

**ANNALS OF IOWA**  
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**HISTORY OF SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA**  
BY WILLARD BARROWS, ESQUIRE, OF DAVENPORT.  
MEMOIR BY THE EDITOR.

WILLARD BARROWS, Esq., the writer of the following history, was born at Munson, Massachusetts, in 1806. He received a thorough education in the Common Schools and Academies of New England. In 1827, he settled in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, where he taught school for several years; and was married in 1832. Selecting the pursuit of engineering and surveying, he engaged in a contract with the Government to finish the surveys of the Choctaw Indian Purchase, in the cypress swamps and cane-brakes on the Yazoo and Sunflower rivers, in the region where the North-western army and navy of the United States have lately operated. By the sudden rise of the Mississippi river, which overflowed all the country except the ridges, his party were cut off from all inhabitants and supplies, during the winter of 1830-1, reducing them to short allowance, and even to the fruit of the persimmon tree and the flesh of the opossum for food. All other animals fled, except that a hawk or an owl was occasionally killed. About the first of March, the flood so far subsided, that they went by canoes to Vicksburg and Natches; and he proceeded to Jackson, Mississippi, to report there to the Surveyor General.

In 1837, he was occupied in the first surveys of Iowa by the Government, and spent the winter on the Wapsipinicon river. And in July, 1838, he settled with his family in Rockingham, five miles below Davenport.

In 1840, Mr. Barrows surveyed the Islands of the Mississippi, from the mouth of the Rock river to Quincy, Illinois. In 1841-2, the public surveys being suspended, he engaged in farming, and held the office of Justice of the Peace, of Postmaster and Notary Public, at Rockingham, in which he continued till 1843, when he entered upon the survey of the Kickapoo country, North of the Wisconsin river. There the Winnebago Indians stole the provisions of the party, and he was compelled to go to Prairie Du Chien for supplies. On his return, his way was obstructed by prostrate timber hurled in every direction by a terrific tornado, through which, with the help of indolent Indians, he was able to cut a passage only two and a half miles in two days. Forced to send his provisions up the Kickapoo by the Indians in canoes, he followed on by land, till they were past the track of the whirlwind. The supplies were landed and the Indians dismissed. He then carried the provisions a half mile and concealed them. The next day, early, he took a bag of flour and a little pack-horse, and hastened to relieve his men, as fast as he could, through the wilderness, over the "Sugar loaves of Wisconsin," as the region is called, where Col. Atchison, in 1832, in pursuit of Blackhawk and his Indian warriors, was obliged to leave his wagons and baggage with the loss of many horses. On the fourth day, he came upon one starving man of his party; and, after refreshing him, he pressed on to the camp, where the rest, neglecting to rescue themselves when they were able, and supposing him to be murdered by the Indians, were sunken in despair. Cheered by his arrival, and strengthened with food, they all started for the depot of provisions on the Kickapoo, and reached the place, to find them all stolen again by the Indians. The only means of saving their lives, then, was to ascend the Kickapoo to a ford, and thence go to Prairie Du Chien. On the third day after, they reached a settlement, where they stayed a week and recruited; and when arrived at Prairie Du Chien, they found many articles of their clothing in the liquor shops, that the Root Indians had stolen and sold. Their horses had

previously been scattered during the tornado, so that the party had been compelled to eat their two dogs, at the camp, making soup of the bones and nettles, and boiling part of their harness for food, instead of horse-flesh.

Afterwards, Mr. Barrows traversed Northern Iowa, then in possession of the Indian tribes, with a view to a knowledge of the region. He visited the Mission School, then at Fort Atchison, where he got a passport over that section of the country from Rev. Mr. Lowrey, then in charge of the Mission.

"Barrows' New Map of Iowa, with Notes", was published in 1854, by Doolittle & Munson, Cincinnati; and it was considered of so much importance that the Legislature of Iowa ordered copies of it for the members of both Houses, and also for the State officers. This work, together with letters published in the Davenport *Democrat*, from California, whither he went in 1850, by the overland route, enduring almost incredible hardships, and returning by Mexico and Cuba, and also some communications for the press of a scientific character, constitute, along with the history that here follows, the chief literary productions of Mr. Barrows, all descriptive of new parts of our country.

At intervals, Mr. Barrows has turned his attention to land business, with success. His suburban residence and grounds are conspicuous to every person passing in the cars, South-west of Davenport, where he enjoys the fruits of his past activity and enterprise.

In person, as is indicated by his portrait in this number, Mr. Barrows is full and portly. In manners, he is courteous and genial. As a Christian, "the highest style of man," he is charitable and discreet. And, to use the words of the author of "Davenport, Past and Present," to which the reader is referred, for fuller particulars, and from which these are drawn; "may many years yet be his portion, as happy and pleasant as his early life has been laborious and active."

## INTRODUCTION.

In compliance with a formal request of the Curators of the State Historical Society, I have undertaken the task of writing a full history of Scott county, Iowa; or more particularly, facts and incidents connected with its early history. A residence of twenty-five years in this county has given me an opportunity for observation, and a knowledge of the proper sources from which to obtain information.

Much care has been taken to gather information from the early settlers of the county; and a hearty response has come up from some parts. In many instances, difference of opinion has arisen as to dates and circumstances. In such cases, I have generally taken the decision of the majority.

It might be supposed that our existence as a county is so brief, not twenty eight years, that the incidents connected with its settlement and growth would be fresh in the minds of all. Such may be the case with much of our history, while some important facts are lost. The early settler seldom finds time, if he has the ability, to record passing events, save in the memory. The unparalleled rapidity with which the West has marched forward to greatness and power, is a sufficient excuse for the pioneer historian, when he fails, through want of facts, to give a full and perfect account of his first struggles. The early emigrant to a new county finds that all his time and energies are required to provide even for the necessaries of life; the rude cabin must be raised, for a temporary abode at least; the virgin soil must be broken up and fenced, and numberless little requisites for the comfort of himself or family, crowd upon his attention, so that the new beginner is most emphatically his own "hewer of wood, and drawer of water."

In collecting the material for this work, the author has often been doubly repaid for his

labor in the pleasant meetings he has had with many an "old settler," from whom the whirl and bustle of life had separated him for years. Such reunions are sweet and profitable, and these hardy sons of toil, meeting after many years of separation, like old soldiers, retire to some shady nook, there recount the scenes through which they have passed, and "fight their battles o'er again." Although the trials and hardships of the pioneers of Scott county may not compare with the early settlement of Kentucky, Ohio, or some other Western States, yet there are many incidents connected with its early history that are worthy of record, and should be gathered before they pass beyond our reach.

## **CHAPTER I. GENERAL REMARKS.**

The County of Scott being situated on the Mississippi River, and having a water front of some thirty-five miles upon its South and Eastern boundary, has many natural advantages not found in more inland counties. Upon the North it is bounded by the Wau-bessa-pinnecon Se-po, which in the Indian language signifies "the place of white potatoes." The name is derived from the two Indian words "Waubessa," white or swan like, and "Pinne-ac," a potato; Se-po being the Indian name for river. The river was probably so named from the fact of great quantities of the wild artichoke being, found in that region.

This stream is some ten or twelve rods wide, with a swift clear current, and its banks generally skirted with timber. Its bottom lands are from a half to a mile or two wide, and are subject to annual overflow, affording great pasturage for stock, not being in general dry enough for cultivation. The Western boundary of the county is upon rich rolling prairie extending along the fifth principal meridian, separating it from the counties of Cedar and Muscatine.

There is much in the early history of this country to interest and excite the antiquarian and lover of research. Long before the discovery of the Great River by Marquette and Joliet, on the 17th of June, 1673, tradition tells us that the spot of ground now occupied by the city of Davenport, was a large and populous Indian village. There can be but little doubt, from the history of those early Pioneers, that it was here they first landed in their voyage down the Mississippi, after they entered it from the mouth of the Wisconsin, on the 17th of June.

The first landing, made by them on record, was on the 21st, four days after they entered the Mississippi, and was upon the Western bank, where, say, they, "We discovered foot-prints of some fellow mortals, and a little path (trail) leading into a pleasant meadow." Following the trail a short distance, they heard the savages talking, and "making their presence known by a loud cry," they were led to a village of the "Illinies."

There could not have been sufficient time between the 17th and 21st for the voyagers to have descended beyond this point, or to have reached the lower or Des Moines Rapids; which some historians claim to have been the landing places spoken of. There having been an Indian village here from time immemorial according to Indian tradition, fixes the fact most conclusively, that it was at this place, Davenport, that the soil of Iowa was first pressed by the foot of a white man. The legends of the Indians are full of historic lore, pertaining to this beautiful spot, comprising Davenport, Rock Island and their surroundings.

Black Hawk was ever ready to tell of the traditions of his people, and often dwelt with much interest and excitement on the traditions of his fathers. He says they came from Gitche Gammee, "the big water," Lake Superior, and Indians that are yet living say that the home of their fathers was at Saukie Creek, that empties into Lake Superior, and that as they traveled

westward, they encountered foes whom they fought and conquered, and that in turn they were conquered by their enemies, and tribe fought tribe for possession of the land, until they reached the great river, the Massa-Sepoy, which signifies "The Father of Rivers."

The tradition of the Saukies who have always lived upon the prairies is, that their name means "Man of the Prairie," or prairie Indian.

They also aver that their friends, the Musquakies, which signifies "Foxes," were a sly and cunning people, and united with them for strength to fight their enemies, the tribes of the Kickapoo and Illini, and that they have ever lived in peace, as one tribe and one people.

These were the Indians in possession of the country when the United States assumed jurisdiction over it, and of whom it was purchased.

