

The Name of Illinois

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

The Annals of Iowa, 1(11) (Jul. 1865): 523-524

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to their friends narrating occurrences of interest, will be especially valuable, and copies of all such are solicited. When parties prefer, the original letters may be sent, and they will be carefully preserved and returned, if desired. Returned soldiers will be able to render valuable aid to the undertaking by communicating interesting facts within their knowledge, or furnishing information where such facts may be obtained. Persons in the service, both officers and privates, are invited to contribute to the objects of the proposed History, as far as their opportunities will permit.

The work will be completed in one volume of large size, and will be issued from the press at the earliest date consistent with a proper degree of completeness.

A. P. WOOD.

Dubuque, April 8th, 1865.

THE NAME OF ILLINOIS.

The Chicago Post says the name of the State of Illinois originated in this manner :

A party of Frenchmen set out upon an exploring expedition down the river, which they afterwards named, providing themselves with bark canoes, and relying chiefly for their subsistence upon the game. They found at the confluence of this river with the Mississippi an island thickly wooded with black walnut. It was at that season of the year when the nuts were ripe, and this party of explorers, encamping upon the island, greatly enjoyed the luxury of this fruit. From this circumstance the 'Island of Nuts'—or in French, '*Isle aux Nois*'—which was given to the river which they explored, and thence to the Territory and State. This explanation of the 'Illinois' more fully accords with the orthography of the word, which has certainly a French termination—and the rapid pro-

nunciation of the French '*Isle aux Nois*' would naturally lead to the Anglicism of the terms into its present shape 'Illinois.,"

ORGANIZATION OF ASSOCIATION OF EARLY SETTLERS.

The early settlers of Dubuque met at Globe Hall, Saturday afternoon pursuant to a call by a committee.

P. A. Lorimier, chairman of former meeting, called the meeting to order and was requested to preside.

C. Childs consented to act as Secretary until the proposed organization was perfected.

Dr. Timothy Mason, of the Committee on Constitution, preceded by very interesting remarks on the objects of such a society. He referred to Dubuque and its appearance thirty years ago and named, from memory, the business men and their location at that date. He believed that such an organization was the most unselfish possible, and would tend to bind the remaining early settlers in stronger ties of friendship and by social interviews soothe the cares of the evening of their lives. The time would be fixed so as to limit the membership and when all had joined who wished to do so, the number would no doubt annually decrease and one by one some face would be missed from the meetings and from the streets, and none can tell who will be the last member whose death shall eventually terminate the society. He delighted to meet the early settlers and congratulate each other on the growth of the city and the prosperity around it.

The following is the CONSTITUTION as adopted.

WHEREAS, In the Providence of God we became pioneers in the settlement of the rich and fertile county of Dubuque, in the State of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, The number of early settlers is fast decreasing

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