

## History of Scott County, Iowa. Chapter X: Allen's Grove Township

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are good. No grog-shops are allowed in this town, and the Sabbath is revered and observed in a suitable manner.

There are some neighborhoods in this township that should claim more special notice, but we shall speak of only one more. The settlement of Little's Grove was first made in 1837, by Wm. Lingo, now of St. Louis, who sold his claim to Francis and Samuel Little. The former died in 1854. Samuel Little, Esq., still resides in the Grove, and we believe is the only old settler still living in or around the Grove. He has made himself not only comfortable with this world's goods, but is independent. Surrounded by a large family, he rests from his toils, and now enjoys the rewards of hard labor amid many privations—one of the best and wealthiest farmers in Scott county.

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## CHAPTER X.

### ALLEN'S GROVE TOWNSHIP.

This township has the Wabesipinicon river on the north for its boundary, being skirted by timber, and also has a large grove of timber cut up into small tracts, and owned by the settlers in the vicinity. The Grove was first settled in 1836, by a Mr. Allen, who erected a cabin and laid claims to the lands now owned by George Lathrop. The Grove derived its name from this man, who removed at an early day into the "New Purchase." In 1843, while exploring the rivers of Iowa, I found Mr. Allen, with his family, on the frontiers, with a newly erected cabin close on to the line of the "Neutral Grounds" of the Winnebago Indians. He was then talking of removing West, as soon as the Indians sold their lands. The original or Indian name of this grove is Ka te-sau-ne Mo-nok-que (Otter Creek Grove), deriving its name from Allen's Creek, which runs along the north side of the grove and called Ka-te-sau-ne Sepo (Otter Creek).

In 1837, '38 and '39, the grove became settled by quite a number of emigrants, among whom were Dennis R. Fuller, John Dunn, John E. Thompson, Mr. Hindes, Halburt and Gee. These opened farms generally upon the prairie at the edge of the grove. The timber in this grove was formerly of the best quality, and the prairie around it beautiful and rolling. The farms in the vicinity are of the first order, well cultivated and productive. Some of its early settlers still live upon the lands they first claimed, and are among the first citizens of Scott county.

Allen's Grove is surrounded by well cultivated farms, except on the north, and nowhere has greater attention been paid to agricultural pursuits, to educating their children by common schools, and social intercourse with one another, than by the inhabitants of this township. But few sections of country in Iowa or any other State, present such a display of agricultural enterprise as the farms in the vicinity of this grove. Many of its first settlers have died, leaving to their children substantial homes.

There are many reminiscences connected with the settlement of this township, that would be of much interest, but the author has been much disappointed in gathering them, and its history must, for the present, remain unwritten.

#### HICKORY GROVE.

This Grove was first settled in 1836. Geo. L. Davenport and some others had taken claims there as early as 1835, but we believe no actual settlement was begun until the following year. Among those who first made improvements in and around the Grove, were Alfred Carter, Vincent Carter, John Porter, Mr. Wyscowber, John and Christopher Shuck. This grove of timber, at an early day, was beautiful, furnishing fuel and timber for settlers, and has been the means of opening a large amount of prairie in its vicinity.

There is an organized church at this Grove, of the Baptist persuasion; good schools and a very pleasant, intelligent and worthy community. It is one of the best farming neighborhoods in the county.

## SLOPERVILLE.

This place lies on the State road leading from Davenport to Iowa City, and properly belongs to Davenport township, but we speak of it here as a place, early settled by Samuel Sloper, who planted a grove of locust as early as 1839. This whole prairie is now settled; has a Congregational Church organized, a fine District School and a community of enterprising farmers.

## LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

This is the north-west township in the county, and although somewhat rolling, and even broken in some parts, yet it is very well settled and contains many good farms. Its first settlements were commenced in 1837, by the Messrs. Goddards, Laugherties, Hellers and Woods, most of whom still live in the township. It contains some fine groves of timber and beautiful creeks.

There are two villages or towns begun in the township. Spring Rock is laid out on lands formerly owned by George Goddard, and contains some private residences, a hotel, store, flouring and grist-mill. Rock Creek (As-sin-ne Sepo in Indian) passes through this township, upon which there are many beautiful farms. The town of Dixon is situated in Little Walnut Grove, upon Walnut Creek, containing some half dozen dwelling houses, a store, hotel, saw-mill and mechanic shops.

Round Grove is another point of importance in this township, and consists of a settlement of farmers. Mr. Kizer, who settled there at an early day, has built a large hotel for the accommodation of the traveling public. This enterprising farmer has done much to draw a settlement around him, and has set a good example for the emigrant to a new country.

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