There were many traces of the aborigines existing when the first settlers came to Iowa. Several Indian mounds, or burial places of quite large dimensions, were still used by wandering bands of Indians as late as 1835 and 1836, situated on the banks of the river, about two miles below this city, where was formerly the farm of the Hon. E. Cook. Indian graves have been found in excavations about this city; and relics of ancient date discovered, showing that this spot has been the home of the red man for centuries, and corroborating the testimony of Black Hawk and others, as to the traditions of their fathers.

The scenery presented, in ascending the Mississippi, taking in the whole view from the point of the bluff below Rockingham, as far up as Hampton, on the Illinois shore, is one of unexcelled beauty and loveliness. Its islands dotting the broad expanse of waters, the scenery of the bluffs upon the Iowa side and Rock Island with old fort Armstrong, have been admired, and more sketches taken of this panoramic view, by home and foreign artists, than any other portion of the Mississippi valley.

Of the early history of Scott county, we have a most vivid and truthful history, compiled from living witnesses.

At the close of the Black Hawk war, in 1832, there were no settlers upon this side of the river. The purchase from the Sac (or Saukie) and Fox tribe of Indians, of the soil of Scott county was made, in common with that of all the river counties, on the 15th of Sept., 1832, upon the ground now occupied by the depot buildings of the Miss. & Mo. R. R. Company in this city. The treaty was held by Gen. Scott.

The cholera was raging among the troops at Fort Armstrong, at the time, and for prudential reasons it was thought best to meet the Indians upon this side of the river.

In this sale, the Indians reserved a section, (640 acres), and presented it to Antoine Le Clair, Esq., their interpreter. This reserve was located upon the river between Harrison street and Bridge Avenue, in Fulton's addition to the city of Davenport, running back over the bluff to a line due East and West, a few rods this side of Locust street. They also gave Mr. Le Claire another section of land at the head of the rapids where the city of Le Clair now stands.

The treaty of Gen. Scott with the Indians was ratified by Congress at their session in the winter of 1833. Thus did the United States come into possession of the soil of Scott county.

Of the Indians from whom it was purchased, and of the tribes who had been in possession in earlier days, we should like to give a more extended notice than we are permitted, in this brief history of Scott county.

The Sacs and Foxes were provided with homes in Kansas, where they now reside. They are fast dwindling away; and but a remnant is left of the tribes of the Winnebagoes, the Chippewas, Pottawattamies, Ottawas, Menominees and other powerful bands that were in possession of all the country from the lakes to the Missouri, at the termination of the American Revolution.

Where the sad remnants of any of these tribes are found, they present but a faint resemblance of their former greatness and renown, or of their warlike and noble bearing. A few squalid families may be found loitering about the frontier towns, made beggars by the low and wasting vices of the white man.

But their destiny is written. The onward march of the Anglo-Saxon race tells with unerring prophecy, the tale of the Red Man! Already have his haunts been broken up in the quiet dells of the Rocky Mountains; already have the plains of Utah drunk the blood of this ill-fated and unhappy race and ere long his retreating foot-prints will be found along the shores of the Pacific, hastening to the spirit land, the "Great Hereafter."

We now enter upon our history more in detail, considering our history more in detail, considering each township, beginning with Buffalo.

## **CHAPTER II. FIRST SETTLEMENT OF BUFFALO TOWNSHIP.**

In 1833, Capt. Benjamin W. Clark, a native of Virginia, who had settled and made some improvements on the Illinois shore, where the town of Andalusia now is, moved across the Mississippi and commenced a settlement upon the present site of the town of Buffalo, and was probably the first settler on the soil of Scott county. He had been Captain of a company of mounted volunteer Rangers in the Black Hawk War, under Gen. Dodge. Here in Buffalo, he made the first "claim," erected the first cabin, broke the first ground, planted the first corn, and raised the first produce in the county. His nearest neighbors at this time upon the Iowa shore, then called the "Black Hawk Purchase," were at Burlington and Du Buque.

The first stock of goods ever opened in the county, was at Buffalo, by a Mr. Lynde, of Stepenson, now Rock Island. The first orchard planted, and the first coal ever discovered and dug in this county, were by Capt. Clark, in 1834. The first public Ferry across the Mississippi, between Burlington and Du Buque, was at Buffalo, and for several years, "Clark's Ferry" was the only place of crossing in all this region of country. In the early part of the year 1835, he erected a public house, which is still standing, a large frame building two stories high, which, at that time, was considered a great enterprise. He brought the lumber from Cincinnati, at a cost of sixty dollars a thousand feet.

In 1836, Capt. Clark laid out the town of Buffalo, it being the first town regularly laid out in this county. He succeeded in building up quite a village; but there was much need of flouring and lumber mills, and in 1836, he erected, near the mouth of Duck Creek, the first saw mill in the county, or in this part of Iowa; and although it was on a small scale, and quite inadequate to the wants of the settlers who began to seek homes beyond the Mississippi yet it proved of the greatest public benefit, and served the people for many years.

The Ferry was established at Buffalo, while Capt. Clark lived at Andalusia, before he moved across the river. The first ferriage collected by him, after he had completed his flat boat, was attended by the following amusing circumstance. Late one evening, a company of French traders who were returning from the Iowa river to the Trading Post on Rock Island, encamped on the bank of the river where the Hotel now stands in Buffalo. They heard the report of the Captain's intention to establish a ferry across the river at this point, and feeling somewhat inclined to ridicule such an enterprise, they called loudly for the ferry boat, saying that they had a drove of cattle to cross, an assertion perfectly ridiculous in itself, as nothing in the shape of cattle nearer than buffalo or elk had ever appeared on the western banks of the Mississippi river.

But the Captain was not to be trifled with. He had made ready his boat. His ferry was established, and being a man of bold, and most unflinching, uncompromising sternness and perseverance, he rallied his men, manned his boat with some eight men and boys, and very quietly crossed over to answer the continued calls of the noisy Frenchmen. It was a very dark night, and as the oars were plied to the ponderous flat boat, Capt. Clark stood at the helm steering his rude craft over the swelling waves of the Mississippi with nothing to guide him but the blaze of the camp fire and noise of the company on the Iowa shore, meditating most undoubtedly in a frame of mind not the most serene. When nearing the shore, the traders on discovering him set up a most uncourteous roar of laughter, turning the whole matter off as a joke; called them fools, and told the captain they had nothing to ferry, and that he might return to the Illinois. But Capt. Clark's anger was now raised to the highest pitch. He landed his boat, and with his men marched into the camp of the insolent Frenchmen and demanded ten dollars as a fee for ferriage. No man who knew Capt. Clark ever wanted to parlay with him when his usually mild temper was aroused by insult. The party soon became satisfied that, under the circumstances, it was their best policy to pay up. The great difficulty now was that they had not ten dollars in the company but very willingly proffered two bolts of calico, which, among Indians at least, was considered legal tender. This was accepted and taken as the first ferriage ever received in Scott county. Capt. Clark and his party returned, having taught the wild traders one of the first lessons of civilization.

Capt. Clark claimed the honor of being the father of the first white child born in Scott county. This son, David H. Clark, now a resident of Polk county, in this State, was born in Buffalo, the 21st of April, 1834.

For many years the town of Buffalo attracted much attention, and bid fair to become a serious rival to Stephenson, then just merging into existence. But Davenport and Rockingham were soon laid off, and a ferry being established between Davenport and Stephenson, by Mr. Le Clair, travel was directed to that point, and the division of the country into counties left Buffalo in no enviable situation. It had been the most prosperous town in this region of country, doing a large business with the emigrants to the Territory, who were then beginning to settle up and down the river and along the Cedar valley, furnishing grain and provisions of all kinds to the new comers. Capt. Clark spent much time in showing emigrants the country and assisting them in making claims, and probably did more towards the early settlement of this country than any other man that ever came into it. He died at Buffalo, Oct. 25th, 1839.

To show the prospects of Buffalo, as a point of interest at that day, we might relate a circumstance that occurred in reference to the value of town lots. After Davenport was laid out, Maj. Wm. Gordon and some others, proprietors, called on Capt. Clark, and offered him an even exchange of forty or sixty lots in Davenport for an equal number in Buffalo. But the Captain declined, regarding it as a poor offer as it probably looked to be at that time.

It will be seen, by reference to the map of Scott county, that it lacks a township in the south west corner, (No. 78 N. R. 1 E.), of being square. As it has always been a mystery to many, particularly to the new comer, why this township should have been set off to Muscatine county, while it so naturally belonged to Scott, I will here explain.

In the first Territorial Legislature, which convened at Burlington, in December, 1837, an act was passed creating the boundaries of Scott county, as well as many others. Unfortunately for the well-being of many a town site and village, this honorable body had too many speculators in town lots among its members. Dr. Reynolds, then living three miles above Bloomington, now Muscatine, being a member, had laid off a place called Geneva, upon which all his efforts for

the county seat were centered. The manner and extent, in laying off the counties, were of course, to decide the destiny of many a town site which had been made especially for the county seat. The object of Dr. Reynolds was to press the upper line of Muscatine county up the river as far as possible, so as to make Geneva central, and lessen the chances of Bloomington, which was an applicant for favor. The Davenport and Rockingham member, Alex W. McGregor, Esq., knew that if the Scott county line ran too far down the river, Buffalo, then a rival, and by far the most - populous and important town above Burlington, would stand too great a chance, so that a compromise was entered into, and this township was given to Muscatine county, which gives to our county its present ill-shaped appearance.

