

An Iowa Centennial Anniversary

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which city stands as his tribute to the memory of the wife of his youth who lies buried there, the Jennie Edmundson Hospital. For some six years Mr. Edmundson has resided in Des Moines. In the annals of the State nothing has been done from private initiative more fittingly to characterize legend and history than will this Mahaska. Tablets on the pedestal, besides bearing the title of Mr. Fry's work MAHASKA, will state that William Edmundson was the sheriff appointed by the legislature for organizing Mahaska county, and the first elected by the public after the county was organized; that the Indian whose name the county bears was a chief of the Iowa tribe of Indians, was ever the friend of the white man, and was a victim of Indian treachery, dying at the hand of an assassin on soil now embraced in Cass county, Iowa.

All the public statuary within the State and all that the State has provided anywhere should be assembled in replica in the Historical Department. It may be done with but trivial expense, no doubt, while the present benefits would be multiplied.

AN IOWA CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

Fort Madison recently celebrated the centennial of the establishment of the first fort in what is now the State of Iowa. The event was predicated on a report of Lieut. Alpha Kingsley (*Annals of Iowa*, 3d Series, Vol. III, p. 100) made November 22, 1808, to the Secretary of War, Henry Dearborn. The report shows compliance with an order to establish the situation of a fort near the mouth of the Des Moines river. It shows the selection of a site 25 miles above the mouth. It announces the completion of a portion, and the plan of constructing the remainder, of the buildings thought indispensable to the safety of the troops, to the advantage of the Indian trade and for defiance to evil minded savages. Of the Lieutenant's work, all disappeared before the actual settlement of the country began except a huge chimney which resisted the elements far into the memory of living citizens of Fort Madison, and became familiar to river men as "the lone chimney." It was leveled in the course of the improvement of the city.

The establishment of the fort was celebrated by a series of programmes embracing notable addresses by Dr. B. F. Shambaugh and Prof. W. C. Wilcox of the Iowa State University, Governors Cummins of Iowa and Van Sant of Minnesota, Dr. William Salter of Burlington, and Hon. J. D. M. Hamilton of Topeka, Kansas. Citizens of Fort Madison and Lee county have done many things toward fixing and perpetuating facts concerning historical persons and events, but in nothing have they accomplished more than in this celebration. The various pageants, exercises and addresses, splendidly handled by the newspapers, made the people acquainted with the earliest of civilized activities in that part of the State. A stimulation of patriotism and local pride and a dissemination of historical learning, especially to the younger generations has resulted. A purpose to rebuild the "lone chimney" or otherwise visibly mark the spot of the building of the fort was fixed in the public mind, and a fund almost sufficient to carry it out was left in hand.

OUR COUNTY ARCHIVES.

Iowa has become conscious of the value of her State archives, and has done much toward expressing appreciation of these. She is pursuing a plan not only to preserve those of the past and present, but to make them and those of the future available to the public. An appropriation of six thousand dollars a year for two years to be expended for this purpose under the direction of the executive council was made by the last General Assembly. But of county statistical and genealogical matter not in current use less care has been taken. It may be shown in our recent experience.

The Historical Department discovered and secured "the old papers" of a modest Iowa citizen whose death occurred about 1880. He had resided in the State from its admission to the Union. He had held no public office and was unknown beyond his town. He had witnessed the removal of his county's offices from room to room and from building to

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