

under the Executive Council in transferring to the Historical Building the deposits of archives, and of their classification and arrangement, began in 1907 and has continued to the present time. His life has been one of devotion and his service has been a training for his present work, a work that is the fruit of the foresight and of the very nature of such as Theodore S. Parvin and Charles Aldrich.

MARKERS FOR SPIRIT LAKE VICTIMS.

Few chapters of frontier hardship excel in tragic interest the story of the group of circumstances attending the massacre of the first settlers about the Spirit and Okoboji lakes in northern Iowa. The larger and more spectacular phases of the matter have received attention in one way or another. In book and pamphlet, in granite and bronze they have been legibly and indelibly written. But on a visit August 5, 1914, with the surviving participants in the different parts of that affair, the writer was struck with the thought that at least one additional act of the living is still due the dead of that luckless band—to visibly note the exact places where the cabins stood and where the respective households were broken up or extinguished.

The average human heart is controlled by sympathy—say what we may of modern greed and selfishness—and in a company of twenty persons of the average age of thirty years standing with this little group of survivors on the ground at the different places where skulls had been crushed or bodies pierced, the common question was not “Why did these people come away from civilization to these shores?” but a closer thought, most intimate indeed, was “Why did these fathers and mothers bring their little ones to this spot?” “Why did the Gardners stay at this point?” The question was of the common human sympathy seeking the motive of the individual hero.

So, in addition to the beautiful monument which Iowa erected on the sightly shores of Okoboji, to commemorate the tragedy, is the need of simple tablets at the places where the

cabins burned and lives were yielded up. We can never answer why, but we can yet say, through proper monuments, where they chose to stand sentinel homes as outposts, and become sacrifices to our racial passion for moving on.

We gladly promised to produce and promote a plan of simple marking of these sacred sites.

“DODGE”, THE “PLAINS” AND “BUFFALO.”

The name “Dodge,” the area known as “the plains” and the subject of the “buffalo,” somewhat in confusion, are elucidated in the following correspondence:

Des Moines, August 20, 1914.

My Dear General,

In preparing a label for our group of buffalo we have mounted, I find my former assistant, Mr. T. Van Hyning, without noting his source, uses the following language:

“Colonel Dodge mentions a single herd estimated at four million, covering a territory not less than twenty-five miles wide and fifty miles long. It required five days for the herd to pass a given point.”

I also think I remember reading somewhere a reference to your observing the arrow of an Indian driven entirely through the body of a full-grown buffalo. Now, where, if any printed record of yours contains these references, are these statements to be found? If they were never printed, or if you cannot recall in what they occur, shall I attribute them to you?

Sincerely yours,

E. R. HARLAN.

Gen. Grenville M. Dodge,
Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Council Bluffs, Iowa, Aug. 29, 1914.

Mr. E. R. Harlan,
Curator Historical Department,
Des Moines, Iowa.

My Dear Harlan,

I have yours of the 20th instant relating to buffalo hunts. The Col. Dodge you refer to is Richard I. Dodge who was in the army. I have seen the same thing that probably he did. I have seen a continuous herd of buffalo from Fort Kearney to what used to be

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