

I-O-W-A

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.

---

**Recommended Citation**

The Annals of Iowa, 10(3) (Jul. 1872): 234-235

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

## I-O-W-A.

A LATE number of the *Northern Vindicator*, published at Estherville, Emmet county, thus vindicates the good taste of whoever first proposed for our state the name of Iowa: —

“Has any one ever heard the true rendering or translation of this word Iowa? As all instinctively know, it is an Indian word; and as all proper names in Indian dialect have their peculiar, and oftentimes significant, meaning, this little word, composed, as each of its syllables is, of a separate word, has likewise a meaning and Indian definition, that is most apropos and suggestive of the state that it describes.

“A gentleman passed through here the other day who has been spending some time among the Indian tribes that are sojourning in eastern Nebraska and western Minnesota. He is a well-informed, intelligent, and fully reliable man, and has taken much pains, on account of his business as a trader, in studying the language of these primal inhabitants and in informing himself, through curiosity and a laudable desire for learning their history, the principles of their language, and the rendering of their words and phrases. He informed us, among other curious and interesting facts, that the word ‘Iowa,’ in the Indian tongue signified ‘here is the place,’ and that it originated from an incident which transpired in an Indian tribe of the then wild territory of Iowa, ‘more moons ago than there are tracks of the buffalo upon the plain, or feathers upon the wild fowl’s back.’

“The story runs: A tribe from the west came into the land of Iowa, forced across the Missouri on account of an unfavorable season for game, trapping and hunting, and after several days of tired, weary tramping, hungry and heart-sick, its members came unexpectedly, at nightfall, to the shore of a beautiful lake. Groves of shade surrounded it, plums, wild apples, and berries were found upon every hand upon overladen trees and vines, fowls swam upon, and

flew over, the lake in great swarms, and fishes glided and swam in the pellucid waters. The tired ponies eagerly drank from the cool fountain, and the squaws began with avidity to pluck the fruit and prepare for the evening meal. Then the chief, who had taken in at a glance of his eagle eye the whole prospect, after a pause, that caused all to hold intent their countenances, wisely and solemnly said: 'Iowa'—*this is the place.*

"And the story spread abroad among the tribes, and tradition has passed it down to the white man, who has taken it up, and with a most felicitous appropriateness, has adopted the word, and with it christened one of the grandest and best lands known among these magnificent states of the American Union. May its name and fair fame ever live so long as 'water runs or fishes swim,' and may all races and people early come into a knowledge of the fact—'this is the place.'"

---

#### AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

**SECTION 1.** *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That from and after the taking effect of this act, the Board of Curators of the State Historical Society, at Iowa City, shall consist of eighteen persons, of whom nine shall be appointed by the governor of the State, and nine elected by the members of the society. The term of office of said curators shall be two years, except as provided in the next section, and they shall receive no compensation for their services.

**SEC. 2.** The curators appointed by the governor, shall be appointed on or before the last Wednesday in June in the year 1872, and each second year thereafter, and their term of office shall commence on that day. Nine curators shall be selected by the present board to serve on behalf of the society until the last Wednesday in June, A. D. 1873, or in default of such selection, the nine members of the present

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.