

The Ioways Bid Farewell

Stalwart wanderers of plain and woodland were the Ioway Indians: they had fished in the waters of Lake Michigan, trapped game in the forests along the Minnesota and Blue Earth rivers, quarried red pipestone in southwestern Minnesota, hunted buffalo beyond the Missouri, basked in the valley of the Platte, and tarried for a while on the Nishnabotna, the Nodaway, the Chariton, and the Grande. They had dwelt so long on the banks of the Iowa River that their name became forever associated with that stream.

The Ioways first came to the attention of the French in 1676, three years after Joliet and Marquette discovered the land that now bears the name of Iowa. They lived so far beyond the People of the Sunset that they did not visit Montreal and dance for Montcalm until 1757. Their contact with the American frontier was so slight that the first treaty between the United States and the Ioway tribe was not concluded until September 16, 1815, at Portage des Sioux. In the years that followed, the Ioways ranged the vast expanse of land between the Mississippi and Missouri, one of their favorite village sites being in the vicinity of Eldon on the Des Moines River.

The rights of the Ioway Indians to a part owner-

ship in the land that is now Iowa was recognized by the confederated Sauk and Fox tribes in the Grand Council of 1825. The Ioways agreed to the arrangement of drawing the Neutral Line between the Sauks and Foxes and the Sioux. The Sauks and Foxes in turn admitted that the Ioways had a "just claim to a portion of the country" below this line. It was agreed that the three tribes should "peaceably occupy" this area "until some satisfactory arrangement can be made between them for a division of their respective claims."

Meanwhile, in 1824, the Ioways had journeyed to Washington and ceded all claims to their land in Missouri except the Platte District. Twelve years later, in 1836, in a treaty signed at Fort Leavenworth, the Ioways gave up all claims to this triangular piece of land, which lay between the Missouri River and the line running a hundred miles due north from the mouth of the Kansas River. They agreed to move west of the Missouri and settle with the Missouri band of Sauk and Fox Indians on a small reservation between the Kickapoo Reserve and the Great Nemaha River. The title to their old hunting grounds in central Iowa was thus of no use to them.

The treaty whereby the Ioways gave up their possession of territory in what is now Iowa was signed at the Great Nemaha sub-agency on October 19, 1838. Thirteen Ioways made their marks on the treaty which was negotiated by Indian

Agent John Dougherty, and witnessed by Sub-agent Anthony L. Davis, Vance M. Campbell, James M. Croke, and Jeffrey Deroin, interpreter. Frank White Cloud, the dissolute son of Mahaska and Rantchewaime, was the first to sign the treaty for the Ioways. No Heart, who was second in authority and had high regard for the welfare of his fellow-tribesmen, next made his mark. Older than Mahaska, No Heart was an excellent speaker, the real business head of the tribe, and a firm friend of the white man. Next in order came the Plum, the Great Man, He-that-has-no-Fear, Blistered Foot, Little Pipe, Little War Eagle, Cocked Nose, Heard to Load, Speckled Rib, the Iron, and Pile of Meat.

By the terms of the treaty the Ioways gave up their claim to all land lying north of Missouri between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. In a report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs dated October 23, 1839, Governor Robert Lucas declared this region was "not surpassed by any lands in the United States" in fertility of soil. The whole region was "well watered and interspersed with timber and prairie land" and was "well adapted to agricultural purposes." Furthermore, the region abounded in coal.

In return for their rights to this land the Ioways received \$157,500 to be invested by the United States at a guaranteed interest of "not less than five per cent. thereon during the existence of their

tribe." Each year such an amount was to be set apart as the chiefs and headmen required for the support of a blacksmith shop, agricultural assistance, and education. After allotting \$50 annually for Jeffrey Deroin during his natural life, the treaty provided that the balance of the income was to be delivered, "at the cost of the United States, to said tribe of Ioway Indians in money or merchandise, at their own discretion, at such time and place as the President may direct, *Provided always* That the payment shall be made each year in the month of October." The government also agreed to erect ten houses "at such place or places on their own land as said Ioways may select."

Such were the provisions of the treaty whereby the Ioway Indians reluctantly said farewell to their beautiful land.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN