History of Linn County

F. Snyder
Through his influence schools were established among them, and they were furnished with implements of husbandry, and were instructed in the mechanical trades. The Indians regarded him as their devoted friend, and were very much distressed at his death.

The relations of the deceased were about to take his remains to a settled part of the country for interment for fear that the lands about the agency might subsequently pass into the possession of those who would have no respect for his remains, and his grave might be disturbed. But the Indians were desirous that he should be buried in their country, and on learning the apprehensions of his friends gave their solemn pledge that his grave should be respected. And this pledge was faithfully kept, for when they disposed of their lands to the United States, they peremptorily refused to sign any treaty unless there was a reservation of land to Mrs. Street including the grave of her husband. And in accordance with the desire of the Indians, Gen. Street was buried at the agency, near the dwelling house, on a spot of ground which had been enclosed for a garden.

(To be continued.)

HISTORY OF LINN COUNTY.

BY F. SNYDER, LE CLAIRE, SCOTT CO., IOWA.

The writer makes no pretensions as to minuteness in writing history of this kind, as his sketch of Jackson county, published in Vol. VII. of the Annals, will show. But his observations, and what he has learned concerning the history of Linn county during the past ten years, may be worthy of note, leaving a more particular description of the county to some "old settler."

Linn was one of the sixteen counties represented in the first legislative assembly of Iowa, which convened at Burlington, November 12, 1838. The population in that year was 205, which has increased to nearly thirty thousand in 1869. Linn county is bounded on the north by Buchanan and Delaware
counties, on the east by Jones, on the south by Johnson, and on the west by Benton, and has an area of 720 square miles. It is intersected by the Cedar and Wapsipinicon rivers, which flow in a southeasterly direction, affording abundant water-power; it is also drained by Prairie, Buffalo, Otter, Indian, and Dry creeks. The surface is agreeably diversified, the soil is excellent, the water good, and the county is well timbered. In short, it is one of the very best counties in the Hawkeye state. Three railroads are in operation in the county—the Chicago and Northwestern, the Dubuque and Southwestern, and the Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota railroads.

Marion, the county seat of Linn, is beautifully situated on Indian creek, five miles from Cedar Rapids, and contains a population of about three thousand. It is one of the most pleasant inland towns in the state. Many fine buildings have been erected since the war, among which is a very neat and substantial public school house just completed at a cost of $30,000. It also has seven good church edifices, of which the Disciple is the largest. A very interesting annual county meeting was held in the Disciple church last September. The meeting was addressed by Elders N. A. McConnell, J. Hurd, J. W. Kerr, Judge Berry, Elder Mobly, and others. Elder McConnell was a Quaker boy in Ohio, is now a resident of Marshalltown, and is one of Iowa’s ablest minister’s of the gospel. He has preached for the church at Marion ever since its organization, some twenty-five years ago, twelve years of which time he resided at Marion. Shakespeare’s description of Cressida, with a change of the pronoun, is not an overdrawn delineation of this great pulpit orator:—

"There's language in his eye, his cheek, his lip;
Nay, his foot speaks."

James M. Berry has been an elder in this church for many years, was county clerk and county judge, and is one of Marion’s most respected citizens. Rev. Alexander Marshall, a highly respected Christian gentleman, has been pastor of the Presbyterian church in Marion for the last ten years. The M. E. church has been presided over by Rev. E. K. Young, Rev. F. W. Vinson, Rev. J. B. Taylor, and others; the Con-
gregational church by Rev. Mr. Windsor; the Baptist by Elder J. W. De Witt; and the Advent church by Elders Cornell and Snook.

Elder Snook has a printing office, and publishes the Iowa organ of his church. The Catholics have recently erected a church edifice in Marion. Marion also has a Bible Society, a Masonic lodge, and an Odd Fellows lodge. Here also is located "Marion Seminary," originated by Mrs. Bullen, of Marion, a relative of the distinguished South Carolina senator, Lagree.

