

## General Joseph Montfort Street

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"General Joseph Montfort Street." *The Annals of Iowa* 7 (1905), 145-146.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3192>

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## GENERAL JOSEPH MONTFORT STREET.

During the publication of this series of *THE ANNALS*, we have presented several articles referring in one way or another to this distinguished pioneer, whose life closed at Agency City, Wapello county, May 5, 1840, where he was buried in a little enclosure a few feet from the grave of the Indian Chief Wapello. He was especially distinguished for his friendship to the Indians. He spared no effort to protect them from the rapacity of thieving agents who came among them to prey upon their substance and demoralize them with intoxicating liquors. He wished to improve their condition by establishing schools among them, and instructing them in farming and other arts of peace and prosperity. He had fierce contentions with the "grafters" of that day. His well intended efforts were not rewarded with the fruition they deserved. The Indian traders were too powerfully represented at Washington to admit of the success of a single-unsupported philanthropist. As Iowa was for some time the theatre of his operations, his memory should ever be precious to our people and all possible light thrown on his career.

The articles which have appeared in *THE ANNALS* have been to a large extent the inspiration and work of his granddaughter, Miss Ida M. Street, a sometime resident of Des Moines, but latterly of Milwaukee, where she has attained a high reputation as a teacher. We give considerable space in this number to one-half of her latest article, which is largely a compilation from official letters and documents touching the frauds which were sought to be perpetrated upon the Winnebago tribe of Indians, by a commission appointed for their protection by the general government. Some of this matter has been published heretofore, and may be found in the transactions of the Historical Society of Wisconsin, while a portion of it is now printed for the first time. The article will be concluded in the next number of

THE ANNALS. We bespeak for it careful consideration by all who are interested in the history of the Indian tribes when they were disappearing from the Territory of Iowa.

Quite recently the son of George Wilson and a grandson of Gen. Street, who now resides at Lexington, Mo., has signified his desire to bring the remains of his father and mother from Missouri, and have them reinterred in the little burying ground near the old Agency building. This work will no doubt be carried out during the next year. In the meantime, the legislature should make provision for the permanent care of the little cemetery. We are glad to know that this subject elicits the friendly consideration of sundry distinguished citizens of Wapello county.

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#### IOWA MEDALS OF HONOR.

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Col. Charles A. Clark's article on "Congressional Medals of Honor and Iowa Soldiers," shows a proud record for those of our civil war soldiers who distinguished themselves by special acts of heroism, outside of the line of duty. The cause or causes which led to each of these awards he explains by extracts from the official army records, giving also a synopsis of the acts of Congress upon which this system of national recognition is based. This article will not only be read with interest upon its appearance, but will be often consulted in the libraries of the State. Its information is all the more valuable, as presented by Col. Clark, because it is not accessible to the mass of readers. He presents a full list of our Iowa Heroes who have been thus honored, pointing to sources of information where the interesting subject may be further studied. He also enumerates those from other states who have become residents of Iowa. This catalogue is a fitting companion to that of the Iowa graduates from West Point and Annapolis which appeared in THE ANNALS, Vol. VI, pp. 594-617. Gradually information relative to our Iowa soldiers is thus "in books recorded," where it can be readily consulted.

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