

History of the Origin of Names

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HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN OF NAMES.

Among the topics of interest, concerning which it is desirable to secure correct information, is that of the origin of names. And at this time, it is quite easily accomplished—for there is hardly a river, brook, town or county in the State, but there is now some man living who is acquainted, directly or indirectly, with the facts of the origin of its name. A few years, and it will be quite different. There may then be seemingly well-authenticated traditions; but they will have become open to the embellishment of any bold narrator; or may be related with timidity and uncertainty by the more conscientious, leaving the impression of doubt, equally in either case. Who shall settle discrepancies, when the authors of these names have passed away? Witness the beautiful name of our beautiful State. At least three different interpretations of its signification, have been given. The Indian nations from whom it was derived, and from whom its meaning might have been definitely ascertained, have passed out of reach, or are too much demoralized in their language and traditions, to be reliable.

Our correspondent from Clayton county, has been doing good service, in his curious and interesting articles on the origin of the names of the streams in his county, concluded in this number. It may be profitably pursued in other sections of the State.

ANOTHER BRAVE MAN GONE.

Died Feb. 23d, 1867, J. G. LAUMAN, Brig. Gen. U. S. V. Gen. LAUMAN was a native of Maryland—born at Tarrytown, Jan. 20th, 1813—came to Burlington, Iowa, in 1844, where he has since resided—was the 1st Colonel of the 7th Iowa Infantry. At Belmont, Donelson, Shiloh, The Hatchie, Vicksburg—he made a brilliant reputation, for bravery and soldierly conduct. We hope in a future number, to give a more extended sketch of his life and services.

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