



Yours very truly
Alonzo H. Beckett

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3D SERIES

EARLY IOWA INDIAN TREATIES AND BOUNDARIES.

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From colonial times our Government has exercised the sole right of extinguishing Indian titles to land.

By the proclamation of the Colonial Congress of September 23, 1783, all persons were prohibited "from making settlements on land inhabited or claimed by Indians, without the limits of any particular State, and from purchasing or receiving any gift or cession of such lands or claims without the express authority and direction of the United States in Congress assembled."

This early policy has been maintained by the Government to the present time, except that the President, through his agents, has exercised the power of acquiring territory by treaty, first granted to Congress. Until 1871 Indian titles were extinguished only under the treaty-making clause of the Constitution, even though the tribe had been reduced to an insignificant band. Since then acquisitions of territory from the Indians have been made by simple agreements.

The Neutral Line in Iowa.

In 1825 the territorial governors in the West united in an effort to check the hostilities of two aggressive and warlike tribes in what is now northeastern Iowa. Gov. William Clark of St. Louis, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and Gov. Lewis Cass of Detroit, came to Prairie du Chien and negotiated a treaty with various Indian tribes on August 19th of that year. This treaty contained a number of articles, but only the second and a portion of the eleventh had reference to Iowa territory.

Article 2 reads as follows:

It is agreed between the confederated Tribes of the Sacs and Foxes, and the Sioux, that the Line between their respective coun-

tries shall be as follows: Commencing at the mouth of the Upper Iowa River, on the west bank of the Mississippi, and ascending the said Iowa river, to its left fork; thence up that fork to its source; thence crossing the fork of Red Cedar river, in a direct line to the second or upper fork of the Desmoines river; and thence in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet river; and down that river to its juncture with the Missouri river. But the Yancton band of the Sioux tribe, being principally interested in the establishment of the line from the Forks of the Desmoines to the Missouri, and not being sufficiently represented to render the definitive establishment of that line proper, it is expressly declared that the line from the forks of the Desmoines to the forks of the Calumet river, and down that river to the Missouri, is not to be considered as settled until the assent of the Yancton band shall be given thereto. And if the said band should refuse their assent, the arrangement of that part of the boundary line shall be void, and the rights of the parties to the country bounded thereby, shall be the same as if no provision had been made for the extension of the line west of the forks of the Desmoines. And the Sacs and Foxes relinquish to the tribes interested therein, all their claim to land on the east side of the Mississippi river.¹

The last clause of the eleventh article adds:

It is agreed, however, that a Council shall be held with the Yancton band of the Sioux, during the year 1826, to explain to them the stipulations of this treaty, and to procure their assent thereto, should they be disposed to give it, and also with the Ottoes, to settle and adjust their title to any of the country claimed by the Sacs, Foxes, and Ioways.²

The council of 1826 was never held to ratify the latter part of this treaty, but a similar one was agreed to five years later.

The imaginary line provided for in the above-named treaty did not prove to have the desired effect of restraining the hostile tendencies of these aggressive and lawless peoples, and so another council was arranged for at the same place, and held July 15, 1830.

The parties to this council were: Sauk and Fox, Medewakanton, Wahpekuta, Wahpeton and Sisseton bands of Sioux, Omaha, Iowa, Oto and Missouri.

The first three articles of the treaty adopted at this time are as follows:

¹Kappler's *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, v. II, p. 250.

²Kappler's *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, v. II, p. 253.

ART. I. The said Tribes cede and relinquish to the United States forever all their right and title to the lands lying within the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning at the upper fork of the Demoine River, and passing the sources of the Little Sioux, and Floyds 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 River; 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 to 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 Demoine, to a point opposite the source of Boyer River, and thence in a direct line to the upper fork of the Demoine, 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.

ART. II. The confederated Tribes of the Sacs and Foxes, cede and relinquish to the United States forever, a tract of country twenty miles in width, from the Mississippi to the Demoine; situate south, and adjoining the line between the said confederated Tribes of Sacs and Foxes, and the Sioux; as established by the second article of the Treaty of Prairie du Chien of the nineteenth of August one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.

ART. III. The Medawah-Kanton, Wah-pa-coota, Wahpeton and Sisseton Bands of the Sioux cede and relinquish to the United States forever, a Tract of Country twenty miles in width, from the Mississippi to the Demoine River, situate north, and adjoining the line mentioned in the preceding article.²

It was nearly two years, however, before the survey provided for by these two councils was commenced.

Survey of the Neutral Line.

Captain Nathan Boone was detailed for the purpose, and began the work April 19, 1832, at the initial point, the mouth of the Upper Iowa river, to locate first the dividing line between the Sacs and Foxes on the south and the Sioux on the north. The field notes indicate that the initial point of the main channel of the Upper Iowa and its confluence with the Mississippi was inaccessible. Probably the Mississippi at this

²Kappler's *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, v. II, p. 300.

point was then, as now, several miles wide, and that the waters of the smaller stream were merged into those of the larger before the middle of the main channel was reached. The initial point must have been near the middle of the west side of Township No. 100, Range No. 3, on the east side of Iowa Township, Allamakee county.

