

LIEUTENANT GEORGE WILSON.

Mr. George Wilson, Jr., of Lexington, Mo., lately sent to the Historical Department, where it is now on exhibition, the sword carried by his father during his military service, which included the Black Hawk War of 1832, together with a large parcel of interesting correspondence. The bulk of the letters are copies from the archives of the War Department and Bureau of Indian Affairs relating to the removal of intruding settlers from the vicinity of the Dubuque Lead Mines, where, at that time they had no right to go. There are two deeds of lands by the United States Government to Lieutenant Wilson, executed by Honorable W. L. Marcy, Secretary of War, an original letter signed by Colonel Zachary Taylor, afterwards the hero of Buena Vista and President of the United States, three letters by Governor John Chambers of Iowa, and others of less importance. Lieutenant Wilson graduated from West Point Military Academy July 1, 1830. He remained in the army till 1837, having been promoted to 1st Lieutenant, when he resigned. He served on frontier duty at Fort Crawford, Wisconsin, at Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, and upon occasional detached service. After his resignation from the army, he became a farmer at Agency City, Wapello county, 1838-40; member of the Territorial Legislature of Wisconsin, 1838-39; Clerk of the United States District Court 1839-40; Adjutant of Iowa Militia 1849-53; Register of the U. S. Land Office, Fairfield, Iowa, 1849-51. In the latter year he removed to Lexington, where he became a banker. He died March 3, 1880, at the age of 71. He was a brother of the late Judge Thomas S. Wilson and Colonel David S. Wilson of Dubuque, and a son-in-law of General J. M. Street, the distinguished Indian Agent. We learn from one of his relatives that he served for a time in the

Confederate army, which would not be a matter of wonder, as he removed from Iowa into slave-holding Missouri, and his early military associations were all southern. His brother, David S. Wilson, was a State Senator, (1858-60), and raised and commanded the Sixth Iowa Cavalry. This was one of the instances in which members of the same family were in arms on each side of the great controversy.

It has been stated that Lieutenant Wilson refused to obey the orders of the War Department to burn the cabins of the settlers at Dubuque, and thus render women and children homeless in the dead of winter, but none of the papers above referred to disclose this fact. They show, however, that he was very soon relieved from command by Lieutenant John J. Abercrombie, who was accompanied by Lieutenant Jefferson Davis. The War Department gave Lieutenant Wilson a furlough of three months, commencing on the 1st of April, 1833, and his son suggests that this may have been "a mild punishment for his disobedience of orders" which he believed to be cruel and inhuman. They also contain a petition of the settlers of Dubuque, signed by about 150 persons, protesting against their threatened removal. Among the petitioners were several who afterwards became prominent residents of the mineral city. These documents contain sufficient data from which an article may some day be prepared on this episode in the early history of Iowa.

THE NAMING OF THE CITY OF DAVENPORT.

The belief has prevailed in this State for more than half a century that the city of Davenport derives its name from Colonel George Davenport, one of its distinguished early settlers, who was well and widely known from early territorial days, until he was cruelly murdered in his own

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