

Keokuk's First Village in Iowa

J. P. Walton

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rations. Then the Colonel made another speech, brief but emphatic, as he started for the city to stir some one up, in virtue of which we managed to break our long fast some-time in the afternoon. This was on Wednesday, July 26th. On the next day the other four companies, under Major Clark, arrived and the regiment was once more united. Relatives and friends of the members of the regiment were here in great numbers, and the time passed quickly, although the old habits still continued in quasi-military routine, until, on August 2nd, the pay-master discharged all the obligations of Uncle Samuel (so far as they were set down on the muster-out rolls). Then the end came, and the Twenty-fourth Regiment of Iowa Volunteers, for three years a vigorous entity, ceased to exist and its four hundred remaining members bade each other good bye and merged into the common, every day citizenship of Iowa, without a ripple.

KEOKUK'S FIRST VILLAGE IN IOWA:

BY HON. J. P. WALTON.

It is the generally accepted opinion that when Keokuk and Black Hawk separated in 1826, and Keokuk and a portion of the Sacs and Foxes moved to the west of the Mississippi river, he went to the Iowa river and built his village. I have never been able to find any one who could tell where this village was located.

At the present time many persons believe the city of Keokuk was the place. Neither of these opinions is correct.

About six miles southwest of Muscatine, along the Muscatine slough or the west side of Muscatine island,

there is a beautiful lake. It is about the only body of water within the county large enough to be called a lake. When I came to the county in 1838 this was known as "Keokuk Lake." I recently made an effort to find how the name came to be applied to it and in so doing I learned that it was the site of the habitation of the noted chief, Keokuk. His village was situated on the west bank of the lake. This village was probably vacated in 1834. In that year the Indians raised corn in this vicinity for the last time. There are parties yet living in this vicinity who saw the frame work of the buildings in this Indian village. A gentleman of my acquaintance who visited it a short time after Keokuk left it, says that it occupied nearly all the high bottom land west of the lake—at least forty or fifty acres. Wapello had his village on the Iowa river, near the present city of Wapello, in Louisa county.

DESTRUCTION OF IOWA LAKES.

A few years ago Owl Lake, in Humboldt county, was purchased, or otherwise legally acquired, by a private citizen, who proceeded to drain the water away and make dry land of its bed. In fact, the peaty bottom of the lake was soon so dry that it came very near being converted into a bed of ashes from an accidental fire. The fire was extinguished only by great effort and at considerable expense. Since then it has been noted for the large crops grown where fishes swam and water-fowl were abundant in the old days of thirty-five years ago.

Mud Lake, in Hamilton county has always been known as a beautiful sheet of water, abounding with water-fowl and fishes, with myriads of pond lilies growing along its

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