffered calumet, and returned to the scenes of slaughter and barbarity, and the bloody strife went on. The superior numbers of the Sioux would have enabled them to have annihilated the Chippewas, had not the swampy nature of their country prevented an attack on horseback; and the Chippewas, being in close proximity to the whites, were better armed than their enemies, which gave them a decided advantage, for while the least twig or branch would turn the arrow of the Sioux out of its way, the whizzing bullet of the Chippewa held its course, and did not stop its force short of its destination.

#### THE OTTAWAS.

The Ottawas, though in some respects an independent nation, were identified in their lineage, language, history, manners, and customs with the Chippewas. In 1805, they resided on the northwest side of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, and hunted between these lakes and Lake Superior. At the earliest dates remembered in their tradition, the Attawas (or Ottawas) occupied the St. Lawrence, and afterwards the chain of Manitoulin Islands of Lake Huron, which lake was early called, by the Algonquin tribes, Ottawa Lake. "They at one time lived among the men called Pot-tawattamies, about the northern shore or head of Lake Michigan."

The United States government recognized these Indians by treaty as early as 1785, at which time they acknowledged themselves to be under the protection of the United States, and of no other sovereign whatsoever. The government never held a treaty with the entire tribe of these Indians,

as a nation by themselves, but all negotiation was carried on with them in connection with other nations, and mostly with the Chippewas and Pottawattamies.

The western Indians always parted with their land with much reluctance. Upon one occasion, when there was an effort made on the part of the government to purchase a large tract of land from the Pottawattamies, Metea, who was from the Wabash, was very much opposed to parting with any more of their land, and made a speech. "He was a man of tall, slender form, with a withered arm, and his sullen dignity of manner, relieved by sparkling black eyes, a good voice, and ready utterance, which gave him influence in his tribe." He arose in their council, and, addressing himself to General Cass, said: "My father, we first came to this country a long while ago, and when we set ourselves down upon it, we met with a great many hardships and difficulties. Our country was then very large, but now it has dwindled down to a very small spot, and you wish to buy that. This has caused us much reflection, and we bring all our chiefs and warriors and families to hear you. Since you first came among us, we have listened with attentive ears to your words—we have hearkened to your counsel. Whenever you have had a favor to ask of us, our answer has been invariably, 'yes.' A long time has passed since we came upon these lands—our old people have all sunk into their graves. They had sense; we are young and foolish, and would not do anything they would not approve, if living. We are all fearful we shall offend their spirits if we sell our lands—we are fearful we shall offend you if we do not. We do not know how to part with our lands. Our country was given to us by the Great Spirit to hunt upon, to make corn to live on, and, when life is over, to spread down our beds upon, and lie down. That Spirit would never forgive us if we should sell our lands. When you first spoke to us, at St. Mary's, we said we had a little land, and sold you a piece; but we told you we could spare no more. Now you ask us again—you are never

satisfied. Take notice, it is a small piece of land where we now live. It has been wasting away ever since the white people became our neighbors. We have now hardly enough to cover the bones of our tribe."

But the arguments of Metea at this treaty did not prevail, and the Indians were induced to sign a treaty, by which they parted with five millions acres of land. These negotiations were carried on with these Indians, and from time to time tracts of land purchased from them, until the 26th of September, 1833, when there was held, at Chicago, a treaty with the Ottawa, Chippewa, and Pottawattamie Indians of Illinois, at which these Indians sold out all their lands east of the Mississippi, with the exception of certain reservations, in place of which they were to have a tract of land on the western slope of Iowa, which was bounded on the south by the southern line of the state, and on the east by "the line of the lands belonging to the Sac and Fox Indians;" and from the state line north far enough to embrace five million acres of land.

In 1836 the Pottawattamies of the Wabash Valley, and the next year all the other bands of this nation, made treaties, by which they disposed of their reservations, and were the owners of no lands east of the Mississippi, and moved west. The aggregate population of the Pottawattamies in 1837, the time when the last of them left Indiana, was estimated to be three thousand, and the quantity of land which they individually, as a people, had disposed of, was 7,832,680 acres, for which they received from the government \$2,079,950. The whole number of Indians who removed to the western slope of Iowa, including Pottawattamies, Chippewas, and Ottawas was estimated to be six thousand.

