

horses fell down, and I had to jump into the water—and be very quick about it, too—and loosen the harness to save the poor beasts from drowning.

Among the precious schemes adopted by ambitious people for draining sloughs, I recall one which was in the highest degree unique—far ahead of any ever devised by the late Col. George E. Waring, Jr., our great American authority in that field of usefulness. These drainage “experts” were reported to have “invented” this plan: A large ditching-plow was drawn by means of long ropes and several yokes of oxen, *across* the shallow enclosed ponds, from one side to the other, simply making a large furrow, but providing no outlet whatever! This was termed “draining the swamp lands!” It used to be asserted in those early days that some of these thrifty operators occasionally found county authorities along the frontier weak enough, or dishonest enough, to grind out warrants and pay for such work! And thus they doubtless “made money.”

But what changes have been wrought! The prairie slough is almost as much a thing of the past as the deer or the buffalo. Tile drainage and the obvious changes in our climate have made dry land of their beds, and many species of animals and birds which once dwelt in them have entirely disappeared. Even the large aquatic and wading birds no longer pass this way, or come and go in very diminished numbers. Some species may also be very near extinction. Cultivated fields occupy the places where the little lakes and ponds shimmered in silvery brightness forty years ago.

---

DEATH OF A REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER.—Timothy Brown, a revolutionary soldier, died in Washington county, in this State, on the 3d instant, at the advanced age of ninety-two. He was in the army at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. —*Western American, Keosauqua, Iowa, Jan. 17, 1852.*

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.