Buffalo, with all her just claims, was sacrificed, by placing her in the lower end of the county. Dr. Reynolds' grand scheme was illustrated, for Bloomington got the county seat for Muscatine county, and Davenport and Rockingham "doubled teams" on Buffalo, got the county seat, and then fought for choice of location, as will be noticed under its proper head. This was the killing stroke to Buffalo. Davenport ultimately received all the benefits derived from the trickery and corruption of legislative enactments, while Geneva, Montpelier, Salem, Freeport, Mouth of Pine, and some half dozen more towns that were laid out along the Mississippi river from Muscatine Island to Davenport, "went under," carrying with them all their visionary schemes for greatness and power.

Buffalo township has more timber land than any other in the county. There are thousands of acres now covered with a growth that has arisen since the first settlement, that will cut from twenty to fifty cords of wood to the acre. It is estimated that there is five times as much timber in Buffalo township, as there was at the time of the first settlement in 1834. A fact showing how easily timber may be produced if cared for, and the annual fires kept out of the woodlands.

There is another very important item to appear in the history of this township. Coal was first discovered here in 1834, and as early as 1835 and 1886 was dug and sold to steamboats at the mouth of Bowling's Creek, which empties into the Mississippi about halfway between Buffalo and Rockingham. The first bank opened was about half a mile up this Creek, and was worked to considerable extent by Dr. A. C. Donaldson, who settled in 1887, near its mouth. Still higher up this creek, some three miles, Benj. Wright and Capt. E. Murray, from Zanesville, Ohio, opened a bank in 1838 and furnished coal to Davenport and Rockingham for fifteen cents per bushel; and from that day to this, mines have been opened and worked in almost every part of the township, until at the present time, more than twenty-five coal mines are open and ready for work. The most extensive now in operation, are near Buffalo, and belong to Capt. W. L. Clark & Co., who are getting out about one thousand bushels per day. They are preparing to lay a rail track to the river, and when completed, the company will be able to deliver on the bank, or in barges, from two thousand five hundred to four thousand bushels per day. Their road will accommodate many other banks now opened, and that will be opened along the track. The coal now obtained is far superior to that formerly dug, and is said to be a better article for making steam, and for other purposes, giving off more flame and igniting very readily. Experienced steamboat men, who have examined this coal, and need it, say that one thousand bushels of it will go further, and make more steam, than twelve hundred bushels of the Rock River coal.

Capt. W. L. Clark, son of the original proprietor of Buffalo, is now a resident of Davenport, but holds large interests of lands and coal banks in this county. The very lands claimed by his father in 1839, soon after the Black Hawk war, are still in the possession of Capt. W. L. Clark.

James M. Bowling, from Virginia, now a resident of Davenport, settled in Buffalo township, the 4th of July, 1835, at the mouth of Bowling's creek. He purchased the "claim" of one Orange

Babbett, the quit claim deed to which has recently been presented to the State Historical Society by Mr. Bowling. This property now belongs to Capt. Leroy Dodge. Mr. Bowling commenced farming, in 1885. That fall, he went back to Virginia, married, and returned, in 1836, with his wife and two sisters. In 1837, he had the prospect of a fine crop, but the Indians, who still loitered about the country, were encamped upon this creek. In June, there were some five hundred Indians living near him, and very troublesome. They set fire to the prairie and burned up the fences surrounding his corn, which was at the time six inches high. The Indian horses then ate much of it, and he was compelled in the heat of summer to cut timber and make rails to enclose his field again; but, notwithstanding all his misfortune, he succeeded in raising a very good crop. The Indians, however, were a constant annoyance to him.

In his absence, on one occasion, a lot of Indians came to the house, and Mrs. Bowling having the doors fastened by putting a gimlet over the latch, with his sisters, remained in silence for some time, until they pushed out the chinking of the cabin near the door, and running in their arms, pulled out the gimlet, when Mrs. Bowling and sisters braced themselves against the door, and by main strength kept them at bay, until, weary of the effort to make an entry, they left the premises. This is but one instance among many of the trials and hardships to which the first settlers were exposed, and through which they passed with patience and toil.

Although Buffalo became almost extinct, after her defeat and downfall, yet, in 1855, it was re-surveyed and mostly purchased by the Germans who settled in and around the town. It has a steam mill, three stores, an Episcopal church organized, and one of Disciples, or Christians. Both societies worship in the schoolhouse. Buffalo now contains about five hundred inhabitants, and is one of the most beautiful town sites on the Mississippi river.

Many of the first settlers of this township are still living at Buffalo, enjoying in affluence the sure reward of their early struggles. One among the many who have retired from the more active pursuits of life, and now enjoy life's comforts, is Capt. Leroy Dodge, who emigrated to Iowa, in 1856, from the State of New York. He was, for many years, a pilot on the Mississippi, and then commander of steamboats. Having secured some four hundred acres along the river and bluff above Buffalo, he built him a pleasant cottage on the banks of the river, and turned his attention to agriculture, principally to stock raising, of which he has some noble specimens. In 1852, he represented Scott county in our State Legislature. He was an unflinching Democrat, and loved the cause of human rights.

Among others who settled, at an early day, in this township, were Joseph and Matthias Mounts, Elias Moore and Andrew W Campbell. Mr. Campbell was among the most enterprising of the early settlers; having opened a large farm on the bottom land of the river. He sold it to Henry C. Morehead, at an early day, and removed to the prairie, near where the town of Blue Grass now is, where he opened another large farm that now belongs to his heirs. He was elected,

in February, 1838, one of the County Commissioners, it being the first election ever held for officers under the county organization. He also filled other places of responsibility and trust. Being fond of travel and adventure, he frequently took excursions into the interior of Iowa, while it was yet in possession of the Indians, seeming to forget all business cares and enjoy very much the solitude and loveliness of our western wilds. In the spring of 1850, he crossed the plains to California and returned by way of the Isthmus that fall. The following summer, he again set forth for California, by the overland route, in company with a son and a married daughter, whose husband was in California. His health had been for years somewhat impaired and his constitution broken. On Green river, in the Great Basin of the Rocky Mountains, he sickened and died, and his bones are left to moulder in the cheerless desert, with no lasting monument to point the weary pilgrim to his lonely grave.

### **CHAPTER III. ROCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP.**

In ascending the river from Buffalo, we next enter upon Rockingham township, the settlement of which began simultaneously with that of Le Clair, Princeton and the Groves. This township, comprising the bluffs of the Mississippi, is somewhat broken, and was formerly covered with heavy timber. The bottom lands that are above overflow, are excellent farming lands. The settlement was begun at Rockingham in the fall of 1835. Col. John Sullivan, of Zanesville, Ohio, James and Adrian H. Davenport, Henry W. Higgins, and others, purchased the claim that had been made upon the present site of Rockingham, which is directly opposite the mouth of Rock river.

Like many other places selected in those days for town sites, Rockingham "possessed many advantages," the most prominent of which was, that it would command the trade of Rock river, which, at that time, was supposed to be navigable. It was laid off into lots, in the spring of 1836. Its location upon the banks of the Mississippi, with Rock river on the opposite side, was well drawn, and lithograph maps made and circulated in eastern cities, and presented a picture of much beauty. For a while, it was a place of considerable importance. Emigrants, unacquainted with the annual overflow of the Mississippi, were deceived. To the eye, in low water, all was beautiful, and many a settler felt happy in finding so delightful a home in the West. But, with the rise of the river, its vast sloughs were filled, and the embryo city became an island. All communication with the bluff was cut off by a slough running back of the town near the bluffs, so deep, it is said, that keel boats had often navigated it with heavy loads. The first overflow was considered an "uncommon occurrence." The second, a thing that might "never happen again," and unknown to the "oldest inhabitants."

In March, 1834, Adrian H. Davenport made a claim on Credit Island. This Island, containing nearly four hundred acres, belong to Scott county, it being on the Iowa side of the channel of the Mississippi, and lies just above the mouth of Rock river, and a little above the town of Rockingham. The early French traders had a trading post on this island, and credit was here first given to the Indians, hence the name, "Credit Island," was given to it. Soon after the settlement of Mr. Davenport upon this Island, he was joined by his father, Marmaduke Davenport, who had been Indian agent at Rock Island. This Island was purchased from Government by Mr. Davenport, and is now owned by J. H. Jenny, of this city. On the 14th of August, 1834, Mr. Davenport had a son born, which was the second white male child born in the county, unless one of Levi Chamberlain's of Pleasant Valley be the second. This child of

Mr. Davenport died while young. The Davenports, in the selection and location of Rockingham, became proprietors, and were dry goods and grocery merchants, for many years.

In 1850, A. H. Davenport and his father removed to Le Claire, where his father died in 1852, much respected for his many social and Christian virtues. Adrian H., his son, while living at Rockingham, in 1838, received the appointment from Gov. Lucas, of Sheriff of Scott and Clinton counties, Clinton being attached to Scott for judicial purposes. This office he retained for twelve years, and filled it with great fidelity and acceptance to the people. He was ever a Democrat, a man of untiring energy of character and of moral worth. By his removal to Le Claire, in 1850, he not only secured to himself an ample fortune, but probably did more for the building up of that beautiful and enterprising city, than any other man in it. He was, in 1869, Mayor of the city of Le Claire, and will be more immediately identified, when we come to speak of this part of our county.

James Davenport, his uncle, and the one more particularly interested in the laying out of the town of Rockingham, removed from that place, in 1848, to Shullsburgh, Wisconsin, about fourteen miles from Galena, where he has been largely engaged in mining. Not only has he been successful in his new employment, and secured to himself ample stores of this world's goods, but has made himself useful in trying to arrest the progress of intemperance among the miners; employing none but sober and industrious men, and by precept and example, teaching with humility, the pure principles of Christianity, before which irreligion and vice have very much diminished.