It was the intention of the government, when it purchased the western slope of Iowa from the Sacs and Foxes, to keep it as a reservation for a permanent home for the Indians. But this being a rich and productive country, and the tide of emigration flowing rapidly into Iowa, the policy of the

government was changed, and it became an object to open up this country for settlement by the whites; and on the 5th of June, 1846, a treaty was closed for the purchase of these lands. The Indians who joined in this treaty, ceded to the United States all their lands "lying and being north of the Missouri river, and embraced in the limits of the territory of Iowa; and also that tract of country lying and being on the Osage river, and west of the state of Missouri." The consideration paid for this purchase was \$850,000. The Indians were to remove from these lands within two years from the ratification of the treaty.

This treaty was held near Council Bluffs, and was there signed by fourteen of the chiefs, and was signed and approved by the other chiefs at Pottawattamie Creek, on the 17th of June, and was ratified by the Senate of the United States on the 22d of July, 1846, and was proclaimed on the next day. By this treaty, five millions acres of land were acquired within the limits of Iowa.

After leaving Iowa, these Indians removed to lands assigned them on the Kansas river, and efforts were made to induce them to turn their attention to the cultivation of the soil for a living. These efforts were successful to a great extent, and many of them greatly improved their condition by employing their time in agricultural pursuits.

#### THE WINNEBAGOS.

The Winnebago (or Puant) Indians are "a Dakota tribe, with an Algonquin name," and in early times were celebrated for their influence in western Indian affairs. According to the earliest history given by themselves, they first resided at a place called Red Banks, on the western slope of Lake Michigan, north of Green Bay.

"The Winnebagos claim that they are an original stock, and that the Missourians, Otoes, and Omahas sprang from them." "On the fall of the French power in Canada, in 1760, they were slow and cautious in entering into intimate relations with Great Britain;" but the British gradually gained



their confidence, and, when once gained, they were firm in their new fealty. "They opened their country to the English traders, and when the Americans rose, in 1776, to assert a new nationality, the Winnebagos sided with the crown;" and notwithstanding, by the treaty acknowledging the independence of the colonies, the territory in which they lived was ceded to the United States by the English, they still gave their adhesion to the British government, and in the war of 1812 they gave their influence for, and fought with, the British against the Americans.

The first treaty ever held with any of these Indians on the part of the United States, was on the 3d of June, 1816, at which that portion of the nation which resided on the Wisconsin river acknowledged themselves to be "under the protection of the United States, and of no other nation, power, or sovereignty whatsoever." The next treaty was held with them, and other tribes, on the 19th of August, 1825, at which the boundaries between the several nations were defined. Their country was defined by metes and bounds, and embraced the northern portion of Illinois and the southern part of Wisconsin.

In the month of August, 1827, there "was a treaty held at Battle des Morts, on the Fox river, for the purpose of settling the northeastern boundary between the Menomonees, Chippewas, and certain other bands." While this treaty was under consideration, the Winnebagos commenced hostilities against the whites at Prairie du Chien. "They fired into a boat, plundered several individuals, and endeavored practically to enforce an obsolete idea that they had a right to interdict merchandise from passing the portage of the Wisconsin without receiving some acknowledgment therefor, in the nature of toll." General Cass, who happened to be in the vicinity, immediately embarked in a canoe, and journeyed night and day until he reached St. Louis, from whence he returned with a body of troops, with whose aid and the assistance of the settlers, the Indians were soon brought to terms.

"In 1828, the discovery of valuable lead mines in their country north of Rock river, led the inhabitants of the frontier of Illinois to cross over and commence mining operations in that quarter." This produced alarm and collision on both sides, which called for adjustment. These difficulties were temporarily settled on the 25th of August, 1828, at Green Bay, by the United States agreeing to pay these and other Indians interested the sum of twenty thousand dollars, and the Indians consented that the whites might mine on these lands until a definite arrangement could be made about the lead mines. After this adjustment was made, on the 1st of August, 1829, they ceded to the United States a tract of country south of the Wisconsin river, including the mineral district, for the consideration of eighteen thousand dollars in specie, annually, for a period of thirty years, besides other considerations.

