

## A Pioneer's Reminiscences

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wherein they find themselves. They have no doubt been among the prime movers and most energetic workers in the investigation of local historical societies and study clubs.

The fifth cause that has been both coincident with and antecedent to those just given has been the publication of THE ANNALS OF IOWA, beginning with the first series in 1863, and continuing with some intermissions from that year down to the present; the issue of *The Iowa Historical Record* from 1885 to 1902, and of its successor, *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. Organically connected with these publications have been the State Historical Society, at Iowa City, and the Historical Department, housed first in the capitol, and now in the Historical Building in Des Moines. These agencies have for many years been working to arouse just such local interest, and we may certainly say without presumption that they have been potent factors in producing the growth of local concern in communal history.

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#### A PIONEER'S REMINISCENCES.

If one thing more than another has justified the career of THE ANNALS OF IOWA it has been the publication of journals, letters and memoirs of pioneers of Iowa. This fact is constantly impressed upon the mind of even the casual reader of the studies of our scholarly historians. The pages of THE ANNALS, 1st, 2d and 3d series, and *The Iowa Historical Record*, are replete with accounts of the early days of the State. They contain contemporary narratives by those who took part in the formation of the State, who controlled often the determination of the lines of public discussion, and the decisions of public authorities. They afford us much of the original material from which alone the historian to-day and in days to come can accurately reproduce the life of the past.

We are prompted to make these observations by the completion of a series of interesting and valuable sketches of pioneer life and times that have been contributed to THE ANNALS by Mr. George C. Duffield of Keosauqua. Mr. Duffield was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, May 13, 1824. In

1835 his father brought his family into Illinois, but continued in search of a permanent home until he selected a spot west of the Des Moines river in what is now Iowa, and above the site the next year selected for Keosauqua. Subsequent surveys embraced the claim in Section 21, Township 69 north, Range 10 west. On April 4th, 1837, the family was brought here, where the elder Duffields maintained their homestead the remainder of their lives, as it remains that of their son James. It continued the home of the author of these sketches until he acquired land in the adjoining section (22). Here he erected one of the brick residences characteristic of the Lower Des Moines, "in the slack-water navigation days" of the fifties. "Linwood Farm," named by his wife, now deceased, overlooking the river at one of its most picturesque points, has been Mr. Duffield's home for fifty-five years.

In 1902 it was the privilege of the editor to spend a few days at his home. His reminiscences of his boyhood days in the old territory of Iowa were so vivacious and illuminating that their preservation was urged upon him. He was made to realize that he owed it to his father and his associates to place in a permanent record his memories of their deeds and experiences. After much urging Mr. Duffield at last consented to put in narrative form his recollections. Assisted by his son-in-law, Mr. Edgar R. Harlan, an attorney of Keosauqua, who made a number of interesting photographs of scenes described, and acted as amanuensis in the preparation of the manuscript for press, the following sketches were published in *THE ANNALS* under the titles: "Coming into Iowa in 1837" (Vol. VI, p. 1), "An Iowa Settler's Homestead" (Vol. VI, p. 206), "Frontier Church Going—1837" (Vol. VI, p. 266), "Frontier Mills" (Vol. VI, p. 425), "Youthtime in Frontier Iowa" (Vol. VII, p. 347).

The articles are to be reproduced, together with the illustrations, in book form, under the title, "Memories of Frontier Iowa." The little volume will present not only attractive but valuable pictures of the daily life, social customs and habits of the pioneers of the thirties and the forties, and we take pleasure in commending it to those interested in the actual life of frontiersmen sixty and seventy years ago.

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