

Recollection of the Early Settlement of N. W. Iowa (pt. 2)

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The following are the names and locations of the various post offices in the county:

Liberty Township, Liberty; Fremont Township, Balaka; Washington Township, Prairie Grove; Madison Township, Laporte; Troy Township, Milford; Osceola Township, Osceola; Jackson Township, Ottawa; Franklin Township, Smyrna; Knox Township, Lacelle; Green Bay Township, Green Bay; Doyle Township, Hopeville.

With its fertility of soil, abundance of water, sufficiency of timber, large beds of coal and limestone, extremely healthful climate, cheap farms, improved and unimproved, arable acres, extensive natural meadows, numerous schools and churches, favorable locality, accessible markets, and a community unsurpassed in morality and sobriety; Clark County offers inducements to the farmer, the laborer, the stock-raiser, the merchant and the mechanic, second to no county in the great north-west. Then the advantages of her railroads, extending as they do to every point of the compass, and affording ready and speedy transportation to every quarter of the country, can not be estimated. Among them, however, may be mentioned, a large influx of capital and labor, a general stimulation of the present inhabitants to renewed industry; a thorough development of our vast resources, a complete overthrow of all old foggy notions, a healthy diffusion of intelligence, sobriety, and religion, an everlasting banishment of all Rip Van Winkleism, and a universal desire and design to make "the wilderness bloom and blossom as the rose."

RECOLLECTION OF THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF N. W. IOWA.

BY N. LEVERING, MECKLIN, MO.

(Continued from page 300.)

The town is situated on the east bank of the Missouri River, about one and a half miles below the confluence of the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers, and extending east as far as the Floyd River, embracing an area of about one thousand two hundred acres of very beautiful bottom and table lands, and extending back upon the high lands which

overlook the rich and beautiful valleys of the Floyd, Perry Creek (which winds its way through the city) and many miles of Nebraska. The beauty and great natural advantages of Sioux City soon began to attract much attention and a lively interest among enterprising men. During this year (1855) a town company was organized under the style of "the Sioux City Company," consisting of Dr. J. K. Cook, Gen. A. C. Dodge, of Burlington, Gen. G. W. Jones, of Dubuque, Hen. Williams & Co., of Fairfield, Dr. S. P. Yeomans and H. C. Bacon, of Sioux City. Through the efforts of these gentlemen a tide of emigration was soon turned toward Sioux City, and north-western Iowa, cabins of the sturdy pioneers were soon visible springing up as if by magic over the fertile prairies.

By the 1st of January, 1856, some eight or ten hewed log houses had gone up; among them were the Western Exchange, and a double log house near the levee occupied as a hotel and known afterwards as the Hagy House; residence of Dr. J. K. Cook & Co. The want of lumber impeded the growth of the town materially. Notwithstanding this, the town grew rapidly and emigration poured in so rapidly that many were obliged to camp out. The Sioux Indians were now becoming excited and jealous of the advance of civilization, and fearing that their hunting grounds would be tampered with by the white men, their principal chiefs, "Smutty Bear" and "Strike the three," ordered the settlers to leave, which orders were repeated with threats of violence, which in no manner intimidated our pioneers or checked the tide of emigration. These threats and menaces were accompanied by some demonstrations of hostilities, such as stealing horses, cattle, &c. Several small expeditions were started out against them, but without accomplishing much good, when Gen. Kearney, who was then, I think, stationed at Fort Randal, about one hundred and fifty miles above Sioux City, on the Missouri River, was ordered with troops for the protection of this point. He stationed his command near the mouth of the Big Sioux River, on the Dakota side, and issued orders to the Sioux not to cross over to the Iowa side, without a permit from him,

under the penalty of death, which for sometime checked depredations. The bloody battle of "Ash Hollow" was yet fresh in their minds, and the name of Kearney struck terror to their savage hearts.

Jos. Lionais, sometime in the spring of 1855, sold his claim of one hundred and sixty acres to the Sioux City Company, for three thousand dollars, which claim was layed out into lots, and called Sioux City East Addition. The pressing necessity of mail facilities was now much felt. Application was made and a route obtained from Council Bluffs to this point, and in the first week of September, in the same year (1855), the first stage and first mail arrived at Sioux City, which was hailed by the denizens as a bright omen of prosperity, which seemed to infuse into them new life and spirits, as the many empty bottles and happy looking faces indicated that evening. Dr. J. K. Cook, I think, was the first Post Master.

This winter was one of severity, and one for which few of the settlers were prepared; consequently there was considerable suffering among them. There were two stores opened in the place during the fall and winter, one by Tootle and Jackson, in a small log house, and the other by J. M. White and J. T. Copeland, in a tent, when in the spring of 1856, they erected a story and a half hewd log store room on the corner of Third and Pearl streets. This spring the total population numbered about one hundred and sixty souls, within the city limits. This spring the county seat was moved by a majority of fourteen of the legal voters of the county, from Thompson town, (or Floyd's Bluff) to Sioux City, where it still remains. Sometime in 1855, I believe, a settlement was commenced in the east part of the county, on the Little Sioux River, and a town layed out which was called Smith Land, in honor of its founder, Aaron Smith, who I think was the first settler at this point. Curtis Lamb, Elijah Adams, John and William Turner, and many others soon followed, so that in the spring of 1856, there were some forty or fifty settlers in and about Smithland. In the same year, and about the same time that the settlement was commenced at Smithland, a settlement was commenced at what was called Seargents,

on the Missouri River bottom, about seven miles below Sioux City. A town was staked off here by Dr. J. D. Crockwell and other. Several houses were built here during 1855, and among them two or three business houses, one of which was occupied by Alexander McCrady, for a dry-goods and grocery store. This place attracted some attention and flourished for a season, but the rapid growth of Sioux City soon checked its progress for several years. In the spring of 1856, Sioux City received a new impetus in facilities for improvement. The steamboat "Omaha," freighted for Sioux City, arrived early in June. She had on board several frame houses, and a large amount of provisions; the latter was very acceptable, as provisions were becoming quite short. Austin Cole, formerly of Iowa City, was in the spring of 1855, elected justice of the peace, the first in the county, and opened a boarding house in this place during the winter of 1855-6. Early in the spring his stock of provisions got quite low, and none were to be had nearer than Council Bluffs, a distance of one hundred and ten miles. Now Austin was in the habit of taking a *nip*, as he called it, quite frequently, and so frequent had been the nips of Austin and others, that their whisky, as well as provisions, had ran quite short. So Cole rigged up a team and set out for Council Bluffs, for a supply of the necessaries of life. Having arrived at the Bluffs, he set about at once to make his purchases, that he might relieve the famine and drouth at home as early as possible. Among his purchases was a bbl. of the needful. He started for home, but finding the roads extremely bad he concluded to leave a part of his load on the way, not being able to take all through. As milk was quite scarce at home, he concluded the whisky had better be carried through; accordingly the provisions were left behind, and our host arrived in due time with *what was left* of the whisky, to the great disappointment of his boarders, who were longing for a change of diet, more than a change of spirits.

(To be continued.)

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