

The First Appointed Governor of Iowa

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of the problem and the fleet was immediately built and the army departed from the junction of the two rivers on May 9th, 1894. The trip to the Mississippi consumed about eleven days, including stoppages, camping and foraging.

It has been thought best to end the history with this episode, so interesting to the residents along the entire length of the stream that they flocked to its banks for miles to see the sight, while generously providing a thank offering in the way of food for the hungry voyagers; for of all the generous acts of the Des Moines river, as a factor in solving transportation problems, this was the best appreciated by a long-suffering people.

THE FIRST APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF IOWA.—While the territory of Iowa had only three governors, of whom Robert Lucas was the first, it is a fact not generally known, indeed it may be said to be universally unknown, that another person was appointed to that position, and that too before any of the others. That person was Brevet Brigadier General Henry Atkinson. He had entered the army in 1808 as a lieutenant, became captain about the beginning of the war with Great Britain, and was in 1814 made colonel of the 4th U. S. infantry from which he was transferred in the same year to the 37th. The following year he was made colonel of the 6th infantry, which position he held until his death in 1842, which occurred at Jefferson barracks. He was then sixty years old. He had been for several years a brevet brigadier general, and at one time, while yet holding his field office, adjutant general of the army. Gen. Atkinson declined the office of governor, although the announcement in the public prints of the appointment of Governor Lucas speaks of Gen. Atkinson having "resigned." The latter was a native of North Carolina. Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, and Fort Atkinson, Iowa, were both named in his honor.—*Plain Talk, Des Moines, Iowa, February 3, 1900.*

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