The first of August, 1836, Col. Sullivan returned from Zanesville with his family, and some emigrants, for settlement. The town, on the first of May of this year, contained two log cabins, one being occupied by A. H. Davenport and his family, and the other by a Mr. Foster. Mr. Sullivan brought with him a small stock of goods, and removing his store from Stephenson, where he had been trading for a year, he erected a small building and soon opened a dry goods and grocery store. In the fall and winter of 1836, Rockingham contained some thirteen houses, and about one hundred inhabitants, among whom were Col. Sullivan and family, the Davenport families, Millington and Franklin Easley, Capt. John Coleman and brothers, Wm. Lingo, Messrs. Mountain and Cale, John Willis, S. S. Brown, Henry C. Morehead, David Sullivan, Ethel and J. M. Camp, William White, Wm. Dutro, H. W. Higgins, Cornelius Harold, Richard Harrison, Jas. B. McCoy and E. H. Shepherd. Dr. E. S. Barrows located here, in the fall of 1836. He was the first practicing physician located on the Iowa side of the river, between Burlington and Du Buque. For many years his practice extended over a large extent of country, embracing Clinton, Cedar and Muscatine counties. In 1843, he removed to Davenport, and continued his practice until, a few years since, he retired, to enjoy in quiet the fruits of his early labor. He has ever stood at the head of his profession, and has been President of the "Iowa State Medical Society."

Of the early settlers of Rockingham, many are still inhabitants of Scott county. Some have died, and many settled in other portions of the State. We should like to speak more in detail of the early trials and difficulties through which they passed; of their joys and sorrows; of disappointed hopes; and be allowed to follow each in his fortunes since the days of old Rockingham. But the limits of this work will not allow. There is, however, one truthful remark that may be written. No village of the "Far West," at that day, could boast of a better class of citizens, or those of whom she could be more proud, than Rockingham, both on account of their high toned moral character, their social and friendly qualities, and for their kind and liberal attentions to the sick and to the stranger. Many a wanderer from the home circle, has been made to know this, when laid upon a sick bed in a far western village, he has found the kindly tones

and skillful hands of woman, in his sick room, and had at the same time substantial proof that he was not forgotten by the "sterner sex."

A large hotel was erected by the proprietors in 1836, and kept for several years by H. W. Higgins, and was one of the best public houses west of the Mississippi river. It is still standing, and occupied by W. D. Westlake, Esq. Capt. John Coleman still lives in this fallen city, the last of the first settlers. In the spring of 1837, two more dry goods stores were opened, one by the Davenports, and one by John S. Sheller & Co.

During the years of 1835, 1836 and 1837, a few settlers made claims back from the river, along under the bluffs and on the edge of the prairie. Among these were David Sullivan, in 1835, immediately back of Rockingham, under the bluff. His farm extended to the bottom lands. Rufus Ricker also settled, the same year, and Rev. Enoch Mead, in the winter of 1837. The Hon. James Grant opened a large farm in 1838, upon the edge of the prairie at a little grove, called at that time, "Picayune Grove." He enclosed three hundred and twenty acres, much of which he put under cultivation. He introduced the first blooded stock into the county, if not into the State, and did much for the agricultural interests of the county at that early day. The stock introduced by Judge Grant, at that time, has been of immense value to our county, the fruits of which may be seen in the herds of many of our best farmers.

Among those who settled on the bluffs and on the edge of the prairie, were Lewis Ringlesby, Esq., E. W. H. Winfield, John Wilson, more particularly known as "Wildcat Wilson," from having often, as he said, "whipt his weight in wildcats," and John Friday, who broke the first ground upon the bluff, seven acres for himself and four for Mr. Winfield.

Flour, in the winter of 1836, was from \$16 to \$20 per barrel; corn meal \$1.75 per bushel, and no meat of any kind for sale at any price, except deer, turkey and other wild game, of which there was plenty, at that day, in the timber lands of the bluff.

John W. Brown, Wm. Vantuyl and John Burnside, also, made claims or purchased them on Ma-ka-tai me-she-kiah-Sepo, or Black Hawk Creek, just above Rockingham, in 1836. John Wilson obtained, that fall, two bushels of seed wheat from John Dunn, who had settled in Allen's Grove, which seed he had brought from Ohio. Mr. Winfield sowed the wheat that fall, and cut the crop the following year with a sickle. Such were the beginnings in agriculture by the settlers of 1836.

At this early day, business of all kinds was dull, and the inhabitants sought pleasure and pastime in hunting and fishing. Enormous specimens of the finny tribe were taken, and to the new comer, were objects of surprise and curiosity. Cat fish were taken, weighing from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy-five pounds. I caught a species of the pike called the Muskelunge, in Sugar creek, which empties into Cedar river, in June, 1837, that weighed thirty five and a half pounds, and measured five and a half feet long. The same summer, E. W. H. Winfield caught a cat fish in the Mississippi, at Rockingham, that weighed one hundred and seventy pounds. Having hauled it up in front of the hotel, it was soon surrounded with spectators. A little daughter of H. W. Higgins having caught a sight of the monster fish through the crowd, as it lay floundering on the ground, and not knowing exactly what it was, or the exact cause of the excitement, started off upon the run, exclaiming, "There, now, if I don't go and tell my Pa, they have killed our old sow." The river and the forest furnished ample sport as well as food for the early settler. Venison was often purchased for two and three cents per pound. Wild turkeys, for twenty-five to fifty cents, and prairie chickens were so plentiful that they were generally given away by the sportsmen.

In the summer of 1887, a steam saw and flouring mill was erected by Capt. Sullivan, it

being the first of the kind built in Scott county, or upon this side of the Mississippi, between Burlington and Du Buque. A Methodist church was organized in 1836, and in the fall of 1837, the Rev. Enoch Mead gathered a small church of the Presbyterian order. In 1840, the Rev. Zachariah Goldsmith, an Episcopalian, organized a church. All congregations worshipped, by turns, in a small church building erected by common subscription. It was also used as a school house. In 1838, Rockingham contained forty-five houses, including stores and work-shops, and, in 1839, there were four dry goods and three grocery stores, besides a drug store and some whisky shops. Mechanics of nearly all trades had settled there, but the financial state of things at that date was so low that but little was done in the way of trade.

Scott county was organized, and named, after Gen. Winfield Scott, at the session of the Legislature of Wisconsin Territory, which met at Burlington in December, 1837. The same act provided for holding an election for the county seat on the third Monday of February, 1838. Rockingham and Davenport being the only points to be voted for, the polls were to be opened at the Rockingham House, in Rockingham, and the Davenport Hotel, in Davenport, and at the house of E. Parkhurst, in the town of Parkhurst, now Le Claire. This same legislative act also provided for an election to be held, two weeks after the county seat election, for choice of county officers, at which last election, Rockingham elected her candidates. The commissioners were B. F. Pike Alfred Carter and A. W. Campbell, with E. Cook for County Clerk.

The great importance of the county seat election is apparent. The fortunate town in the election was to become important from having the seat of justice. Great preparations were made for a spirited contest. The matter had been before the Legislature, and an attempt was made to locate it by that body, but a scheme of bribery and corruption among some of its members was brought to light, and an act then passed to leave it to the people. The leading men in the contest upon the Rockingham side were Col. Sullivan, the Messrs. Davenport, Dr. E. S. Barrows, G. B. Sargent, J. S. Shiller, J. C. Higginson, W. Barrows, H. W. Higgins, Wm. Vantuyl, O. G. McLain, Fitzpatrick, Phipps, Shepherd and others besides many that were non-residents of the town, who lent their influence and time upon the occasion. Davenport had her Le Claire, Col. Davenport and sons, Judge Mitchell, James Mackintosh and brother, D. C. Eldridge, John Owens, and a host of others, men of means, talent and influence.

Rockingham, in this first election, if conducted on fair principles, had no cause to fear the result. She had no need of resorting to unfair means to gain the election. The Southern part of the county, at that time, was the most densely populated. She could poll more votes than Davenport, besides which the Le Claire township, at the head of the rapids, took sides with Rockingham, expecting at some future time to effect an alteration in the county lines on the North, so as to make Le Claire more central, and, of course, it was policy to vote for the most Southern point in the election.

The returns of the election were to be made to Gov. Dodge, of Wisconsin, we then belonging to that Territory. The act specified that the place having the largest number of votes, should be declared the county seat, and that it should be the duty of the Governor upon such return being made, to issue his proclamation accordingly. Davenport, well knowing her weakness and want of "material aid," entered into a contract with a man by the name of Bellows, from Du Buque, to furnish voters at so much per head, board, whisky and lodging to be furnished by the party requiring service.

The day of election came, and with it came also the importation of voters by the "Bellows Express." They were from Du Buque and Snake Diggings, eleven sleigh loads of the most wretched looking rowdies and vagabonds that had ever appeared in the streets of Davenport.

They were the dregs of the mining districts of that early day; filled with impudence and profanity, soaked in whisky and done up in rags. Illinois contributed largely by vote for Davenport. There was no use in challenging such a crowd of corruption, for they hardly knew the meaning of the word perjury. So they were permitted to vote unmolested. Rockingham at this election, whatever she may have done afterwards, observed a strict, honest and impartial method of voting. There was no necessity for a resort to intrigue. She knew her strength and had it within herself. The election being over, the Du Buque delegation of miners returned home, having drunk ten barrels of whisky and cost the contracting parties over three thousand dollar in cash!

Davenport polled a majority of votes. The rejoicing was most enthusiastic. Bonfires and illuminations were exhibited, and the result was considered a great and final triumph. But while these rejoicings were going on in Davenport, Dr. E. S. Barrows and John C. Higginson were on their way to Mineral Point, Wisconsin, to see Gov. Dodge, with documents sufficient to prove the frauds that had been perpetrated at Davenport. Upon this exposure the Governor refused to issue his certificate of election.

