

Sketch of George L. Davenport, Esquire

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ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

The Annals of Iowa, 1(3) (Jul. 1863): 97-98

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THE
ANNALS
OF THE
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

JULY, 1863.

NUMBER III.

SKETCH OF GEORGE L. DAVENPORT, ESQUIRE.

BY THE EDITOR.

MR. GEORGE L. DAVENPORT, whose portrait appears in this number, is the oldest son of Col. George Davenport, being born on Rock Island, in 1817, and the first white person born in this region. His earliest playmates were Indian boys, whose language he learned almost as soon as his mother tongue, the English. He was very early adopted among the Sac and Fox Indians, according to their custom with favorites, and named "Musquake."

After one year's schooling away from home, in Cincinnati, at ten years of age, he was put into the store of the American Fur Company, at Rock Island, where he continued ten years, and till it was removed to the Des Moines River. He made frequent trips thither and to trading posts along that river, with goods; and, in 1837, accompanied the Sac and Fox delegation of Indians to Washington and other eastern cities: The first "claim" in Iowa, was made by him, in 1832. On his return from the east, he resided on it, to secure the right of pre-emption; and, in 1838, entered the store of Messrs. Davenport & Le Claire. In 1839, he was married, and began business for himself, which he pursued constantly for several years.

In 1850, with Mr. Le Claire, he erected the first Foundry and Machine shop in the city of Davenport, but subsequently sold his interest and retired from active business.

As a capitalist, he has done much for the improvement of the city of Davenport, by building a fine block, by a liberal encouragement of every good enterprise, by courtesy and information freely bestowed on visitors to this country. As his likeness indicates, he is erect and trim in his person, with the prospect of many years of enjoyment and usefulness. Of late, his acquaintance with Indian tongues must have made him serviceable to the United States Government and the country, in quelling the Indian troubles in Minnesota, and in averting the savage warfare of the Indians against the white population, since the terrible massacres which so suddenly broke out there, and astounded the whole nation.

DE BOW'S REVIEW.

[The following extract from this Secession Review, will show its character. And for the number of it for January, 1860, the Historical Society is indebted to Lieut. D. J. Davis, of the Army, who found it at Richmond, La.—Ed.]

THE SLAVE-TRADE CONSTITUTIONAL.—The law of Congress prohibiting the slave-trade is palpably unconstitutional. Congress has no other powers than those conferred by the Constitution, and no two men agree as to the clause conferring the power to abolish the slave trade. The most plausible suggestion is, that the power is included in the right to regulate commerce. But this suggestion is rendered flagrantly absurd when we discover that to sustain it, white emigrants must be treated and considered as mere articles of commerce. The Constitution suspends the power to prohibit the "importation" or immigration of persons until 1808. Congress possesses the same power to declare and punish white immigration as piracy that it has so to punish the African slave trade. These are but two, out of hundreds of measures, by which the South may attain all the ends sought for by disunion, while remaining in the Union.

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