

Wheat

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drive mule teams and haul supplies to forts and scouting parties. In the spring or summer of 1859 Harper and Stidger returned to Iowa, and at the beginning of the Civil War in 1861, Harper was a teacher and Stidger a student in Rev. Daniel Lane's justly celebrated Keosauqua Academy.

Harper enlisted in the first company raised in Van Buren county, Company F, 2d Iowa Infantry, and was its second lieutenant when killed in his regiment's famous charge at Fort Donelson, February 15, 1862. Stidger enlisted as a private in Company E, 15th Iowa Infantry, was slightly wounded in the side at Shiloh, and severely wounded in the leg and thigh at Corinth. He served nearly four years and was promoted until he became adjutant of his regiment. He died at Red Oak, Iowa, in 1880.

In the Civil War, Lee Griffin became a Confederate "bushwhacker," was captured, made his escape and armed himself, was pursued and overtaken, refused to surrender and was shot down, but continued to fight as long as he could handle his two revolvers.

After getting back to Albuquerque Mr. Akey remained in the southwest a year or two before returning to Iowa. He is now 83 years old and well-preserved for that age.²

²I am largely indebted to Mr. Akey for the material which I have woven into this story. Quotation marks indicate many verbal statements made by him to me.

WHEAT.

Statistics show that Scott county harvested during the year 1856, 536,631 bushels of wheat—a considerably larger amount than any other county in the State. Clinton, Lee, Jackson, Cedar, Dubuque and Muscatine follow in amount as they are named.

Sigourney—*Life in the West*, Mar. 19, 1857.

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