Thus things remained, until the Legislature met in June, at Burlington, at which time they passed an act for another election for the county seat, between Davenport and Rockingham, to be held in the following August. This act more particularly defined the manner in which the election should be carried on, and voters were required to have a residence of sixty days. The returns of this election were to be made by County Commissioner's Clerk, E. Cook, Esq., to the Sheriff of Du Buque county, and he was to count the votes in the presence of the County Commissioners of that county. The place having the greatest number of votes was to be entered on the books of the Commissioners, and such place to become the seat of justice.

At this election, Rockingham feeling rather sore under the treatment at the last election, laid aside all conscientious scruples in relation to the whole matter, and chose to fight the enemy in their own way, well knowing that act, by its wording, did not require legal votes. The campaign opened with vigor. The note of preparation was sounded, and contending parties summoned to the field. The county was canvassed, and the unstable and wavering were brought into the ranks on one or the other side. Building lots were proffered and accepted for influence and for votes, in both places. Col. Sullivan employed many extra hands around his mill just about that time. The struggle was harder than before, and the corruptions much greater, though carried on in a different manner. The day of election came. The officers appointed to attend the polls, were either not sworn at all, or sworn illegally, so that in case of defeat, a plea might be setup for a new election. The ballot box was stuffed. Illegal voting in various ways was permitted. Non-residents of Scott county swore they were "old settlers," while the poll-books and ballot box showed a list of names that no human tongue was ever found to answer to.

A great mystery seemed to hang over the Rockingham polls. They had been watched by the Davenport party, and yet when the ballot box was emptied of its contents, it showed most astonishing results. The committee sent down from Davenport to watch the polls, could never explain where all the votes came from! The names in the box and on the poll-books agreed, but the great difficulty seemed to be, that the settlement did not warrant such a tremendous vote. This, however, was afterwards explained as being in strict conformity with the oath taken by some of the Judges or Clerks of the election, which was, that they should "to the best of their ability, see that votes enough were polled to elect Rockingham the County Seat."

The election being over, the returns were made to the Sheriff of Du Buque county, and counted in the presence of the Commissioners, as provided in the Act, when a majority was

found for Rockingham. The Commissioners, for some cause, failed to make the entry upon their records, as required by the Act, but, during the week, took the liberty of "purging the polls," throwing out a sufficient number of votes to give Davenport the majority by two votes. One of the votes thus thrown out, was that of John W. Brown, who settled on Black Hawk creek in 1835, and was still living there.

By this proceeding, Davenport was declared the county seat. Whereupon the Rockingham party made application to the Supreme Court for a Mandamus, directed to the County Commissioners of Du Buque county, requiring them to make the proper entry upon their records of the election in Scott county, in accordance with the act of the Legislature.

On the final hearing of the case, the Court decided that they had no original jurisdiction over the case, but at the request of the parties, the case having been fully argued upon its merits, the Court examined the whole question and gave no opinion, the effect of which was, that Rockingham was the county seat.

The Legislature being then in session at Burlington, passed an Act for another election. At this election there were two other points added to Davenport and Rockingham, as aspirants for the county seat. One was the "Geographical centre;" now Sloperville, and the other was a quarter section of land at the mouth of Duck Creek, called "Winfield." Before the election, the Geographical centre was dropped. Davenport and Rockingham then commenced offering town lots, and money for the use of the county, in case the county seat should be located on their ground. Thousands of dollars and donations of lots and land were made, and bonds given to secure it to the county, in case of the selection of the point desired by either party. But at length Rockingham withdrew her claims upon condition that Davenport would build free of expense to the county, a Court House and Jail, similar to those in Rock Island, which she entered into bonds to do, and the election was left for decision between Davenport and the "Duck Creek cornfield," as it was called.

The Commissioners elected by the Rockingham party issued an order for a contract to build a Jail in Rockingham, as will be seen by the following notice, published in the *Iowa Sun*, of May 12th, 1840:

Notice to Contractors.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received by the Board of Commissioners of Scott county, for building a JAIL in the town of Rockingham, until the first day of July next, on which day the proposals will be opened and the contract let.

A plan and specifications may be seen by calling on John H. Sullivan, Esq., Commissioner to superintend the erection.

Proposals to be endorsed: "Proposals for erecting a Jail in Scott county," and directed to "John H. Sullivan, Esq., Commissioner to superintend the erection of a Jail in Rockingham." By order of the Board of Commissioners of Scott county.

ROCKINGHAM, May 12, 1840.

EBENEZER COOK, Clerk.

Davenport gained the election, built the public buildings free of all cost to the county, according to her contract, and thus terminated one of the most exciting questions that had ever disturbed the quiet of our peaceful community.

The battle was long and spirited. The contending parties withdrew from the bloodless field with happy triumph, each having out-generated the other, and found that even when a victory was won, the laurels are not always sure: A peace treaty was held at the Rockingham Hotel in the winter of 1840, where the most prominent actors in the past scenes met as mutual friends,

and buried the hatchet forever, ratifying the treaty, as it was called, by a grand ball, where more than forty couples mingled in the dance and seemed to forget at once all the strife and bickerings of the past, and seal their friendship anew, with earnest and willing hearts.

During the whole of this controversy, singular as it may appear, the utmost good feeling and gentlemanly conduct prevailed. No personal feuds grew out of it, and, to this day, it is often the source of much merriment among the old settlers; and is looked upon only as the freaks and follies of a frontier life.

Rockingham was settled by a class of people noted for their social and friendly virtues. Nowhere in the West was there a more open-hearted and generous people. In sickness, of which there was much at an early day, all had sympathy and attention, and the most cordial good feeling prevailed throughout the whole community. They were united in every good work and enterprise, and always ready to kindly act.

A Ferry was established across the Mississippi river in the Spring of 1837, connecting with a State road up the South side of Rock River, which brought much travel on that route.

In 1845, the town began to decline. Many of the inhabitants Left, and settled in other parts of the country, some in the city of Davenport. At present Rockingham is a deserted village, having but three or four families left in it, the buildings having been moved into the country for farm houses, or to Davenport for dwellings.

#### **CHAPTER IV. DAVENPORT TOWNSHIP.**

This township, like Rockingham, has bluff lands that are some what broken near the river, until we reach a point three miles above the city of Davenport, where it opens out into a beautiful prairie called Pleasant Valley. The bluff, or timber line, between the river and prairie is from one to two miles wide, and was formerly well wooded.

By the "bluffs" of the Mississippi river, we do not mean here that they are an abrupt or perpendicular ascent, but a gentle rise from the river or bottom lands; not so steep but roads may be constructed up almost any part of them. The general elevation of these bluffs, or high lands, is about one hundred feet above the waters of the Mississippi, and, in many places, of very gentle ascent, and covered with cultivated fields and gardens to their tops.

But Davenport township differs from all others upon the river in the beautiful rolling prairies, immediately back from the river, after passing the bluffs. These prairies are not broken, as in common with those that approach so near the river, but are susceptible of the highest state of cultivation. Back of the city of Davenport, the slope from the top of the bluff to Duck creek, covered as it is with gardens and fields, is one of uncommon beauty and richness; and the farms, that now cover the prairie for seven or eight miles back, cannot be excelled in any country.

Duck creek, which passes through the whole length of this township, rises in Blue Grass, some ten miles West of Davenport and running East, empties into the Mississippi five miles above the city; its course being up stream, parallel with the Mississippi, and only one or two miles distant from it. It affords an ample supply of water for stock, and is never dry in summer, being fed by numerous springs along its course. Its Indian name is Si-ka- ma-que Sepo, or Gar creek, instead of Duck creek.

But before entering in detail upon the settlement of this township, there is much to interest and engage the attention of those who may desire a knowledge of its more remote history, which, although but little known, is interesting and important. As has already been observed,

the locality of Davenport and its surroundings have been the camping ground of the Indian from time immortal. Marquette and Joliet, the first discoverers of the country, one hundred and eighty-nine years ago, found the tribes of the Illini here. (See Discoveries and Explorations of Mississippi River, by Shea, Vol. i., p. 30; also, Annals of the West, p. 31.) There were three villages or towns; the main one at which they landed was called "Pewaria," where we suppose Davenport now stands, as it is laid down upon Marquette's original map on the West side of the "River Conception," as he named the Mississippi. This map is a facsimile of the autograph one, by Father Marquette, at the time of his voyage down the river in June, 1673; and was taken from the original, preserved at St. Mary's College, Montreal. (See explorations of the Mississippi River, by Shea p. 280.)

Of the tribes found here by Father Marquette, and among whom he established a Mission, little is known, except his first account of them, as they have become extinct. The tribes of the "Illini", aboriginal, (Hall's Sketches of the West, vol. i, part ii, p. 142,) seem to have been very numerous at that time, being scattered over the vast country lying between Lake Superior and the Mississippi, for we find that Marquette, in his second voyage here to found the Mission, (Shea, vol. i, p. 53,) was accompanied part of the way by some "Illinois and Pottawatomies," and we find them settled at that day upon the Illinois river, at Peoria and La Salle's trading post; and also on the Kankakee and as low down on the Mississippi river as Cape Girardeau. They seemed to be less warlike than the Iroquois and Wyandots, and roamed at pleasure unmolested, over all lands and among all tribes.

The Sacs and Foxes came from the northern lakes, but at what date it is difficult to ascertain. The Foxes were originally called Outagamies (Schoolcraft, vol. VI, p. 193.) From what tribe they descended is not known. About the seventeenth century we find them with the Iroquois committing depredations upon the whites among the great lakes of the North.

