

The Life and Writings of Rafinesque

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NEW PUBLICATIONS.

In the person of Senator H. F. Andrews, of Audubon, Iowa, our state possesses one of the most thorough and industrious students of genealogy in the West. His first work in that direction which came to our notice was the genealogical history of the Andrews family, to which he belongs. In its prosecution and publication he was quite successful, though he was working upon it at intervals for twenty-five years. Upon its completion two or three years ago, he began a like work for the Hamlin family, a numerous one in this country and England, one of the earliest records of which was in the victory of Hastings, where William the Conqueror won the crown of England. Hannibal Hamlin, Vice President of the United States, and the Methodist Episcopal Bishop, L. L. Hamline, who died in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in 1865, were of this family. Mr. Andrews has issued ninety-six pages of his work, which bids fair to be an extensive one. He brings the genealogy down to the third generation in this country, very successfully clearing the way for its continuation. How long it may take him to complete the work, we presume that even he would be unable to predict. But as he has the support of several of the leading members of the Hamlin family, we have no doubt that it will proceed more rapidly than his first work in which he had little, if any, outside aid. We copy the title-page of this new and very large undertaking, which in itself indicates its scope and purpose:

‘HISTORY of the HAMLIN FAMILY with Genealogies of Early Settlers of the name in America. 1639-1894. Origin of the name. Early Account of the Family in England.’ Coats of Arms, Crests, etc. First Settlements in America. Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War and of the Rebellion. Statesmen, Lawyers, Clergymen, Physicians, Merchants, Bankers, Educators; etc., etc. TO BE PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY. PART ONE. Commencing the Genealogy of James Hamlin, of Barnstable, Massachusetts, 1639, with First Four Generations in America, with copies of wills, etc., and collateral pedigrees. By H. FRANKLIN ANDREWS, Attorney at Law, Audubon, Iowa. Exira, Iowa, George W. Guernsey, 1894.

THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF RAFINESQUE. By Richard Ellsworth Call, M. A., M. Sc., M. D. Louisville, Ky., the Filson Club, 1895.

In the year 1783 a boy was born near Constantinople, Turkey, of French-German parentage, who was named Constantine Samuel Rafinesque, and whose after life was a most remarkable one. He resided during his childhood and youth in France and Italy, where he acquired a thorough education, his tastes naturally inclining him to the study of natural history. He came to this country in 1802. Returning in 1805, he went to Sicily, where he remained ten years. During this period, while occupied with many other matters, his attention was largely given to the study of animated nature and botany. Though

yet a very young man, his investigations resulted in several publications of more or less value. He returned to this country in 1818, and from that time until his death in 1840, his life was filled with arduous labors in natural history, including geology, meteorology, botany, ichthyology, conchology, astronomy, chemistry and metaphysics, to which he sometimes added that of lecturer, and teacher. Notwithstanding his great ability and diversified knowledge, he was an eccentric character who would be called "a crank" by many people at the present time. But he was the first naturalist to explore the valley of the Ohio and other portions of this country, the results of which for the most part were published in his life-time. But as the years passed other men explored the same regions, to a large extent ignoring the work and publications of Rafinesque. He came at last to be mentioned as a "Forgotten Naturalist." It has been a labor of love for Prof. R. E. Call—a former resident of Des Moines—to make a thorough study of the life and writings of Rafinesque, carefully exploring his labors and giving him the credit which, as an early explorer and discoverer, he undoubtedly deserves. The results of his studies have been published by the Filson Club of Louisville, Kentucky, in a most beautiful volume of 227 pages, with two portraits of Rafinesque and other engravings, of which a large paper copy has reached the Historical Department of Iowa. It also presents a bibliography of the writings of Rafinesque, containing a grand total of books, pamphlets, translations, magazine articles, etc., of 447 titles. It has made permanently accessible, in an attractive form, whatever is known of this pioneer naturalist, who certainly deserved to be remembered and not forgotten.

THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, Volume 3, Second Annual Report, 1893, with accompanying papers. Geological Corps: Samuel Calvin, A. M., Ph. D., Geologist; Charles Rollin Keyes, A. M., Ph. D., Assistant State Geologist; G. E. Patrick, A. M., Chemist. Des Moines, Iowa: The Kenyon Press, 1895.

This is an exceedingly beautiful volume, handsomely printed, tastefully bound, copiously illustrated with engravings, maps, diagrams, etc., and thoroughly indexed. It presents a report of the operations of the Iowa Geological Survey for the year 1893. In addition to the labors of Messrs. Calvin and Keyes, the survey had the aid of thirteen special and temporary assistants. The energies of the organization were largely devoted to the investigation of the coal deposits of our State, but much attention was also given to our clays, building-stones, lime-burning rocks, soils and other geological resources. Several of the assistants are represented by papers upon subjects which they have specially studied in the field. Professor Calvin contributes an interesting chapter on the "Composition and Origin of Iowa Chalk," which is illustrated by a fine plate showing the shells of the microscopic animals which built up the cretaceous rocks. Dr. Keyes is represented by chapters on the "Work and Scope of the Geological

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