The meandered line from this point to the left fork of the Upper Iowa was 40 miles and 17 chains; but the actual distance was 21 miles, and the direction S. 62° 20' W. The fork named, the mouth of Trout creek, is in Section 9-98-7, Glenwood Township, Winneshiek county, about six miles below Decorah.

I visited the place several years ago, and found the 20 foot ledge of rock mentioned on the lower side of the fork as noted in the field notes.

The survey proceeded thence, S. 17° 15' E. to the source of this creek, in about Section 14-97-7, Franklin Township, Winneshiek county.

Captain Boone then ran what is called a random line, S. 70° 15' W. to the Des Moines river, and found that he was four miles and five chains above the fork named in the treaty, and again meandered from there down to the forks. The random line was 130 miles and 63 chains long; the true line, 133 miles and 43 chains. The direction was found to be S. 73° 15' W.

A post was planted here on the east side of the Des Moines river at high water mark. Two witness trees were marked, one, a red elm, two feet in diameter, 3.41 chains distant, bearing N. 69° W.; the other, a red elm, one foot in diameter, 9.34 chains distant, bearing S. 78° E., standing on the southwest side of a natural mound 40 to 50 feet wide and 10 feet high.

This mound is said to be standing there yet as described. The point is probably in Section 19-91-28, in or near Dakotah, in Humboldt county.

Survey of the Sioux 20 Mile Cession of The Neutral Ground.

Having established this original dividing line between the two tribes, Captain Boone next proceeded to survey the Sioux

20 mile cession, by meandering the Des Moines river along the east side the required distance to a point in or near Section 35-94-31, in the southeast corner of Palo Alto county.

The length of the meander was 25 miles and 66 chains: that of the true line, 20 miles from the base.

When this point had been marked, the survey of the north side was run parallel to the dividing line 127 miles, where the corner was established opposite the source of the Upper Iowa river. Each mile of this line was witnessed by burying a cylinder of charcoal at the bottom of a stake, and marking witness trees when in the timber.

The location of this line is easily identified by the distances noted between the various streams crossed, and especially by the fact that it skirted the north side of the lake since named Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo county. The east end of this line was probably in Section 32-100-10, in Fremont township, Winneshiek county. The party stopped here several days and ran a line across to the fork of the Iowa to prove the work.

The survey then turned N. 17° 15' W. and ran 5½ miles. At 2 miles and 3 chains they crossed the Upper Iowa, 125 links wide, and followed up that stream 2 miles and 56 chains, where another corner was established. This point is probably in Section 6-100-10, in Minnesota, just across the line from the northwest corner of Winneshiek county.

At this point the line turned N. 62° 20' E. to the Mississippi river, crossing several small creeks and Root river on the 38th mile, and reaching the Mississippi about four miles above the mouth of Root river. This line was 44½ miles long.

A line was then meandered down on the west side of the Mississippi to the mouth of the Upper Iowa, where the survey started, 21 miles and 52 chains by the meander. This part of the survey was completed June 19, 1832.

Survey of the Sac and Fox Cession of The Neutral Ground.

Captain Boone proceeded next to survey the remaining tract. He meandered the river down 20 miles further, the meandered length being 37 miles and 70.50 chains, and es-

tablished the corner at a noted Indian rock about 200 feet in height, facing the river. This conspicuous cliff was known as "Painted Rock", and its location as the southeast corner of the Neutral Ground seems clearly verified by the following excerpt:

And this brings us to the question of the "Painted Rock," on section 3, in Fairview township. On the face of a bold cliff, facing the river, and some half way up the bluff, was at some time painted the figure of an animal, and the word "Tiger," with some names and other symbols. Judge Murdock said the painting was there in 1843, and looked ancient at that time; and as far as we have been able to ascertain, the question of when or why it was put there, or by whom, has ever been a matter of speculation without a satisfactory answer. From various facts it is very evident that this was the point at which the southern boundary line of the neutral ground of 1830 touched the river, one of the proofs of which is as follows: At the session of the County Commissioners of Clayton County, held April 4, 1844, the boundaries of various election precincts were defined, and one precinct was established as follows: "Yellow River precinct (No. 4), commencing at the Painted Rock on the Mississippi River; thence down said river to the corner of township ninety-five, range three, west of the fifth principal meridian; thence down said river two miles, thence due west on section line to the west side of township ninety-five, range four, west; thence north to the neutral line; thence following said line to the place of commencing, at Painted Rock." This fact being established, what more remarkable to suppose than that the authorities at Prairie du Chien should cause this prominent cliff—this natural "bulletin-board" as it were—to be so plainly marked as to designate the boundary line in a manner not to be mistaken by the natives; and what more natural than that the subordinates who performed the duty should decorate the rock with representations of wild animals and strange figures, the more readily to attract the attention of the Sioux hunting expeditions as they descended the river in their canoes and warn them that they had reached the limit of the hunting grounds permitted to them. Neither is it strange that they should take the opportunity of placing their own names where they might become famous, though they have long since become illegible.*

A permanent marker could doubtless even yet be placed, showing very nearly if not the precise location of this southeast corner of the Neutral Ground, from the description of the field notes, as follows:

*Alexander's *History of Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties*, pp. 369-70.