It has been inferred, says Schoolcraft, (Vol. VI, p. 193,) "from their language, that they belonged to the Algonquin tribe, but at an early day were ejected from, and forsaken by them" We find them in 1712 with the Iroquois making an attempt to destroy Detroit; being routed, they retired to a peninsula in Lake St. Claire, where they were attacked by the French and Indians, and driven out of the country. We next find them on Fox river, at Green Bay. Their character seems to be perfidious. They were a constant annoyance to the trapper and the trader, ever creating difficulty and disturbance among other tribes. "Having been defeated at the battle of " Butte des Morts," or "Hill of the Dead," with great slaughter, the remnants of the tribe fled to the banks of the Wisconsin." (Schoolcraft, vol. VI, p. 191.) We have no further notice of them until their settlement upon the Mississippi and its tributaries.

"The Sacs and Foxes took possession of the lands belonging to the Iowas, (Annals of the West, p. 713,) whom they partly subjugated." "The Foxes had their principal village on the West side of the Mississippi river, at Davenport." "A small Sauk village was on the West side of the Mississippi, near the mouth of the Des Moines river." This was between 1785 and 1800. The Sauks were the original occupants of Saganaw, on Lake Michigan, and were allies of the Foxes in 1712, in an attempt to drive the French out of Michigan.

Thus far in our history are we able to trace the immediate occupants of our soil, prior to possession by the United States. The early French traders found a village of Foxes at Du Buque, with the Chief "Plea-Maskie," and another at the mouth of the Wab-esse-pinecon river, a Sauk village with "No-No" as Chief. But a still larger village of Foxes was where the city of Rock Island now stands, called "Wa-pello's Village," while the main Sauk village, "Black Hawk's Town" was on Rock river, between Camden and Rock Island. The traffic with the Indians was

carried on by the Canadian French, in Mackinaw boats. There were no established trading posts. The constant wars among the tribes continued to diminish their numbers. The Sioux, the Chippewas, the Winnebagoes, and Menomenies were the bitter enemies of the Sauks and Foxes. They were ever lurking upon each other's trail, and never letting slip an opportunity of gathering a few scalps, in revenge for some fancied wrong.

In the Spring of 1828, the Indian Agent at Prairie Du Chien, by request of the Sioux, Winnebagoes and Menomenies, then allied in their petty wars, sent an invitation to the Chiefs and Braves of the Fox village at Du Buque, to meet their enemies in council, and forever bury the tomahawk, and settle all differences existing between the several tribes. The Sacs and Foxes were becoming reduced in numbers. Their faithless, perfidious and treacherous course of life among all the nations through which they had traveled, from the great Lakes of the north, to the valley of the Mississippi, had followed them. Their warriors had been slain, and they felt their strength fading away. They were willing now to live on terms of peace with their neighbors, and very readily accepted the invitation. Piea-Moskie was their Chief. Not suspecting the treachery of their enemies, all the principal Chiefs and Braves of their band left their village at Du Buque, for the treaty at Prairie Du Chien.

The Sioux and Winnebagoes had deceived their Agent, and only laid a plot to draw the Foxes from their village, for the purpose of entrapping them. They therefore sent spies down the river, just before the appointed time for the treaty, to watch the movements of the unsuspecting Foxes. On the second night after leaving Du Buque, the party made an encampment a little below the mouth of the Wisconsin river, on the eastern shore, and while cooking their evening meal, and smoking around their camp-fires, without the least suspicion of danger, they were fired upon by more than a hundred of their enemies; a war party that had been sent down for that purpose. But two of the whole number escaped. In the general massacre that followed, these jumped into the river and swam to the western shore, carrying the sad news of the murder at their village. This produced consternation and alarm. Such treachery, even in Indian warfare, was startling. The Chiefs and brave men had been slaughtered without mercy, and an attack upon their village might be expected. Their leaders were dead, and dismay and confusion reigned throughout the camp.

The surviving warriors were assembled in Council to select another Chief. A half-breed, of Scotch descent, of much daring and bravery, by the name of Morgan, was elected and named Ma-que-pra-um. A war party was soon formed under their new leader to march on the faithless Sioux and avenge the death of their Chief and brave men. The preparations were soon completed. The plot was laid. All was ready. The council fire was again lighted and the warrior band, headed by their new Chief, sat around in sullen silence, painted and hung in all the paraphernalia of the Indian warrior. The wail and lamentation for the dead were chanted to the deep, piercing yell of the savage! All the dark hatred of the Indian nature was depicted on the countenances of this revengeful group, and there went up a shout, the war-cry of their tribe, such as the rugged cliffs and hills of Du Buque had never heard before or since. With blackened faces chanting the death song, they entered their canoes and started on their mission of blood.

Arriving in the vicinity of Prairie Du Chien, from the opposite bluffs, the spies of the party discovered the encampment of the foe, almost directly under the guns of the Fort. The setting sun was just gilding the walls of Fort Crawford, and the sentinel of its ramparts had just been roused from his listlessness by the beat of "tat oo;" the Indians lay indolently in their camp, little dreaming of the fate that awaited them. On seeing the position of the enemy, the plan of attack was soon formed. The Foxes lay in ambush until the darkness of the night should

shield them from observation. A sufficient number was left with the canoes, with instructions to be a short distance below the Fort. The warriors then stripped themselves of every incumbrance, but the girdle, containing the tomahawk and scalping knife, and went up the river some little distance, when, about midnight, they swam the Mississippi and stealthily crawled down upon the encampment.

All was darkness and silence! No sentinel watched the doomed camp! The smoldering fire of the first wigwam they reached, revealed to them, as they threw aside the curtained door, an Indian smoking his pipe in meditative silence. The leader Chief seized him, and without noise carried him outside the lodge and slew him without alarming the camp. The work of death went on from lodge to lodge in stillness and silence, until the knife and hatchet had done their bloody work, severing not only the scalp but many the heads of their Chieftains!

The work was done, and with one loud, wild whoop of satisfaction and revenge, the Fort was awakened, the sentry sent forth his note of alarm, while the assailants took to the canoes belonging to the enemy, rejoined the party, and with a yell of triumph were far down the Mississippi before the officers of the Fort were in readiness to march. With the trophies of victory they soon reached their village, dancing the "scalp-dance." Packing up their valuables, the whole band deserted their town at Du Buque, descending the river, and settled where the city of Davenport now stands.

This massacre took place within the memory of some now living here, who related these facts to the author, and they still have a most vivid recollection of seeing the returning band, as they came down past Rock Island with their canoes lashed side by side, the heads and scalps of their slaughtered enemies, set upon poles, still reeking with the blood of their victims. They landed amid the most deafening shouts of savage triumph, and celebrated their victory with the Sacs, singing their war-songs and exhibiting with rage ferocity, the clotted scalps and ghastly faces of the treacherous Sioux, Winnebago and Menomenie, of whom they had killed seventeen of their best Chiefs and warriors, besides other men, women and children of the tribe. From that event, until the removal of the Sacs and Foxes, this village was called "Morgan" after their Chieftain.

This brief sketch of the history of our immediate vicinity, before the dawn of civilization, must suffice. The Indian who possessed the soil was here in his own right, by whatever means he possessed it. The early missionaries had taught him the first principles of Christianity. He believed in the Great Spirit. He worshipped no idols, nor bowed to any superior but the great "Manito." They had their Seers and Prophets, and believed in a tutelar spirit. They made no sacrifice of human life to appease the wrath of an offended Deity. They observed their fasts and holy days with blackened faces, and with midnight lamentations. They believed in a future of rewards but not of punishments, and were ever ready, and proud to sing the death song even at the stake, that they might enter the elysian fields of the good hunting ground. They never blasphemed. There is no word in their language by which to express it.

The Indian's home is wherever the finger of destiny points; yet his sympathies often cluster deeply around the place of his nativity and the scenes of his earlier life. Thus was it with them when they came to leave their home upon As-sin-ne-Me-ness, (Rock Island,) and the As-sin-ne-Se-pe, (Rock River.) In all their wanderings, from the great Lakes on the north, to the Ohio on the south, and the Mississippi on the west, they had never found a home like this. The bluffs and the islands furnished them animals for the chase, while the clear waters of the As-sin-ne-Se-po gave them the finest fish. The fields yielded them an abundance of the maize, the potato, beans, melons and pumpkins, and they were as happy as the roving spirit of their nature would allow,

when in the spring of 1814, the white man came, and with the din of preparation for work, the solitude was broken, and the first sounds of civilization burst upon their ears.

Attempts were made at that time to plant Forts along the Upper Mississippi. (Annals of the West, p. 743.) The only means of transportation was by armed boats. Maj. Zachary Taylor, (President of the U. S. in 1850,) was in command of one of these boats. He left Cap au Gris, (Cap au Grey,) in August, of this year, with three hundred and thirty-four men, for the Indian Towns at Rock Island, with instructions to destroy their villages and cornfields. (Annals p. 744.) The Indians were located on both sides of the river "above and below the rapids." But in this attempt he was frustrated by the Indians receiving aid from neighboring tribes and some British allies then at Prairie du Chien. The battle was severe, and lasted some three hours, commencing on the rapid above, at Campbell Island (p. 745.)

In May, 1816, the Eighth Regiment and a Company of riflemen, in command of Col. Lawrence, came up the river in boats and landed at the mouth of Rock River. After some examination, the lower end of Rock Island was fixed on, for a site to build a Fort. On the 10th of May, they landed on the Island. A store house was first put up, which was the first building ever on the Island. A bake-house was next built, and then Fort Armstrong was commenced. At this time there were about ten thousand Indians in, and around the place on both sides of the river. Col. George Davenport, then attached to the army, was general superintendent. (See Biog. Col. D., in Davenport Past and Present.) The Indians were much dissatisfied, and complained that the noise made by the white man in building on the Island would disturb the Great Spirit, whose residence they believed to be in a cave at the foot of the Island.