At a term of district court held at Marion in May, 1861, Hon. Wm. E. Miller, of Iowa City, presided. Judge Miller performed the duties of his high position with ability until in August, 1862, when he was appointed colonel of the 28th Iowa infantry. He is a brother of the Rev. E. Miller, presiding Elder of the M. E. Church, Le Claire, Iowa. At the above mentioned term of court, A. J. McKain was clerk, and J. K. Gibson, deputy. Gen. Thomas J. McKean, sheriff, and John A. Ide, deputy. The following attorneys were present: Hon. I. L. Allen, prosecuting attorney (afterwards attorney general of Iowa), Col. I. M. Preston, Maj. Wm. G. Thompson, Col. Wm. Smythe, Hon. J. B. Young, Hon. N. M. Hubbard, Thomas Corbett, Esq., J. H. Preston, Esq., E. C. Preston, Esq., Capt. G. A. Gray, D. L. Palmer, Esq., John Mitchell, Esq., R. D. Stephens, Esq., John M. Greer, Esq., Judge N. W. Isbell, and J. M. Knight, Esq., of Marion; Hon. E. N. Bates, Judge J. J. Childs, T. J. Dudley, Esq., Hon. A. Sidney Belt, and I. N. Whittam, Esq., of Cedar Rapids; and J. T. Rice, Esq., of Mt. Vernon. F. Snyder and Wm. Henderson were admitted to the bar. At the July term, 1862, the same officers and attorneys were present, and also Judge Conklin, of Vinton (author of Conklin's Treatise), Mr. Davis, of Iowa City, Judge Graham, of Cedar Rapids, and Ed. Latham, Esq., of Mt. Vernon. O. O. Stanchfield, L. B. Jenks, and T. A. Love, were admitted to the bar. Concerning the abovemenamed gentlemen, it may be added that Gen. T. J. McKean is a graduate of West Point, was a major in the Mexican war, and
when the late war broke out he said, "There's going to be some fighting, and I must have a hand in it." He therefore resigned his office of sheriff of Linn county, and after some month's service as a paymaster, he was appointed Brig. Gen., and commanded a division of the army at the battle of Corinth, October 4th and 5th, 1862. Capt. G. A. Gray was a soldier under Gen. McKean in Mexico, a captain in the 20th Iowa infantry, and is now county surveyor of Linn county. Col. I. M. Preston is one of the "old settlers" of Linn county, and one of the best lawyers in the state. He was United States district attorney for Iowa in 1848. It is said of him that when he located at Marion, some twenty-five years ago, he was so poor that a grocery keeper (who yet resides at Marion) refused to trust him for a half dozen eggs.

Col. Wm. Smythe, M. C., was judge of the district court from 1853 to 1857, was one of the commissioners to codify the laws (Rev. of 1860), and was also appointed a commissioner of legal inquiry in 1860. He was also the first colonel of the 31st infantry. Hon. N. M. Hubbard was judge of the district court in 1865, after his service as a captain in the 20th infantry. Hon. N. W. Isbell was judge of the supreme court in 1855, and judge of the district court in 1862-3. He died on his way to California in 1864. His wife returned to Marion. She is a niece of the late Gov. Medary, of Ohio.


Hon. Charles Whittlesey represented Linn, Cedar, Johnson, and Jones counties, in the council of the first legislative assembly, and also in the second. Hon. Robert G. Roberts was the member of the house from the same counties in the first legislative assembly. Hon. Geo. H. Wallworth represented Cedar, Jones, and Linn, in the house of the second, third, fifth and sixth legislative assemblies, assisted in the third by Hon. Harmon Van Antwerp, in the fourth by Hon. Thomas Denson, in the fifth by Hon. John C. Berry, and in the sixth by Hon. Robert Smythe. Hon. John C. Berry is a
brother of Hon. James M. Berry, of Marion. He was formerly county clerk and county judge of Linn, and now resides in Wisconsin. Hon. Robert Smythe resides at Mt. Vernon. He is a native of the emerald isle, and a brother of our present member of congress, Hon. Wm. Smythe. He was also a member of the house of representatives in 1846–7–8, a paymaster in the army during the great rebellion, for years a member of the law firm of Smythe, Young & Smythe, and is the present senator from Linn. Cedar, Jones and Linn counties were represented in the council of the third and fourth legislative assemblies by Hon. Geo. Greene, of Cedar Rapids, one of the judges of the supreme court from 1847 to 1855, and at present the president of the Rockford, Rock Island and St. Louis railroad. Hon. Samuel P. Higginson was one of the representatives in the house of the fourth legislative assembly.

In the council of the fifth and sixth legislative assemblies, Hon. John P. Cook, now of Davenport, represented Cedar, Jones and Linn. He was also senator from Cedar, Linn and Benton, in the second general assembly; senator from Cedar, Linn, Benton and Tama, in the third general assembly, and represented the second congressional district of Iowa, in the congress of the United States, from 1853 to 1855.

[To be continued.]

THE MANIAC OF THE BORDER.

BY ELIPHALET PRICE.

It was the close of an autumnal day in the year 1835, as we approached the dense forest that skirts the eastern shore of the Volga, some twenty miles from its confluence with the waters of Turkey river. Behind us lay the boundless prairie, stretching away in gentle undulations to the south, as far as the eye could reach, with its rustling herbage seared and embrowned by the autumnal frosts, while here and there, a lonely flower drooped its head, blighted, yet waving in the autumn breeze. Before us the yellow leaves of the forest