Here planted a stake from which a white oak, 16 inches in diameter, bears N. 27° E. 186 links distant, marked thus, "U. S.," and a hickory, 12 inches in diameter, bears S. 63° E. 29 links distant, with a blaze and notch over it, and a white oak, 14 inches in diameter, bears S. 28° W. 240 links distant. From this corner a *very noted rock* of about 200 ft. in height bears N. 31° W. 540 links distant.

It is doubtful if either of the three tree markers will be found standing, but the Painted Rock probably remains.

Having established this corner, Captain Boone proceeded to locate the south line parallel to the two already established, taking the course S. 62° 20' W., and got far enough to plant the two-mile post, when his record closes with the following statement: "discontinued on account of hostilities of the Indians."

The specific nature of the hostilities which induced him to stop the survey at this point is not stated. They were doubtless sufficient to warn him that it was not safe to proceed further with his work at that time.

The survey, however, was resumed and completed the same autumn by Captain James Craig, who began where Captain Boone left off, running 19 miles farther out, where he established and marked this corner, probably in Section 22-95-6, thence S. 17° 15' E., 7 miles, crossing a bend of the Turkey river on the seventh mile, and placing the corner stake 2½ chains from the east bank of the river. The line then crossed the river, running S. 73° 15' W. to the Des Moines river.

The field notes of this last run are very meager, mentioning the distance between principal streams only. The length of the line is given as 125 miles and 33 chains. This length seems quite evidently incorrect, since there is no point on the Des Moines river which is within ten miles of the distance named in the field notes. The point where this line reached the Des Moines river was probably near the northwest corner of section 15-87-27, in Webster township, Webster county.¹

The point, however, where the line reached the river can be determined quite accurately from other sources. In the first place the perpendicular distance from the neutral line should

¹Where notable landmarks in a survey do not agree with courses and distances given, the former prevail.—ED. ANNALS.

be about 20 miles. As a matter of fact the distance is greater than that.

Second, some notes of a trip up the Des Moines, in the summer of 1848, published in the ANNALS July, 1909, state that the south line of the neutral ground was in that immediate vicinity.⁵ The author writes of crossing the Boone, and that half a mile beyond was the farthest any settlement had been made, where Henry Lott had settled in the spring of 1846. Later he adds, "above Lott's two miles is the mouth of a creek," and, "one mile further up, at the foot of a steep hill 175 feet high is the line of the Neutral Land, the present location of the Winnebago tribe of Indians."

This places the line, in this writer's estimate, between five and six miles north of the mouth of the Boone river, possibly in Section 15-87-27, Webster township, Webster county.

Third, the line passing up the river from this point is meandered, the meander following the river. The length of this meander is 37 miles and 70.50 chains. The diagram of this meander shows that there is but one place where the course of the river at all corresponds to the meandered line.

The Indians Surrender Claims to Western Iowa.

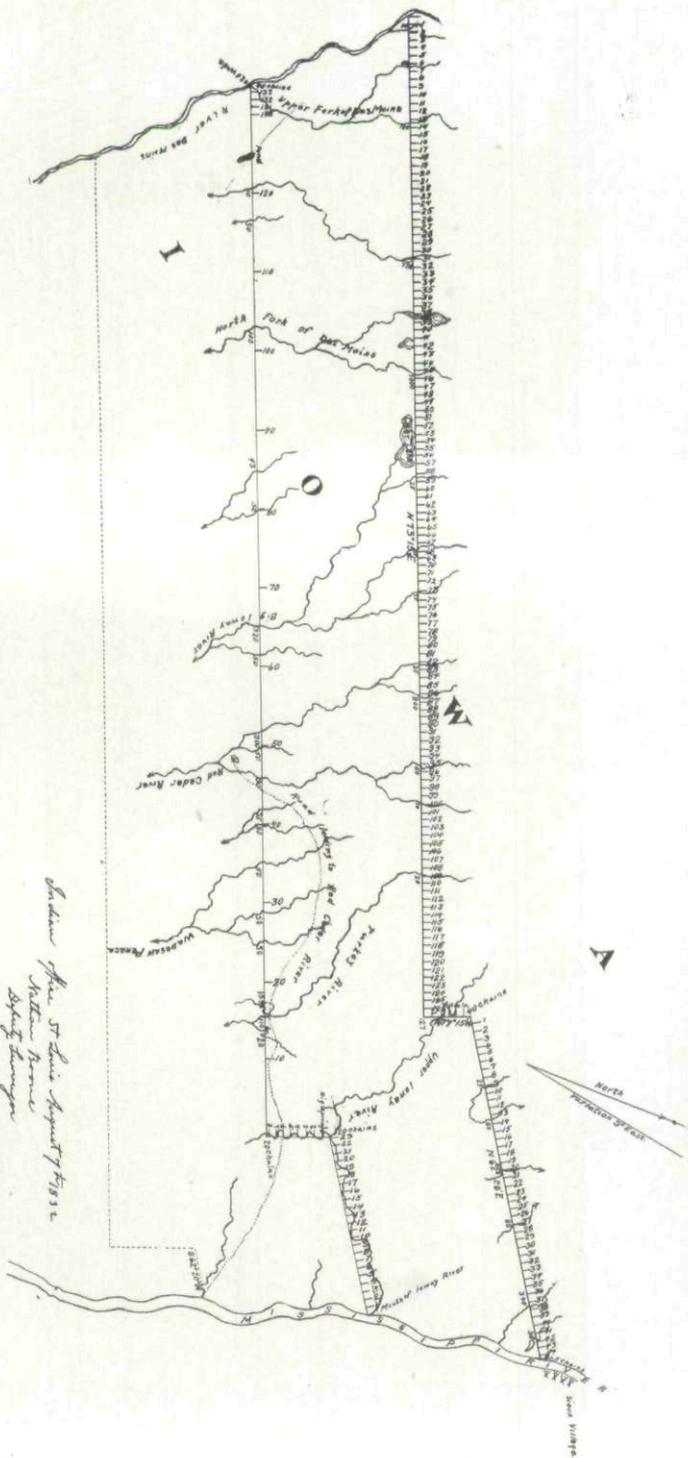
Returning to Article I, of the treaty of July 15, 1830, we find that these several tribes ceded all claim to what is now western Iowa. The line began at the upper forks of the Des Moines, thence passing the sources of the Little Sioux and the Floyd's rivers, down Rock and Big Sioux rivers, thence down the Missouri to the mouth of the Kansas river, thence up along the western and northern boundary of Missouri, at that time, to the highlands dividing the waters which flow into the Missouri and the Des Moines, thence northerly along said ridge to the source of the Boyer river, thence in a straight line to the place of beginning.

