

Iowa State Atlas in Error

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IOWA STATE ATLAS IN ERROR.

EDITOR ANNALS:—The Iowa State Atlas, published a year ago by the Iowa Publishing Co., of Davenport, in its historical sketches of the counties of the state did not give Boone county a "square deal."

In the first paragraph the statement is made that "Squaw Creek is a tributary of the Des Moines river." Squaw Creek runs across the north-east corner of Boone county, and thence in a southeasterly direction, and empties into the Skunk river a short distance south of Ames in Story county.

In the third paragraph appears the following: "Along the west side of Honey Creek was early discovered a chain of mounds, nine in number, of the same appearance as others found in various parts of the West, evidently burial places for the dead in the age of the Mound Builders." The mounds above referred to are on the west side of the Des Moines river, while Honey Creek is on the east side.

The first sentence of the sixth paragraph reads as follows: "The first settlement in the county was made at a place called Pea's Point, a strip of prairie running into the timber on the east side of the Des Moines river just south of where Boonsboro was afterwards located." Pea's Point is not a point of prairie, but a point of timber, and it is at least three miles from the point of prairie above referred to.

The second sentence of the same paragraph reads as follows: "The first settlers were John Pea, James Hull, Jr., John M. Crooks, Samuel H. Bowers and Thomas Sparks."

☞ The persons here named were not the first settlers of Boone county, nor was the first settlement made at Pea's Point. It has been a long settled fact, that C. W. Gaston was the first settler of Boone county, and that he settled near the south line of the county on the east bank of the Des Moines river, about two and a half miles southwest of the present town of Madrid.

The writer of this article was well acquainted with C. W. Gaston and John Pea, the man after whom Pea's Point was named, both of whom are now dead. On more than one occasion has the writer heard each of these men give the dates of their settlement in the county. C. W. Gaston gave the date of January 12, 1846. There are no less than half a dozen men still living in Madrid and vicinity, who have heard C. W. Gaston give the above named date as the one on which he arrived in Boone county and began the erection of his log cabin. The writer and others he can name have heard John Pea state that he arrived at the point of timber which afterwards bore his name, in the latter part of April, 1846. These dates show that C. W. Gaston had been in the county over three months before John Pea and the parties who came with him arrived at Pea's Point.

Further along in this sketch the name of the Sioux Indian chief killed by Henry Lott, is given as Sim-an-e-do-lah, and the time of the killing the winter of 1852-53. The correct name of this chief was Si-dom-i-na-do-tah* and the time of the killing was February, 1854.

In relation to the location of the county seat the following occurs: "The town was laid out by order of the county commissioners and named Boonsboro. Its location is a little north of the center of the county on the Des Moines river."

This is another mistake that misleads. Boonsboro was located on the northwest fourth of section twenty-nine, township eighty-four, range twenty-six, and on the prairie three miles east of the Des Moines river.

As a lover of correct history and a citizen of Boone county during the past fifty-two years, the writer begs enough of your space to publish the foregoing.

C. L. LUCAS.

Madrid, Iowa.

* For further information concerning Si-dom-i-na-do-tah see ANNALS OF IOWA, p. 133, vol. I, and pp. 151 and 160, vol. II.

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