In 1832 they joined Blackhawk in his hostilities against the United States, and the war being carried on mostly in their country, they suffered severely from its effects. At the battle of Bad Axe river, which terminated the war, among those who were taken prisoners was Winneshiek (Waw-kon-chow-koo-kah), the son of a distinguished chief, who, after the death of his father, became the head chief of the nation. Winneshiek joined Blackhawk as the leader of a band of Sacs at the commencement of the war, and had guided Blackhawk's army from the head-waters of the Milwaukee river, by a difficult route, to the place where they were encamped, on the Bad Axe, when they were attacked by the United States troops, having subsisted about three weeks on the bark of trees and horse-flesh.

Winneshiek seems to have cherished a dislike to the whites from his childhood, and in the difficulty with these Indians in 1827, had been taken a prisoner by Gen. Henry Dodge. In a battle, in which the Indians were routed, his father and the rest of the band escaped, while Winneshiek, then only fifteen years old, being separated from the others, was surrounded. He refused to surrender, but sat

on his horse, with his gun cocked in his hand, and eyed his foe with defiance and hate. The soldiers were about to shoot him, when General Dodge saw and admired the intrepidity of the boy, rode up, and wrenched the musket from him, and thus saved him from the death he at once coveted and defied.

On being assured by General Dodge that he wished to settle amicably the difficulty between the Indians and the whites, he rendered great service in bringing about peace. At the battle of Bad Axe he was severely wounded in the arm, and the next day fell into the hands of the whites; yet he was faithful to the ill-fated band which he had joined, for, upon being brought before General Dodge and asked whither Blackhawk had fled, he refused to tell. General Dodge said: "I saved your life when a boy, and I have a right to expect that you will tell me the truth." To which Winneshiek, assuming a dignified air, replied: "It is true, you did save my life; but it would have been better for me, had you permitted your men to kill me."

"Winneshiek was a fine specimen of an Indian. In person, about the medium height, well proportioned, faultless in symmetry and form, easy and graceful in manner; as a man, he was modest, kind, and courteous; as a chief, dignified in demeanor, firm in his purposes, and just in the exercise of his authority; as a warrior, he was brave in battle, calm and self-relying in danger."

At the close of the Blackhawk war, the Winnebagos ceded to the United States all their lands in Wisconsin lying to the south and east of the Wisconsin river and the Fox river of Green Bay, and they received in exchange for it a tract of land west of the Mississippi, in Iowa, being a part of the tract of land lying between the countries of the Sacs and Foxes and the Sioux, ceded by these nations to the United States, and known as the "Neutral Grounds." It commenced on the west bank of the Mississippi, and extended twenty miles on each side of the Upper Iowa river, and was bounded on the west by the eastern branch of the

Red Cedar river. They also received, besides these lands in Iowa, an annuity of ten thousand dollars a year for twenty-seven years, besides other annual allowances for the support of schools, and for agricultural and mechanical purposes. By the treaty of 1st of November, 1837, they disposed of all their lands on the east side of the Mississippi, and agreed to move to the "Neutral Grounds" in Iowa; but, notwithstanding they sold all their lands on the east side of the Mississippi, and had received large remunerations for them, they were loath to remove to Iowa, and clung as with a death-like grasp to the hills and valleys of Wisconsin. At length the government determined to remove the agency, schools, and shops which had been established among them to a point on Turkey river, and, when removed, directed their annuities to be paid them at that place. This step proved effectual, and caused them to leave their old hunting grounds, and they crossed over the Mississippi, and the whole tribe settled on the "Neutral Grounds," in 1840. They occupied this locality during a period of some ten or twelve years, during which time they had schools taught among them, improved in their morals, and increased in numbers.

The white settlements approaching in near proximity to their country, some unprincipled whites, in violation of law, for pecuniary gain, were in the habit of selling them whisky. This caused them frequently to come into the settlements, and while under the influence of liquor they committed many depredations, and became very troublesome. It soon became desirous to have these Indians removed from the near proximity of the white settlements, and on the 13th of October, 1846, they disposed of their lands in Iowa, and in place thereof agreed to occupy an adequate tract north of the St. Peter's river, on the upper Mississippi, to which they subsequently removed, and took up their abode beyond the limits of Iowa.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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