From this date until the Black Hawk War, Rock Island was only a frontier military post, and although this notice does not come strictly into the History of Scott County, yet so intimately are its early pioneer scenes connected with it, that it seems almost indispensable to make some mention of it. Tranquillity had in a measure been restored between the whites and Indians when the Black Hawk War broke out. A few remarks on the causes of this war may not be uninteresting.

Black Hawk had ever been dissatisfied with the treaty made at St. Louis in 1804, (American State Papers- 16—247 and Land Laws 514,) by Gen. Harrison for their lands on Rock River, and upon a requisition of the United States to surrender these lands to the whites for settlement,

Black Hawk refused. He had been in the service of Great Britain in the war of 1812, and received pay and presents annually. He openly proclaimed himself and party British subjects. (Annals, p. 649.) At the treaty held at

Portage Des Sioux in 1814, to recognize and re-establish the treaty of Gen. Harrison, which had been broken on the part of some of the Indians, by the part they took in the war of 1812 Black Hawk and his band refused to attend. It appears that he had continued depredations on the whites after peace was declared and at this treaty, a "talk" at Portage Des Sioux, the Commissioners on the part of the United States required them to render up and restore all such property as they had plundered or stolen from the whites, and in default thereof; to be cut off from their proportion of the annuities, which they were to receive for their lands, by the treaty at St. Louis in 1804. This was one of the causes that led to the Black Hawk war. The disaffected portion of the tribe under Black Hawk were for resistance, while Keokuk, the chief of the peace party, had signed the articles of treaty with his principal braves.

There was a general dissatisfaction among all the tribes of the Upper Mississippi at this time. In the transportation of military stores and traders' goods, in boats, the whites were often

attacked, and they had to go armed. Col. Taylor had an engagement in person, with several hundred Indians among the islands, just below this city. Being overpowered by numbers he was obliged to retire with a small loss.

In the treaty which ceded the lands of Rock River to the United States, it was stipulated that the Indians should retain possession of them until they were brought into market, or sold for actual settlement. This gave to the Indian as much right, as a fee simple title, until 1829, at which time the lands were sold, and Black Hawk's tower, between Camden and Rock Island, passed into the hands of the whites. On his return from hunting in the spring of 1830, he was informed for the first time that his home had passed into other hands; and that he must remove, with the rest of his tribe, West of the Mississippi. This he refused to do in the strongest terms. He visited Canada to see his British Father, and Gen. Cass at Detroit, who advised him, if he owned the land to remain where he was, that he could not be disturbed. (Wilkie's Davenport Past and Present, p. 23.)

All efforts made by Keokuk, or his white friends, to induce Black Hawk, on his return, to remove West, were unavailing. He is said to have exhibited more attachment for his native kind this time, than ever before or after. In the spring of 1881, his people commenced planting corn at his village, and the whites who had laid claim to it, ploughed it up. This aroused all the native fire and indignation of Black Hawk. He at once formed his plan of resistance. He threatened the whites. They became alarmed. The little Fort at Rock Island was too weak at such a remote point, and Gen. Gaines ordered ten companies of militia to Fort Armstrong. A conference was had with Black Hawk but he still refused to leave. The troops marched upon his town, and he retired across the river and located his village where the farm of the Hon. E. Cook was formerly, just below the city of Davenport. Another talk was then had, and Black Hawk agreed not to cross the river without permission. But the following spring he is found pressing his way up Rock River with his whole band of warriors, men, women and children, expecting to be joined by other tribes and his friends, the British allies. But in this he was disappointed, and being pursued by Gen. Atkinson with six hundred regulars, he fled for the wilds of Wisconsin, committing depredations and massacres along his route. The war was now begun in good earnest.

On the 15th of Sept., 1832, the Black Hawk war being ended, a treaty was held with the Sacs and Foxes by Gen. Scott, upon the ground now occupied by the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company in this city. At this treaty a small strip of land only was ceded to the United States, called the "Black Hawk Purchase." It lay along the Mississippi river, beginning at a point on the boundary line between Missouri and Iowa, which is now the south east corner of Davis County, and running thence to a point on Cedar river, near the north east corner of Johnson County, thence in a northwest direction to a point on the south boundary of the Neutral Grounds, then occupied by the Winnebagoes, and thence with said line to a point on the Mississippi river, a short distance above Prairie du Chien, it being only about sixty miles in the widest place and contained about six millions of acres. The Indians peaceably removed from it on the first of June, 1833, and thus gave to the whites free access to this beautiful land.

We now enter into details upon the first settlements in and around the city of Davenport. The beauty of its location has been often descanted upon. It needs no pen of mine to describe its loveliness, nor the rich and varied landscape that surrounds it. But there are thoughts that crowd upon the memory as we gaze upon its unparalleled growth and importance. Let us review for a moment, before we trace its history.

Twenty-seven years ago, the first cabin was erected by the white man. The retreating foot-

steps of the red-man were still heard over these bluffs. The poles of his wigwam still stuck along the banks of this noble river. The graves of his people were still fresh upon the brow of our bluffs, and the corn-hills and playgrounds of his children have been covered over with the habitations of man!

This mighty river that once bore to our shores the frail bark of a Marquette and a Joliet, has become the thoroughfare of nations. Where the light canoe of the savage once glided in safety, the Scu-ti-chemon, (fire canoe or steamboat,) of the white man now floats with majesty and splendor, and this magnificent river has become the highway of a mighty nation. The Mackinaw trading boat with its French voyageur, has left its moorings on As-sin-ne Man-ess, (Rock Island;) and old Fort Armstrong that had stood like a watchful sentinel on the jutting rocks of the Island for more than forty years, has been burned down by sacrilegious hands.

In the Spring of 1836, John Wilson, or "Wild Cat Wilson," as he was called, who was an old "claim maker," (he and his boys having made and sold the one where Rockingham was located, and one where now is the farm of Judge Weston), commenced making a claim on the edge of the Prairie, on the Blue Grass road from Davenport, where the farm of Mr. Depro now is, afterwards the Dr. Bardwell place. The Indians who were then living on the Iowa river frequently came in here to the trading house of Col. Davenport, on Rock Island. The trail passed directly across where Wilson was making his claim. He was cutting trees for logs, and had some two or three yoke of oxen hauling them together for the house, when a company of Indians came along on their way to the trading house. They were a part of the disaffected band of Black Hawk, and as usual felt cross and bitter toward the white man, whom they looked upon as an intruder. They ordered Wilson to desist from making any improvements; told him that he should not live there, and that he must leave. "Old Wild Cat," who was used to Indians, with whom he often had difficulties, and most probably with some of this very band, took little heed of what they said, but urged on his work without any fear of trouble from them. The Indians, after remaining in Davenport and on the Island for a few days, left for their home, full of whisky, and ripe for a quarrel. On arriving at Wilson's they rode up to the spring, near which the house was building; (the same that now stands there, used as a stable.) They got off and turned their ponies loose, laid off their blankets and deliberately prepared for a fight. Wilson and his two sons were all there were of the whites. Wilson was a short distance in the woods chopping. The attack was made upon James, who was driving the team. He ran for his father and Samuel. On their arrival, the old man, who never feared Indian or white man, bear or wild cat, pitched in for a general fight. The Indians, some twelve or fourteen in number, soon had "Old Wild Cat" down, when one of the boys, not having any weapon, unyoked an ox, and with the bow knocked down two or three of the Indians, which released his father, who springing to his feet caught his axe, which he had dropped in the first onset, and turning upon them, he struck an Indian in the back, splitting him open from the neck nearly to the small of the back. This "dampened the ardor of the savages for a moment, when Wilson calling on his boys to fight, and raising the "Wild Cat" yell, he made at them again, when they gathered up the wounded Indian and fled. He soon died, and the next Sunday the Indians gathered in great numbers in the neighborhood of Wilson's, with threatening aspects.

Wilson, with his boys and a few neighbors, was fortified in John Friday's cabin, where the Indians kept them nearly all day. A runner was sent to Mr. Le Claire and Col. Davenport, who settled the matter with the Indians, and cautioned them about traveling across the lands of "Old Wild Cat," telling them of his threats; that he would scalp the first "red-skin" he caught upon that trail. The Indians made a new trail from Davenport, running further North, through Little's

Grove, and were never known to pass Wilson's after that affair.

Wilson, with his son Samuel, was hunting and trapping, in the Autumn of 1840 on, the "neutral grounds" belonging to the Winnebagoes, when a party of some thirty Indians fell upon him and robbed him of everything he had except a little clothing. Whether he was known by these Indians, or whether some of the Sacs and Foxes were present, he never knew; but they took his team with all his effects and followed him out of their country. Mr. Wilson died a few years since near Moscow, on the Cedar river in this State.

George L, Davenport, Esq., made the first claim in Davenport Township, immediately after the treaty in 1832, which was before the time expired that the Indians were to give possession to the whites (June 1, 1833). Mr. Davenport has been familiar with the Indians from boyhood; was adopted into the Fox tribe while young, and had no playmates in early life but the Indian boys. He learned to speak their language, and was an expert archer, swimmer and racer, ever ready to join in all their sports, and a general favorite with the whole tribe. This explains why he was permitted to go upon the lands while others were kept off until the next year, for many emigrants took possession in the Autumn of 1832 after the treaty, but were driven off and had to await the time specified in the treaty for possession, viz: the 1st of June, 1833.

There is therefore an error in the history of Buffalo Township as to the first claim, and also the first ferry. Capt. Clark might have established the first public ferry, but Col. Davenport had a flat boat and used it for ferry purposes as early as 1827, running between the Island and the main shore, carrying pack-horses, cattle and goods for the Indian trade. He also kept a wood-yard on the Island after steamboats began to run here, and brought wood from Maple Island, and other places.

