

## Des Moines River

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Prof. W. H. Wynn, now a citizen of Tacoma and a member of the editorial staff of the *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, was formerly a member of the faculty of the Iowa Agricultural College.

I cannot mention all of the talented and worthy men and women, now respected citizens of the State of Washington who are entitled to have their names perpetuated in the annals of Iowa.

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### DES MOINES RIVER.

This name was given to this stream by the French traders, and is interpreted, "The Monks' River." The Indian name, however, is "Ke-o-shaw-quā," the origin of which they account for as follows, to-wit: They say, that when their ancestors first explored this country, they found residing on the banks of this river, an old man without family or human companion, and that his name was Ke-o-shaw-quā; hence they called it Keoshawqua's river. The French seem also to have had a view to the same circumstance, when regarding this lonely inhabitant as a recluse, they named it (*La riviere Des Moines*) or "The River of the Monks." It is about 400 miles in length, and averages about 300 yards in width. Its head waters interlock with branches of the St. Peters and in its course it passes diagonally through the neutral ground, and receiving the Raccoon river and many other fine tributary streams, it continues its course through the centre of the new State of Iowa. Its waters are transparent, and its current swift and shallow; it abounds in fish, and springs of excellent water are in many places found in great profusion along its shores. The bottom lands are not very extensive, except in some places, but they are of rich, alluvial soil, covered generally with a heavy growth of forest trees, such as black and white walnut, hackberry, sugar tree, cherry, locust, mulberry, coffee nut, some buckeye, and all the varieties of oak, etc.—*Iowa Advocate and Half-Breed Journal*, (Isaac Galland, editor), Montrose, Iowa, August 16, 1847.

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