The northern part of this line was surveyed by James Craig in October, 1835. The line meandered the west fork of the Des Moines to near its source, 104½ miles, thence southwesterly to a point 134 miles and 5.50 chains from the

⁵*Annals of Iowa*, v. IX, pp. 96-97.

NEUTRAL GROUND—MAP REDUCED TWO-THIRDS.

The central line provided in the treaty of 1825 as the Neutral Line, and the northern line, were surveyed by Maj. Nathan Boone, and with the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers bound the Sioux cession of the Neutral Ground. The southern line, established by James Craig, is the southern boundary of the Sac and Fox cession of the Neutral Ground.



place of beginning. Then commencing at the mouth of the Big Sioux and running up that stream to the first fork on the east side, Rock river, thence up that stream to a junction with the first line, 88 miles and 11 chains.⁶

Chippewa, Ottawa, and Pottawattamie Tribes Removed to Southwestern Iowa.

At a council held at Chicago, September 27, 1833, the above named tribes were removed from the western shore of Lake Michigan to a tract of 5,000,000 acres in southwestern Iowa, part of the tract surrendered by the Saes and Foxes under Article I of the treaty of July 15, 1830.

Winnebagoes Removed to, and from the Neutral Ground.

Before the surveyors had completed their work of marking the boundary of the Neutral Ground, government officers had concluded another treaty, providing for the removal of a tribe of Winnebagoes from the east side of the Mississippi to the eastern half of this tract, namely, that part lying east of the Cedar river.

A council was held with the Winnebagoes from the Fox river and Green Bay territory, September 15, 1832, on the west side of the Mississippi, where Davenport now stands. This peaceable tribe was removed here and remained on the western part of the tract for about fifteen years, though as early as November 1, 1831, they were required to move their lodges twenty miles back from the river, and use the vacated territory for hunting purposes only. This order resulted in changing the Government Agency and the Mission House from Yellow River to Fort Atkinson.

Then, October 13, 1846, they were again induced to re-cede this territory, close up to the lines of which the whites were already crowding, in exchange for lands north of St. Peter river in Minnesota, and the last of them finally left the tract in June, 1848.

A number of surveyors were at once set to work along the southern boundary, to establish township lines and stake off quarter sections for the incoming horde of white settlers.

⁶The blue print of this survey is in the possession of the Historical Department of Iowa.

The Black Hawk Purchase.

A second council was held at the same place as the previous one, Sept. 21, 1832, with the Sacs and Foxes, which really opened the first tract in Iowa to white settlement.

Gen. Winfield Scott of the army, and Gov. John Reynolds of Illinois, were the Government's representatives in securing this cession.

The first two articles of the treaty were as follows:

ART. I. Accordingly, the confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes hereby cede to the United States forever, all the lands to which the said tribes have title, or claim, (with the exception of the reservation hereinafter made,) included within the following bounds, to-wit: Beginning on the Mississippi river, at the point where the Sac and Fox northern boundary line, as established by the second article of the treaty of Prairie du Chien, of the fifteenth of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty, strikes said river; thence, up said boundary line to a point fifty miles from the Mississippi, measured on said line; thence, in a right line to the nearest point on the Red Cedar of the Ioway, forty miles from the Mississippi river; thence, in a right line to a point in the northern boundary of the State of Missouri, fifty miles, measured on said boundary, from the Mississippi river; thence, by the last mentioned boundary to the Mississippi river, and by the western shore of said river to the place of beginning. * * * *

ART. II. Out of the cession made in the preceding article, the United States agree to a reservation for the use of the said confederated tribes, of a tract of land containing four hundred square miles, to be laid off under the directions of the President of the United States, from the boundary line crossing the Ioway river, in such manner that nearly an equal portion of the reservation may be on both sides of said river, and extending downwards, so as to include Ke-o-kuck's principal village on its right bank, which village is about twelve miles from the Mississippi river.⁷

This cession was required of the Sacs and Foxes as indemnity for the expenses of the Black Hawk war.

