

Statue of Mahaska

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ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

STATUE OF MAHASKA.

An ideal portrait in bronze of Mahaska, a chieftain of the Iowa tribe of Indians, was unveiled and dedicated at Oskaloosa on May 12, 1909. It is the gift of Mr. James D. Edmundson, of Des Moines. The figure is seven and one-half feet in height, on a pedestal of granite of about the same height, which bears four bronze tablets whose inscriptions read as follows:

ON THE FRONT OR WEST TABLET.

MAHASKA.

ON SOUTH TABLET.

Mahaska, for whom Mahaska county was named, was chief of the Ioway tribe of Indians. He lived at peace with the white man and was slain by an Indian in 1834, at the age of fifty years, in what is now Cass county, Iowa.

ON EAST TABLET.

Presented to the city of Oskaloosa by James Depew Edmundson, in memory of his father, William Edmundson, who settled in Iowa in 1836, and who as sheriff under appointment by the territorial legislature, had charge of the organization of Mahaska county, which was completed on the 13th day of May, 1844.

ON NORTH TABLET.

The Ioways, a powerful tribe of Indians for which the State of Iowa was named, at one time inhabited the southeastern portion of the territory which now constitutes the State of Iowa, and which includes in its borders the county of Mahaska.



Statue of Mahaska, at Oskaloosa, Iowa.

The statue was modeled by Mr. Sherry E. Frye, a young Iowa sculptor then residing in Paris. The model in clay won for the sculptor honorable mention when exhibited in the Paris Salon. The statue in bronze was also exhibited in the Salon of 1908, winning for the sculptor a gold medal and membership in the American Academy at Rome.

At the dedication, Hon. J. F. Lacey, in the principal address said:

“The Iowa Indians, whose name first appears in Lewis and Clark’s journals as Ayauway, occupied this fertile and lovely land. Among the chiefs was Mahaska, a splendid specimen of mental and physical manhood, six feet and two inches tall.

Mahaska realized the power of the white people and the necessity of accepting the new order of things that the establishment of the republic had brought about. He took pride in the fact that he was guiltless of any white man’s blood, and it was only to avenge the wanton murder of his own father that he took up arms against enemies of his own race. He gave up some Indians for the murder of white people, and fell a victim in 1834, in his tepee out on the Nodaway, killed in revenge for his friendly conduct towards the white race.”

The chieftain whose life this monument commemorates participated in most of the councils and signed many of the treaties whereby his tribe dealt with other tribes and with the United States with respect to the use and title of lands now within or bordering on the State of Iowa. He was joined by Mah-ne-hah-nah, “The Great Walker,” in agreeing on behalf of the Iowa tribe on August 14, 1824, to the west and north boundaries of the State of Missouri. He was joined by nine other braves and head men in signing a treaty at Prairie du Chien on August 19, 1825, wherein the inter-tribal dissensions over lands in our State and the grievances of some of the tribes against the United States were settled. In this treaty the tribes were allotted specific portions of land. But the Iowa and the Sac and Fox tribes agreed to the use in common of lands now within the State of Iowa south of a line “commencing at the mouth of the Upper Ioway river on the west

bank of the Mississippi, and ascending the said Ioway river to its left fork; thence up that fork to its source; thence crossing the fork of Red Cedar river in a direct line to the second or upper fork of the Desmoines river; and thence in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet river; and down that river to its juncture with the Missouri."

THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Mississippi Valley Historical Association was organized at Lincoln, Nebraska, in October, 1907. It resulted from a conference called by Mr. C. S. Paine, Secretary of the Nebraska Historical Society, and was participated in by representatives from activities in the States of Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Minnesota and Montana. Mr. F. A. Sampson, Secretary of the Missouri State Historical Society, was elected president and Mr. C. S. Paine, secretary. The first regular meeting was held at Madison, Wisconsin, in December, 1907, at which Hon. Thomas M. Owen, Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, was made president and Mr. Paine, secretary. At that meeting a constitution was adopted. The object of the Association is stated to be the promotion of historical study and research, and of co-operation between historical activities of the Mississippi Valley. It provides that any one interested in these matters may become a member, and also provides for two meetings each year, one to be held in June and one in connection with the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in December. The annual dues are one dollar. The midsummer meeting of 1908 was held at Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota. At this meeting Dr. Clarence W. Alvord, Assistant Professor of History in the University of Illinois, was made president. The midwinter meeting of that year was held at Richmond, Virginia. The second annual meeting of the Association was held in the rooms of the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis, June 17-19, 1909.

At this meeting an excellent program was presented and it was decided to publish the first volume of transactions at once, and distribute the same to all members. Dr. Benjamin F.

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