

Location and Fact of Black Hawk's Death and Burial

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ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

LOCATION AND FACT OF BLACK HAWK'S DEATH AND BURIAL

The current ANNALS presents a letter of William Barrows to James Wilson, surveyor general. Mr. Barrows was a noted pioneer of Davenport, was a historian and an extensive contractor to subdivide or "sectionize" lands. His survey of Township 70, Range 12, Salt Creek Township, Davis County, which he did October 17 to 30, 1843, was under attack. Mr. Barrows' defense as set up in the letter referred to failed and his contract and survey were canceled. It was resurveyed by Paul C. Jeffries July 10 to 28, 1846.

There are two sets, therefore, of notes of original surveys in the Davis County Court House for the lands of Salt Creek Township—those of Barrows and those of Jeffries. A comparison of the two sets of notes shows little difference in fact as to the strict engineering data. Terms used for locating corners, riparian and other lines differ, naturally, for it was not expected by the surveyor nor the contestants that Mr. Barrows' work should be found accurate or adequate. The chief difference, however, in the contents of the two records, is that Barrows accompanied his strict notes of the land surveys with narrative matter. For instance, on the run "north between sections 1 and 2, 73.20 chains, the grave of Chief Black Hawk is upon the s. e. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 2, from which bears a maple 20 inches in diameter, south $38\frac{1}{4}$ [degrees] west 784 links; ash 20 [inches in diameter] south $84\frac{1}{4}$ [degrees] west 866 links, burr oak 30 [inches in diameter] s. $71\frac{1}{2}$ [degrees] west 835 links marked B. H., 1841."

And again "Running west (corrected) between sections 2 and 11, 3.35 chains across the remains of the wigwam in which Black Hawk died; at 8.00 chains [reached] left bank of D. M. River and set meander post, willow 10 inches in diameter, s. 64 degrees east 44 chains; maple 12 inches diameter north 6 degrees west 40 chains."

Black Hawk had died October 3, 1838; Barrows' survey being

five years later was always in the presence of settlers who had been in the region for the whole of the time clapsing after Black Hawk's death. They were cognizant of the fact and presumably ready and willing to impart it to Barrows and all concerned.

Black Hawk's body was in its grave until July 3, 1839, when it was stolen, as related by James H. Jordan in an interview with D. C. Beaman (*ANNALS OF IOWA*, XIII, p. 130) and other authorities.

Now, although Barrows' survey was disputed and canceled by the General Land Office, and Jeffries' resurvey has the effect of the authority of law, yet Jeffries' work being done July 10 to 28, in 1846, omitted all historical references incidental to the strict descriptions, measurements and location of lands, and it would seem, did not interfere with the reliability of Barrows' record of the fact and location as to Black Hawk's place of death nor that of his burial.

POLITICAL CHANGES IN OUR STATE GOVERNMENT

The complete political turnover made in the state offices at the November, 1932, election has caused inquiry as to political changes of the state on previous occasions.

The majority of the early settlers of the territory of Iowa were Democrats. The fact that southerners somewhat predominated among them did not altogether account for the Democratic preponderance, as Democrats came to Iowa from the North as well as from the South, and Whigs came from the South, a few of them, as well as from the North.

The first territorial governor was Robert Lucas, 1838 to 1841, a Democrat of Ohio, appointed by President Van Buren. The second territorial governor was John Chambers, 1841 to 1845, a Whig of Kentucky, appointed by President William Henry Harrison. The third and last territorial governor was James Clarke of Burlington, Iowa, a Democrat, appointed by President Polk in 1845. He served until Iowa became a state in 1846.

During territorial times, 1838 to 1846, there were eight assemblies. Their membership and political classifications were as follows:¹

¹For the political alignments of the legislative assemblies we have followed Gue in his *History of Iowa*, Vol. III, pp. 442-66.

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