The tract was surveyed by Charles DeWard in October, 1835. Of the three points which determined the western boundary, the northern and southern were each to be fifty miles from the Mississippi measured respectively on the southern boundary of the Neutral Ground and the northern

⁷Kappler's *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, v. II, p. 349.

boundary of the State of Missouri. A middle point was to be on the Cedar river forty miles from the Mississippi.

Having determined this latter point, the survey probably began on the south boundary of the State at the specified distance, which was located 9.90 chains east of the 122d mile post of the northern boundary of Missouri; and when a re-survey of the Iowa-Missouri boundary was made in 1850, the range line between ranges 12 and 13 was found to be 17.55 chains east of the 121st mile boundary post. Therefore the southwest corner of the Black Hawk Purchase would be 9.90 chains less than one mile and 17.55 chains east of the 121st mile post; that is, one mile and 7.65 chains east of the southwest corner of Roscoe township, Davis county, in section 17-67-12.

Some one, possibly the authorities of Davis county, ought to place a permanent marker at this historic point, as it is one of the few points in these earliest surveys in our State, that can now be definitely located. Two others, at least, can probably be as precisely located; namely, that at the Painted Rock, and the one on the mound at the confluence of the forks of the Upper Des Moines, if not also two or three of those in Winneshiek county.

From this point the survey ran N. 28° E., 95 miles and 43.15 chains to the Red Cedar in or near section 18-81-4, in Linn township, Cedar county, about a mile east of the Johnson county line; thence N. 29° 16' W., 75 miles and 14.50 chains, to the south boundary of the Neutral Ground, in or near section 4-92-10, in Fremont township, Fayette county.

From this cession, however, a reservation was made, later called "Keokuk's Reservation," of a tract extending on either side of the Iowa river, down to within less than 10 miles of the Mississippi, about 10 miles wide, and supposed to contain 400 square miles, about half on each side of the Iowa river.

The survey of this tract began on the west line of the cession, about 13 miles below the 40 mile post on the Cedar, at about section 13-79-6, in Lucas township, Johnson county,

about two miles east of Iowa City. It ran 9 miles and 37.17 chains along that line, to about section 30-78-6, in Liberty township, Johnson county, thence S. 20° E., 42 miles and 30 chains to about section 34-72-3, in Yellow Springs township, Des Moines county, near the present town of Mediapolis; thence N. 28° W., 9 miles and 37.17 chains, crossing the Cedar about a mile from the end, which was in or near section 21-73-2, in Jefferson township, Louisa county; thence N. 20° E. to the starting point.

The Government blue print of this survey indicates the location of Keokuk's principal village at the south end of this reservation; Wapello's village, 8 or 10 miles farther up; and Poweshiek's village near the upper end of the reservation.

These Indians did not remain long in this reservation, as in the very nature of things, they could not. September 28, 1836, less than a year after the reservation had been surveyed, they re-ceded it to the Government, at a council held on the west bank of the Mississippi, opposite Rock Island, the Indians agreeing to remove by the first day of November.

This well-meaning and kindly effort to protect the interests of friendly Indians gives us at the present day a pathetic picture of its utter futility. What could these poor savages do, wedged into this narrow strip, when the white settlers were crowding up to their lines on every side, before the government surveyors could run even the township lines anywhere in the vicinity.

It was a full year after this before any government surveyors entered the Black Hawk Purchase, to lay off township lines, and more than three years before a land office was opened in Iowa. The Dubuque land office was opened November 5, 1838, and the Burlington office, November 19, the same year. Forty-eight townships were placed on sale at that time.

The Second Black Hawk Purchase.

The Sacs and Foxes surrendered another million and a quarter acres by a treaty made in Washington, D. C., October 21, 1837, as follows:

First. Of all right or interest in the country between the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and the boundary line between the Sac and Fox and the Sioux Indians, described in the second article of the treaty made with these and other tribes on the 19th of August, 1825, to the full extent to which said claim was recognized in the third article of said treaty; and of all interest or claim by virtue of the provisions of any treaties since made by the United States with the Sacs and Foxes.

Second. Of all right to locate, for hunting or other purposes, on the land ceded in the first article of the treaty of July 15th, 1830, which by the authority therein conferred on the President of the United States they may be permitted by him to enjoy.⁸

C. F. Larrabee, Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in a letter dated Washington, D. C., March 23, 1906, says:

The western boundary of the *second Black Hawk Purchase*, referred to in the first article of the Sac and Fox treaty of October 21, 1837, was surveyed by Charles Bracken in the summer of 1839. He began at the junction of the two boundary lines of the first purchase located by Major Gordon in 1835 at the 40 mile post on the Red Cedar River, thence he ran west 25 miles and 51.1 chains where a mound was erected on the prairie on the bank of a branch, 10 feet square at the base and 8 feet high, thence he ran the first one of the western boundary lines N. 9° 57' W. 69 miles and 2.32 chains to the 50th mile post on the line of the neutral ground. The other line was run from said mound S. 13° 9' W. 87 miles and 40 chains to the 50th mile post on the Missouri state line.