The claim upon which Davenport now stands was first made in the Spring of 1833, by R. H. Spencer and a Mr. McCloud. A difficulty arose between these men in respect to the claim, or some portion of it, when, to end the dispute, Antoine Le Claire purchased from both their entire interest for one hundred dollars. This was the first transaction in real estate in the city of Davenport, some of which has since been sold as high as two hundred dollars a foot. This claim comprised that portion of the city lying west of Harrison street, being outside of Le Claire's reserve. He fenced in and cultivated a portion of it near the bluff, embracing the ground now occupied by the Court-House and Jail. The early settlers will very readily call to mind the natural state of the ground in that portion of the city lying below Western Avenue. Where Washington Square is now enclosed, filled up and beautified, there was a quagmire that extended westward between Second and Fourth streets to the limits of the city. This slough that headed in Washington Square was caused by springs, forming soft spongy ground, impassable for man or beast; and until 1845, there were no streets opened, nor crossings, from Second to Fourth, below Western Avenue. Some of the residents of 1837 and 1838 will recollect cattle miring in this slough, and one or two instances in which they died in it. This portion of our city is now largely built up by the Germans, who mostly reside in the western portion of the city, and whose industry, energy and taste have turned this low land into beautiful gardens, and covered it with homes and workshops.

In the Autumn of 1835, Antoine Le Clare, Maj. Thos. Smith. Maj. Wm. Gordon, Phillip Hambaugh, Alex W. McGregor, Levi S. Colton, Capt. James May, with Col. George Davenport, met at the house of the latter gentleman, on Rock Island, to consult as to the propriety of laying out a town upon Mr. Le Claire's claim, on the west bank of the Mississippi river. The arguments offered in favor of such a project were, the unexampled fertility of the soil, the necessity for a town at some future day at the foot of the rapids, the unrivaled beauty of the

location, its healthy position, &c. This meeting resulted in the purchase from Mr. Le Claire of all the land west of Harrison street, running along the bluffs as far west as Warren Street, and thence south to the river, at a cost of two thousand dollars. The town was named after Col. George Davenport. It was surveyed by Maj. Gordon in the Spring of 1836, who is said to have performed the service in less than a day, with his mental vision very much obscured by a certain decoction called by the Indians scuti appo, the "white man's fire water." From some of the lines which I have had occasion to trace since, I have never doubted the assertion.

The first improvements within the present city limits, were made by Mr. Le Claire upon the ground now occupied by the M. & M. R. R. Depot, in the Spring of 1833. But nothing in the way of farming or the more substantial improvements, took place till May, 1836, when Dr. James Hall and his two eldest sons took a contract from Mr. Le Claire to break a certain amount of land upon his "reserve," as it was called. This tract for breaking lay East of Brady street, beginning near the present corner of Brady and Second, extending up Second to Rock Island, and as far back as Sixth street. This was contracted for at five dollars an acre, except a certain portion, which the Halls were to have free of rent and two dollars and a half an acre for breaking, which they planted in potatoes and corn, obtaining the seed from Fort Armstrong, paying a dollar and a quarter a bushel for potatoes. The next year, this same ground was rented to the Halls for fifteen dollars an acre, upon which they sowed some wheat and raised a crop.

The first public house, or tavern, was built on the corner of Front and Ripley streets, in 1836, by Messrs. Le Claire and Davenport, and opened by Edward Powers, from Stephenson. The next year it passed into the hands of John McGregor, from Kentucky.

In June, 1836, a very important personage arrived, bringing with him all the ingredients of a pioneer whisky shop, the first introduced upon the soil of Scott county. It was Capt. John Litch, from Newburyport, N. H. He had been a seafaring man, was far advanced in life, of a jovial disposition, full of anecdotes and ever ready to toss off a glass of grog with any one who desired to join him. His log shanty stood on Front Street, below the subsequent site of Burnell, Gillet & Co 's mill. Being in possession of the Captain's account book, or log, as he called it, it may interest some to make a few extracts; particularly as to the cost of material and labor at that day for building. His cabin was about 16x20 feet. It was afterwards enlarged.

June 31, 1836. - Paid Hampton for logs, &C	\$112 00
Paid for nails and sundries,	5 00
For raising 8 logs, 6 beams and sleepers,	24 50
Lime and hauling rock,	12 00
Lumber of Shoals & Eldridge, (Capt. Shoals and D. C. Eldridge,)	14 44
Lumber of Capt. Clark,	24 93
Carpenters and Joiners,	63 50
Nails and liquor,	10 00
Shingles, glass, sash and clear stuff,	29 47
Underpinning and painting, whitewashing, &c,	11 00
Locks, bolts and screws,	3 11
Horse-rack and sawing corners of cabin,	6 00
Digging cellar, planking and timber,	19 05
Cost of the first whisky shop,	\$386 00

Nov. 16.-R.H. Dr. to 4 glasses whisky, 25 cents, 4 lbs. salt 12 cts.	37
To 2 glasses whisky, 12 cts., crackers and herring, 12,	25
Dec. 3.-To 2 mackerel, 25 cts., 1 pt. whisky, 12 1.2 cts,	37 1/2
To 1 quart whisky, 25c., tobacco 12 1/2 c,	37 1/2
J. M. Cr. by 1 bbl. flour,	\$13 00
By three days' work, \$1 per day,	3 00
Dr. to 4 barrels of lime, \$1.50 per bbl	6 00
JUNE 3,157.-Mr.. E---	Dr
To 73 muskrat at 22 cts., 4 minks 25c	\$16 06
To 1 fisher skin, 1 wolf, 1 badger, and 1 coon skin, 22 cts. each,	88
Cr. by 2 bush. corn, at \$1.25 per bush	2 50

But flour was sold as high as \$16 per barrel this year; pork 16 cts. a pound, and corn \$2 a bushel.

The eccentric Captain dealt in almost anything and everything that came along, as may be seen by his "log book" from the fine furs of the beaver and the otter, down to the wolf and polecat. In the provision line, he kept everything that could he had from pork and flour down to pumpkins and turnips; but the great attraction, however, the great leading article, was whisky. The Captain, too, had such a nice, peculiar way of making the "*critter*" palatable by various other ingredients, that his punches, cobblers, julips and cocktails, all made from whisky, were much sought after; and his store became the resort of not only those who wished to purchase the necessaries of life, but the professional man, the politician, the claim speculator, the old discharged soldier and the Indian, all met here upon one common level, and talked over all matters of interest, under the balmy influence of the Captain's good cheer. His was the only store, tavern, saloon or public place of entertainment in the town or country, and was as much, perhaps to many, a resort of necessity as a place to quench thirst. Captain Litch died on the 5th of March, 1841, aged 55 years, with the stigma of having planted the first whisky-shop upon the soil of Scott county.

A ferry across the Mississippi was established in the year 1836, by Mr. Le Claire, who was appointed Postmaster and carried the mail in his pocket, while ferrying. It is said that his percentage due on his first quarter, was seventy-five cents! The ferry soon passed into the hands of Capt. John Wilson, who ran a flat-boat with oars until 1841, when it was supplied with a horse ferry, and in 1843 by a steam ferry boat. Capt. John Wilson, who for so many years owned and personally had charge of the ferry, was a native of New, Hampshire. He purchased the ferry privilege of Mr. Le Claire in the Spring of 1837, although he had been engaged in it the year previous as special partner. The rights and privileges for ferry purposes, conveyed to Capt. Wilson by Mr. Le Claire, were one mile up and down the river each way from the ferry house, then standing at the foot of Main street, for the sum of one thousand dollars. Many will remember the faithful services of the old, experienced ferryman, who, in storm or tempest, night or day, was always at his post, in Summer on the water, in Winter on the ice, ready to do good service, ever meeting you with a smile, and one hand always extended with his fingers playing

to receive "that dime." He died of cholera in 1853.

The first white male child born in Davenport, was a son of Levi S. Colton, in the Autumn of 1836, who died at the Indian village, on the Iowa river, in August, 1840. The first female child was a daughter of D. C. Eldridge, still living. Alexander W. McGregor opened the first law office, in 1836. A. M. Gavit, a Methodist minister, preached the first sermon, in the house of Mr. D. C. Eldridge, corner of Front and Ripley streets. There were seven deaths this year, the first being that of Mrs. Tanneyhill. She was buried upon the brow of the bluff, where the First Baptist church now stands, on Sixth and Main streets, where a place had been selected as the burial grounds of the town. Others were buried in Mr. LeClaire's private ground, corner of 6th and LeClair streets. This spot is now covered with improvements, (the graves all having been removed,) and is occupied by the family residence of W. Barrows, Esq. In his garden was buried Dr. Emerson, the owner of the celebrated Dred Scott, who accompanied his master to this territory, while he was in the army at Fort Armstrong; and it was upon this ground that the suit was predicated for Dred's freedom.

#### **EDITORIAL NOTICE.**

This number begins the History of Scott county, which will be continued, in subsequent issues. It was written about three years ago, and the editor cannot be supposed to have made all the corrections of dates, and matters of allusion to years, but he has made them where most obvious. This explanation is due both to the writer, Mr. Barrows, and to the conductor of the *Annals*. To the old settlers, as well as new comers, it will afford a rich treat, and amply pay for reading, marking, and inwardly digesting, almost every page containing some striking incident. It is the only regret of the Committee of Publication, that its length must compel the insertion of the History in different numbers, instead of issuing it all at once. The type of the *Annals* has been changed to Long Primer, instead of Small Pica, thereby admitting more matter on a page. But it is utterly impossible to print more largely, until the Legislature takes the expense upon itself, or the Literary Public patronize the work, as the cheapest in the State and country.