

## Some Additional Materials on the Spirit Lake Massacre

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"Some Additional Materials on the Spirit Lake Massacre." *The Annals of Iowa* 11 (1914), 408-408.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3931>

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## SOME ADDITIONAL MATERIALS ON THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE.

[When the memorial tablet in the Hamilton county courthouse and the monument at Lake Okoboji were respectively erected, materials upon the Spirit Lake massacre and on the various attendant features were extensively published. From time to time thereafter we have received materials adding somewhat to the record. We herewith present contributions on three phases of the subject.

The first is a paper prepared by Prof. O. C. Howe at the time of the dedication of the monument. Professor Howe was one of the party of four who discovered the victims and carried the report back to Fort Dodge.

The second is a communication from Mr. R. A. Smith of the relief expedition, who explains the division of the party in the face of a hazard from which Captain Johnson and Mr. Burkholder lost their lives.

The third is a memorandum of the founder of the Historical Department upon his labors in connection with the commemoration of the service of Hamilton County men on the relief expedition, rather more frankly told than as published in the ANNALS during his life.—EDITOR.]

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### THE DISCOVERY OF THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE.

BY ORLANDO C. HOWE.

On the 15th<sup>1</sup> day of March, 1857, our party, consisting of Robert Wheelock, B. F. Parmenter, C. Snyder and O. C. Howe, after a tedious trip of more than three weeks, came in sight of the beautiful lakes in Dickinson County, Iowa. We had been exposed to the storms of that terrible winter and apparently had reached the promised land. The weather in the afternoon had softened, the clouds vanished for a time, and the shining sun over these groves seemed like a welcome. Our point of view was from the highlands east of the southern point of the Okoboji groves.

Mr. Wheelock and I had been at the lakes in the preceding fall for a week or more, leaving on the last day of November, 1856. While there, we stayed at the cabin of Joel Howe and selected for a town site a tract near the southwesterly shore

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Smith's article following gives the date as the 16th, and that date corresponds with Mr. Howe's account of each day's happenings until they reached Ft. Dodge.—Ed.

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