This cession extended the area open to settlement to about section 14-81-9, in Lenox township, Iowa county, and a mile beyond the western boundary of Johnson county, and provided homes for nearly eight thousand more families with the regulation quarter section each. This remained the western limit of settlement for nearly five years.

Governor Dodge had ordered a census to be taken September, 1836, of the two counties organized west of the Mississippi, Des Moines and Dubuque, and his census takers had recorded the names of 10,531 residents already on this Black Hawk Purchase.

Territories of Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Thus far it was either the Territory of Michigan or the Territory of Wisconsin that was being opened up for settle-

⁸Kappler's *Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties*, v. II, p. 497.

ment by the onrushing tide of immigrants inspired with zeal for homes in the western wilds. But on the 12th of June, 1838, less than a month after Governor Dodge's second census takers had enumerated 22,859 residents, Congress established the new *Territory of Iowa*, to take effect July 3 of that year.

Purchase of Central Iowa.

The first territorial governor of Iowa, Robert Lucas, had given place to Gov. John Chambers, when, October 11, 1842, the Governor met chiefs of the Sacs and Foxes at their agency on the Des Moines river, a few miles west of the border, and 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 ceded all their lands in Iowa to the Government. They were to vacate the eastern portion May 1, 1842, and the remainder October 11, 1845. The dividing line was to run due north and south from a noted Indian land mark, called Painted or Red Rocks, on the Des Moines river, to the Neutral Ground on the north, and south to the northern Missouri boundary.

The commissioner who ran this line, Mr. George W. Harrison, states that he expected to find the neutral line near the end of the 64th mile, but not finding it there after two days' searching, extended the line to the 68th mile, and still failed to find the said line. It would seem from later measurements on the map of Iowa that he must have crossed the line near the end of the 67th mile but was not able to find it.

This treaty and its survey is fully and interestingly described in the ANNALS, April, 1911, by Mr. C. C. Stiles, Superintendent of Public Archives,⁹ with field notes and maps.

Removal of the Pottawattamies from Western Iowa.

As the time was approaching, October 11, 1846, for the final removal of the Sacs and Foxes, Col. Peter A. Sarpy, in charge of the Pottawattamies, Chippewa and Ottawa Agency at Trader's Point on the Missouri river in Mills county, held a council with their representatives, June 5 and 17, 1845,

⁹*Annals of Iowa*, v. X, pp. 1-33.

and secured a treaty by which these tribes surrendered all claim to tracts north of the Missouri river and embraced in the limits of the Territory of Iowa.

Removal of the Sioux from Northern Iowa.

July 23, 1851, nearly five years after Iowa had been admitted to the Union as a State, a final council was held at Traverse des Sioux, Minn., at which these Indians surrendered all claims to lands in Iowa and the last of them departed for their hunting ground in the northwest during the summer of that year.

The Muskquaka Band of the Sac and Fox Indians.

In 1845-46, these Indians were removed to a new reservation in Kansas, but some of them, dissatisfied with their western home, returned to their old hunting grounds, and finally secured several hundred acres of land along the Iowa river in the western part of Tama county, where they remain to the present time, retaining many features of their old-time life and habits, an interesting relic of a by-gone age.

Some Still Earlier Concessions.

It may be worth while to make brief mention of two or three still earlier claims, made or granted, on territory now within the limits of our State.

The Dubuque Mines of Spain.

Julien Dubuque came to the lead mine district where the city of Dubuque now stands in 1788; and secured a concession to mine lead from Fox Indian chiefs of Prairie du Chien, for a tract extending from Catfish creek, below where the city of Dubuque now stands, to the little Maquoketa above. He also, it seems, claimed to have secured later, a concession from Baron de Carondelet, Spanish Governor of Louisiana Territory. He sold and willed his claim to others, however, before his death. After a half century's contest the claim was disallowed by the U. S. Supreme Court. He called the property the Mines of Spain. His death occurred in 1810 and he was buried on a bluff near the river.

The Half Breed Tract.

August 4, 1824, the Sacs and Foxes ceded 119,000 acres for the use of the half-breeds belonging to their nations, called the Half-breed Tract in Lee county, lying between the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers and a line corresponding to the extension of the north Missouri boundary to the Mississippi river. This line began near the southwest corner of section 7-67-7, on the Des Moines, and ended in section 4-67-4, within the present limits of Ft. Madison, Lee county.

The Antoine LeClaire Section.

When the Sacs and Foxes ceded the Black Hawk Purchase, they reserved, first, Keokuk's 400 square miles, and second, a one-section tract, where the city of Davenport now stands, for Antoine LeClaire. He had been a great friend to them for many years. This concession was later approved by the government.

