

# ANNALS OF IOWA

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### THE KEOKUK MONUMENT.

There can be nothing but satisfaction in the minds of any who love our State, her art, her literature and all her influences for culture, in knowing that Iowa has been distinguished by having another of the noted American Indians connected with her history appropriately commemorated in sculpture. The first was the Iowa Mahaska, whose statue by Frye was presented to the city of Oskaloosa by Mr. James D. Edmondson of Des Moines.

Through provisions of the Keokuk Chapter, Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, there was unveiled on October 22, 1913, a statue of Keokuk, modeled by Miss Nellie V. Walker of Chicago, a native Iowa woman. This beautiful bronze piece, upon the site where now rest the bones of the famous Sac chieftain, overlooks the Mississippi river at one of the notable scenic points along that stream.

By a courteous interchange with the Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, the monument also notes that locality as being the starting point of a most interesting overland travel in the pioneer period of Iowa history. An early allusion to this travel in what is now Appanoose county is found in the notes and map of the Red Rock Survey of 1842 as "Bee hunters trace from the mouth of the Des Moines River". A tablet upon the base of the monument bears this inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF  
THE PIONEERS  
WHO ENTERED IOWA BY KEOKUK  
THE GATE CITY  
AND EITHER SETTLING IN OUR STATE OR  
PASSING FARTHER WEST  
TRAVELED OVER THE WELL-WORN ROAD  
KNOWN AS THE MORMON TRAIL.

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WITH THIS TABLET THE DAUGHTERS  
OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
OF IOWA  
OFFICIALLY OPEN THE MARKING OF THAT  
EARLY AND IMPORTANT  
PIONEER HIGHWAY.



#### KEOKUCK.

Statue by Miss Nellie V. Walker. Erected by Keokuk Chapter D. A. R. The pedestal formerly supported a shaft above the bones of the noted Sac chief.

"THEY CROSSED THE PRAIRIES, AS OF OLD  
THE PILGRIMS CROSSED THE SEA,  
TO MAKE THE WEST, AS THEY THE EAST,  
THE HOMESTEAD OF THE FREE."

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ERECTED OCTOBER TWENTY-SECOND  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN.

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### MARKING THE MORMON TRAIL.

For some twenty years the present Curator of the Historical Department of Iowa has been accumulating information upon trans-state commerce prior to the opening of the Union Pacific Railway. Some years ago he first presented to an Iowa state convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution, his views upon the travel and traffic over and settlement along the old Mormon Trail. Suggesting the extensive use of this route for emigration to California and other notable movements eastward and westward both before and after the gold excitement, he advocated the expenditure by that patriotic order of both thought and money upon the erection of appropriate markers along the route.

There has resulted a gradual awakening of interest and retrieving of information upon the subject. The distinction has been clearly drawn between the subject of *Travel along the Mormon Trail*, which was commended, and those of the *Mormon travel* or *Mormon trails*. The sincere convictions of the people of our State against the tenet of polygamy, entangle us in a feeling against all institutions and names associated with it. But a study of the travel on the Mormon Trail has had a beneficial effect in that it has aided us to look through the name "Mormon Trail" to the really important early travel over it.

A glimpse of what that travel was, and was expected to become, can be had through the eyes of the early prophets of Iowa, one of whom, James W. Grimes, in 1853 published in his *Iowa Farmer and Horticulturist* an editorial on "The Future Markets of Iowa" wherein he said:

Conversing a short time since with a returned Californian, and informing him of the vast numbers of cattle, sheep, &c., driven through our State this spring, he remarked that numerous as were

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