

Two Commemorative Acts

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Two Commemorative Acts." *The Annals of Iowa* 8 (1908), 475-476.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3480>

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This action, however, established a precedent of scattering the various institutions of the State which has prevailed from that time to the present. This course has from time to time caused serious apprehension in the minds of many good people. The fear has been entertained widely and possibly with a large sense of justice, that this "scatteration policy" would result disastrously to the State. There seemed in some minds to be danger that the friends of the various institutions would combine for the purpose of securing large appropriations and thereby that our taxes would be greatly and unjustly increased. But some time before these fears came to any such unjust culmination, our legislature, thanks to the wise suggestions of Hon. John D. Hunter, late of Webster City, passed a law that a Board of Control should be set in authority over the institutions, excepting those devoted to education, which existed upon the taxation of the people. Since that wise law, which was put into force by three such eminent business men as Ex-Governor William Larrabee, Ex-Chief Justice L. G. Kinne of our Supreme Court, and Hon. John Cownie, who had long held a high place among the foremost farmers of Iowa, these fears have measurably, if not wholly died out. There is no longer any fear that a combination of the institutions can unduly control our tax levies. And, as a further measure of protection, the legislature has a veto upon the recommendations of the Board of Control. We have here a system of checks and balances which seems wisely adapted to the situation in our State. The "scatteration policy" will no doubt go on.

TWO COMMEMORATIVE ACTS.

The fact that one of the frontier military outposts was established and for a time maintained within the present limits of the city of Des Moines has received some attention in print. But it remained for Abigail Adams Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Des Moines, adequately to commemorate the event by erecting a visible mark. On June 14th this patriotic body dedicated and presented to the city of Des Moines a monument of massive carved granite. On

the face of the stone is a bronze tablet twenty by thirty inches in size by the Gorham Company. This bears the following inscription in raised letters:

SITE OF OLD FORT DES MOINES
ESTABLISHED 1843
EVACUATED 1846
ERECTED BY
ABIGAIL ADAMS CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
ASSISTED BY
PARK COMMISSIONERS AND EARLY SETTLERS OF DES MOINES
DEDICATED JUNE 14, 1908

The monument, enclosed by a substantial iron fence, is in a small plot of ground upon the identical site of the Old Fort Des Moines. The order for the establishment of the fort was issued from Jefferson Barracks, Saint Louis, February 20, 1843, and directed Captain Allen to establish a post "at as early a period as the weather will permit, on the River Des Moines, at or near the junction of the Raccoon, for the protection of the Sac and Fox Indians, and the interests of the Government on that frontier." Captain Allen reported that he went into camp for the first time on May 20, 1843. He received an order bearing date February 23, 1846, for the abandonment of the fort, and the last of the troops departed under command of Lieutenant Grier for Fort Leavenworth March 10, 1846 (*Annals of Iowa*, Third Series, Vol. 4, 161 *et seq.*).

On July 1st, the Des Moines Commercial Club commended the act of a negro resident of the city in presenting him a gold medal appropriately inscribed:

TO GRANT FERGUSON
FROM
THE DES MOINES COMMERCIAL CLUB, JULY 1, 1908.
FOR
HEROIC RESCUE OF MAN FROM DROWNING
JUNE 13, 1908.

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