The first of the above tracts is fully described by the late M. M. Ham of Dubuque, in Vol. II, of the ANNALS, pp. 329-344.

The second is described in a very interesting paper by Mr. B. F. Wick of Cedar Rapids, with map, in Vol. VII of the ANNALS, pp. 16-29.

With the thought of placing before the students of this subject the actual facts so far as I have been able to gather them, I shall hereafter set out the field notes of the various lines with which I have dealt as the same have come to me from government authority.

FIELD NOTES.

*Field Notes of the Neutral Line.*¹⁰

Field Notes of Survey of the Lines between the Sioux and Sac and Fox Indians agreeable to the 2nd Article of the Treaty of Prairie du Chien August 19, 1825 (7 Stats., p. 272), run by Nathan Boone, commencing April 19, 1832.

After taking the variation of the compass and finding it to be 9° E., he began the Survey.

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 as follows:

¹⁰Furnished by Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

N. 82 W. 25 chains; S. 86 W. 10 chains; S. 54 W. 7 chains; N. 67 W. 5 chains; N. 75 W. 20 chains; N. 42 W. 13 chains (1 mile); N. 18 W. 25 chains; N. 43 W. 24 chains; N. 10 W. 18 chains; N. 28 W. 5 chains; S. 75 W. 8 chains (2 miles); S. 75 W. 12 chains; N. 45 W. 17 chains; S. 19 W. 42 chains; S. 82 W. 9 chains (3 miles); S. 69 W. 7 chains; S. 70 W. 21 chains; S. 46 W. 20 chains; S. 25 W. 12 chains; S. 79 W. 10 chains; S. 47 W. 10 chains (4th mile); S. 47 W. 68 chains; S. 4 E. 5 chains; S. 33 E. 7 chains (5th mile); S. 33 E. 5 chains; S. 51 W. 16 chains; S. 35 E. 12 chains; S. 35 W. 30 chains; S. 70 W. 10 chains; N. 60 W. 7 chains (6th mile); S. 60 W. 55 chains; S. 36 W. 15 chains; S. 60 W. 10 chains (7th mile); S. 38 W. 25 chains; S. 25 W. 15 chains; S. 46 W. 20 chains; S. 72 W. 20 chains (8th mile); S. 55 W. 36 chains; N. 20 W. 44 chains (9th mile); N. 20 W. 28 chains; N. 71 W. 20 chains; N. 33 W. 15 chains; S. 71 W. 17 chains (10th mile).

S. 71 W. 13 chains; S. 23 W. 25 chains; S. 39 W. 11 chains; S. 2 E. 23 chains; S. 28 W. 8 chains (11th mile); S. 45 W. 6 chains; S. 88 W. 35 chains; N. 68 W. 32 chains; N. 41 W. 7 chains (12th mile); N. 41 W. 23 chains; S. 69 W. 48 chains; S. 55 W. 9 chains (13th mile); S. 55 W. 6 chains; S. 42 W. 20 chains; S. 57 W. 54 chains (14th mile); S. 57 W. 5 chains; S. 78 W. 6 chains; N. 67 W. 14 chains; N. 61 W. 20 chains; S. 84 W. 10 chains; N. 83 W. 20 chains; N. 69 W. 5 chains; (15th mile); N. 49 W. 42 chains; S. 37 W. 38 chains (16th mile); S. 37 W. 27 chains; S. 67 W. 5 chains; N. 88 W. 38 chains; N. 50 W. 10 chains (17th mile); N. 50 W. 13 chains; N. 26 W. 44 chains; N. 74 W. 23 chains (18th mile); N. 74 W. 12 chains; S. 20 W. 48 chains; N. 85 W. 12 chains; N. 56 W. 8 chains (19th mile); N. 56 W. 38 chains; S. 74 W. 12 chains; S. 8 W. 8 chains; S. 50 E. 6 chains; S. 23 E. 16 chains (20th mile).

S. 14 E. 15 chains; S. 2 W. 13 chains; S. 35 W. 11 chains; S. 53 W. 13 chains; S. 79 W. 10 chains; S. 48 W. 18 chains (21st mile); S. 48 W. 49 chains; S. 83 W. 6 chains; N. 50 W. 5 chains; N. 69 W. 20 chains (22nd mile); N. 69 W. 2 chains; North 42 chains; S. 80 W. 36 chains (23rd mile); S. 80 W. 80 chains (24th mile); S. 80 W. 9 chains; S. 32 E. 45 chains; East 26 chains (25th mile); East 30 chains; S. 12 E. 23 chains; South 25 chains; S. 63 W. 2 chains (26th mile); S. 63 W. 80 chains (27th mile); S. 63 W. 9 chains; S. 29 W. 25 chains; S. 21 E. 15 chains; S. 82 E. 31 chains (28th mile); S. 82 E. 31 chains; S. 25 E. 29 chains; S. 52 W. 20 chains (29th mile); S. 52 W. 49 chains; N. 66 W. 31 chains (30th mile).

