

Letters were also received from Mayor James Brenton of Des Moines, Col. G. W. Crosley of Webster City, Col. W. S. Dungan of Chariton, Hon. Charles Linderman of Clarinda, ex-clerk of the supreme court, Hon. Eugene Secor of Forest City, Newton R. Parvin of Cedar Rapids, Hon. Isaac Brandt of Des Moines, Prof. B. F. Shambaugh of Iowa City, and others.

A VALUABLE COUNTY HISTORY.

There has lately been issued from the Kenyon Press, Des Moines, a History of Dickinson County, Iowa, which we believe will take rank among the valuable works of local history hitherto published in our State. It was written by Hon. Rodney A. Smith, a pioneer settler, who has resided on the bank of West Okoboji lake since the massacre of the settlers in 1857. Mr. Smith was a soldier in the relief expedition of 1857, and represented Dickinson, Emmett, Palo Alto and Clay counties in the twelfth general assembly. He is, with a single exception, the oldest living resident of that county. No man could be better informed upon the history of that region, "all of which he saw and part of which he was." During the intervening years—more than the lifetime of a generation—he has collected the data for this his life-work. The county and its thriving towns and villages have grown up under his observation. For many years he knew the most of its people and has always been constantly in touch with its growing interests. While he makes no pretension to scholarship, his work tells a continuous story of growth and development, progress and improvement, from the days of the white settlements which immediately followed the Indian troubles until the present time. Its 600 pages are a repository of facts.

The work opens with a full history of the Indian troubles of that region, of which the massacre and relief expedition were the chief features. This narrative fills eleven of the chapters. Mr. Smith has copied freely from the writings of other observers, as Gov. C. C. Carpenter, Hon. John F. Duncombe, Capt. Charles B. Richards, Lieut. John N. Maxwell, W. K. Laughlin, Mrs. Sharp, and the pages of *THE ANNALS OF IOWA*, but always with due credit.

The settlement and organization of the county run through five chapters and are especially full and complete.

Five or six chapters are devoted to Indian troubles in the northwest during the civil war, including the service of the border brigade. After the civil war the resumption of settlement was like beginning anew.

Another interesting episode was the grasshopper invasion, which occupies two chapters, and here again the author copies from the graphic account of Gov. Carpenter.

Six chapters are devoted to the various towns in the county, of which Spirit Lake is the foremost.

There is a very interesting chapter on railroads, detailing at length the efforts of the people to have them extended into that region.

Two chapters are given to fish and game, their original status and rapid disappearance, and the efforts put forth to preserve them. The history of fish and game in Iowa, and the attempts to propagate the food fishes, are really epitomized by Mr. Smith.

This work is illustrated with excellent portraits of several people who were prominent in the Spirit Lake expedition, and there are many half-tones of scenery about the various lakes. The book is a beautiful one, reflecting much credit upon the author and publishers. It deserves a wide sale in northwestern Iowa, of which it presents a very full history. The purpose of Mr. Smith has been to narrate facts and incidents, as he knew them to have transpired, and not to make it in any sense a vehicle of personal adulation, like too many of the so-called county histories.

UNVEILING AND DEDICATING THE KINSMAN MONUMENT.

This event, which was announced in *THE ANNALS* for January last, took place at Council Bluffs, the home of Col. W. H. Kinsman before he entered the Union army, on the 17th of May last. It was one of the most important historical events that has taken place in recent years on the Missouri slope. Primarily it was the inspiration and work of Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, though he found hundreds of willing hands to assist him in the patriotic undertaking. It was paid for from contributions by Col. Kinsman's old comrades of the 4th and 23d Iowa Infantry regiments, a labor of love on their part. The monument was made from a design drawn by Gen. Dodge. It is a most symmetrical and beautiful gray granite pillar, 20 feet in height. The base is 4 feet 6 inches square. The word "Kinsman" stands out in large letters on the second base, and a bronze medallion portrait of the soldier was placed upon the die. The monument also has several tasteful decorations engraved upon the granite. There was a great procession to the cemetery, in which old and young soldiers, children from the public schools, and citizens generally participated. Gen. Dodge called the assemblage surrounding the monument to order and spoke as follows:

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