

The Indian Chief Appanoose

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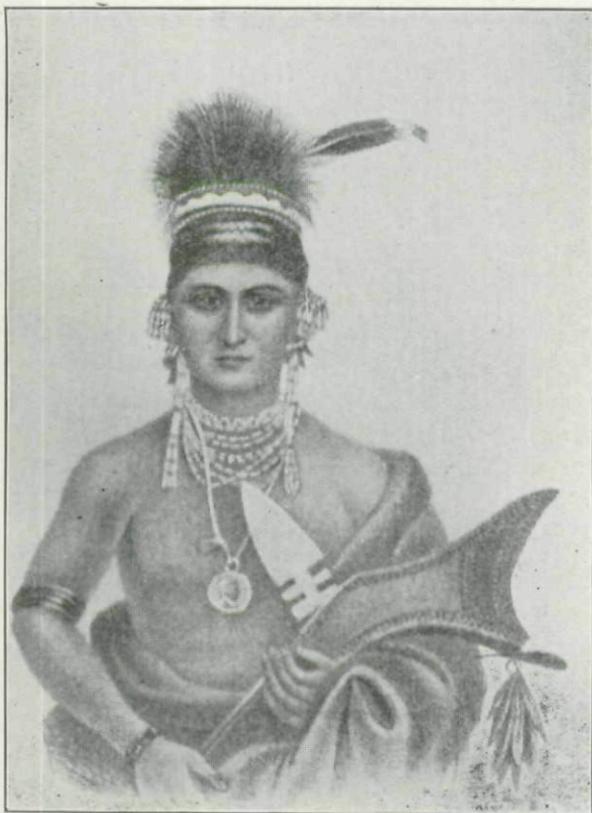
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ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

THE INDIAN CHIEF APPANOOSE.

The accounts which have come down to us in regard to this chief, who was so distinguished in his day that his name was given to one of the counties of our State, are very meager. McKenney and Hall, in their great work (folio edition, p. 58) on the North American Indians, give him less than a page of biography. His portrait—a fine large lithograph, colored by hand—shows him to have been a very good looking Indian, not so much addicted to the use of paint and feathers as many of the chiefs whose homes were on Iowa soil. His name signifies "A chief when a child," from which it has been inferred that his position came to him by inheritance. Judge A. R. Fulton in his "Red Men of Iowa," says that he was a man of quiet disposition, much beloved by his people, and that it had been stated that he had four wives. Of his early life nothing definite is known. He was opposed to Blackhawk, favoring the peace policy of Keokuk, desiring to be friendly with the whites. He once lived on the Iowa river, but when the Sacs and Foxes removed to the valley of the Des Moines, he established his village on land now within the limits of the city of Ottumwa. The buildings of the C., B. & Q. R. R. are said to stand upon the ground which was in the corn fields of Appanoose and his band. In 1837 he visited the east in the company taken thither by Gen. J. M. Street, including Blackhawk, Keokuk, Wapello, and other noted Indians. While in the city of Boston they were taken to Faneuil Hall and other places of interest, and were given a reception at the State House. After the addresses of Gov.



APPANOOSE.

"A Peace Chief who presided over a village of the Sauks." His home was within the present city limits of Ottumwa. One of the richest Iowa counties perpetuates his name.

Edward Everett, Keokuk, Wapello and others, Appanoose spoke as follows:

BROTHERS:—You have heard just now what my chief has to say. All our chiefs and warriors are very much gratified by our visit to this town. Last Saturday they were invited to a great house (Faneuil Hall), and now they are in the great council-house (the Capitol). They are very much pleased with so much attention. This we cannot reward you for now, but shall not forget it, and hope the Great Spirit will reward you for it. This is the place which our forefathers once inhabited. I have often heard my father and grandfather say they lived near the sea-coast where the white men first came. I am glad to hear all this from you. I suppose it is put in a book, where you learn all these things. As far as I can understand the language of the white people, it appears to me that the Americans have attained a very high rank among white people. It is the same with us, though I say it myself. Where we live, beyond the Mississippi, I am respected by all people, and they consider me the tallest among them. I am happy that two great men meet and shake hands with each other.

Appanoose then shook hands with Gov. Everett "amid shouts of applause from the audience, who were not a little amused at the self-complacency of the orator." A Boston paper speaking of this affair said:

We have taken pains to give the speeches of the Indian Chiefs with verbal accuracy, as a matter of high intellectual curiosity. History, romance and poetry, have embodied the Indian character to our perceptions from childhood. It is pleasant, therefore, to see the original, and find how accurate the picture has been. The language, ideas, and style of these Indians are precisely such as have been ascribed to their race. There is much to admire in the simple and manly manner in which they convey their ideas. He must be a churl who does not associate with their visit here, objects of philanthropy and protection to their race.

In connection with his portrait M'Kenney and Hall print his name in four syllables, spelling it "Ap-pa-noo-sa." This would imply that the name was so pronounced by the Indians, but changed to "Appanoose" by the whites. The portrait which we present with this article is copied from the work to which we have referred.

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