N. 66 W. 24 chains; N. 14 W. 56 chains (31st mile); S. 83 W. 56 chains; S. 36 W. 9 chains; S. 18 E. 15 chains (32nd mile); S. 18 E. 28 chains; S. 50 W. 22 chains; S. 73 W. 30 chains (33rd mile); S. 73 W. 10 chains; S. 55 E. 60 chains; S. 10 E. 10 chains (34th mile); S. 10 E. 14 chains; S. 30 W. 20 chains; S. 64 W. 25 chains;

S. 58 W. 8 chains; S. 70 W. 13 chains (35th mile); S. 81 W. 32 chains; S. 20 W. 20 chains; S. 88 W. 28 chains (36th mile); S. 88 W. 32 chains; S. 38 W. 21 chains; S. 29 E. 4 chains; S. 42 E. 23 chains (37th mile); S. 42 E. 3 chains; S. 22 E. 6 chains; N. 83 W. 10 chains; N. 59 W. 9 chains; N. 55 W. 21 chains; N. 38 W. 18 chains; S. 17 W. 6 chains; S. 15 W. 7 chains (38th mile); S. 15 W. 18 chains; S. 50 W. 13 chains; S. 72 W. 49 chains (39th mile); S. 72 W. 18 chains; S. 8 W. 14 chains; S. 15 E. 10 chains; S. 13 W. 38 chains (40th mile).

S. 13 W. 12 chains; S. 25 W. 5 chains; to a branch 50 links wide, puts in from the South East. The Left Hand Fork of the Iowa River.

This fork being 40 miles and 17 chains from the mouth of the Iowa River by its meanders. On the lower side of the fork is a cliff about 20 feet high. Immediately in the forks stand 3 elm trees within a few feet of each other. I ascertained this to be the Fork mentioned in the 2nd article of the treaty of August 19, 1825, by the road leading from Prairie du Chien to the Red Cedar crossing it as the only fork or branch of the Iowa River that the road crosses.

Thence proceeded up said left hand fork S. 20 W. 55 chains; S. 5 E. 25 chains (1st mile from the forks); S. 5 E. 65 chains; S. 22 E. 15 chains (2nd mile); S. 22 E. 80 chains (3rd mile); S. 22 E. 20 chains; S. 9 W. 52 chains; S. 55 W. 8 chains (4th mile); S. 55 W. 22 chains; S. 30 W. 45 chains; S. 11 E. 13 chains (5th mile); S. 37 E. 20 chains; S. 24 E. 23 chains; S. 56 W. 23 chains; S. 42 E. 24 chains (6th mile); S. 42 E. 10 chains; S. 78 E. 19 chains; S. 43 E. 25 chains; S. 26 E. 26 chains (7th mile); S. 26 E. 42 chains; S. 52 E. 16 chains; here the trace leading from Prairie du Chien to Red Cedar crosses this fork 12 links wide; S. 58 E. 22 chains (8th mile); S. 58 E. 28 chains; S. 64 E. 52 chains (9th mile); S. 64 E. 18 chains; S. 19 E. 45 chains to the source of the left hand fork of the Iowa River where set a stake and raised a mound, being nine miles and 63 chains from the mouth of the said fork to its source.

From this point ran a random line S. 75 W., 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 S.W. which was found to be 4 miles and 5 chains northerly of the said fork. Thence ran S. 15 E. 300 chains; S. 75 W. 165 chains; S. 15 E. 25 chains; S. 75 W. 95 chains to the upper or second fork of the Des Moines River—making the length of the random line equal to 133 miles 36 chains (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 a post in prairie at highwater mark, from which a red elm 24 in. in diam. bears N.

69 W. 341 links distant standing on the east side of said fork marked U. S. A red elm 12 in. in diam. bears S. 78 E. 934 links distant standing on the east bank of the River Des Moines and on the S.W. side of a natural mound of from 40 to 50 feet in width at base and 10 ft. in height. Immediately opposite this tree and 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 last mentioned bearing tree is marked U. S.

The true line from this point to the head of the left hand fork of the Iowa River is N. 73° 15' E.

(To be continued in April number.)

Burlington I. T., April 6, 1839.

It is a source of the pleasure to inform our eastern readers that our prairies are in many places covered with a mantle of green, bespangled with the most beautiful flowers. The cattle have forsaken the barn yard and are now satisfied with the tender grass.

Our farmers have sowed their spring wheat, oats and flax, and are preparing their ground for corn, potatoes, and other productions. The wheat sown last fall looks well, and we have no doubt our farmers will have an abundant crop. Since the opening of navigation our lovely little village has been thronged with travellers and emigrants. The tide of emigration is so great to this place, that it is almost impossible to procure houses to accommodate them, although our carpenters are busily engaged in putting up buildings, yet still, they are filled as fast as erected, and the demand appears to increase.

Many houses have already been built this spring and several others are in a considerable state of forwardness but the demand is so great that it would require some six or eight houses to be completed weekly to supply the wants of the emigrants.

The beauty and healthfulness of the country around Rock Island, together with its fertility holds out sufficient inducements to the industrious mechanic and agriculturalist to locate in this healthy and fertile region even if they should experience a little inconvenience on their first arrival.—*Iowa Sun*, Davenport, April 17, 1839.

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