

Correspondence [Indian Affairs in Iowa Territory]

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CORRESPONDENCE.

IOWA CITY, IOWA, November 21, 1904.

CHARLES ALDRICH, DES MOINES: In the last number of *THE ANNALS OF IOWA*, Mr. Stiles, in his paper on Gen. Fitz Henry Warren, says that Mr. Harlan was defeated for Superintendent of Public Instruction by Judge Mason. I think this a mistake. I came to Iowa in 1853, when this contest in which our Iowa City people were deeply interested (as Mr. Harlan had lived here), was still fresh in the minds of everyone. Thomas H. Benton, Jr., was then Superintendent of Public Instruction, and was said to have been counted in by a process that was thought to have defeated the will of the majority of the voters. I think the records which are easily accessible will show that Judge Mason never held that position. *THE ANNALS* should not be wrong historically. In addition to Messrs. Warren and Harlan, Ebenezer Cook was the candidate of the Fillmore Whigs for the United States Senate. It was for a time thought that the Democrats would unite with his supporters and elect him, but the influence of Senators Dodge and Jones kept them out of the combination.

Truly yours,

PETER A. DEY.

LATER.

Your letter of November 30 just received. Am glad to know that you remember as I did the facts in connection with the decision that deprived Mr. Harlan of the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The manifesto he issued on that occasion, read in the cool dispassionate temper of the lapse of more than half a century, gave little promise of the ability that he subsequently developed when in the Senate of the United States he grappled with Sumner, and in that contest was generally admitted to be the victor. It was long before I could place him on the same plane in mental power with Kirkwood, Kasson, and others who were then in the front rank of statesmen.

Truly yours,

PETER A. DEY.

ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER.

T. N. Rogers writes *THE ANNALS* from Selma, Iowa, stating that a Mrs. Dye, aged 67 years, resides near Eldon, Wapello county, whose grandfather, Nathan Winton, was one of Washington's soldiers. He enlisted in the Continental Army at the age of 17, serving seven years, or until the close of the war. He participated in the battles of Yorktown and Monmouth and was with Washington at the crossing of the Delaware. He suffered with his compatriots during the terrible winter at Valley Forge. The old soldier used to tell many thrilling stories of privation and suffering during his long period of service. The slab at the head of his grave contains the following inscription: "Nathan Winton, a native of Connecticut, died September 24, 1846, aged 87 years, 8 months, 23 days. A soldier of the War of the Revolution."

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