

Red Rock in 1847

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mand and need by the ordinary individual, by the scientist, and because of the historical, memorial, and recreational demands of those who have some depth of human interest or love for nature's ways.

RED ROCK IN 1847

Red Rock, eight and one-half miles northwest from Knoxville, is a small town upon the bank of the Des Moines. It is located upon a timbered bottom, and presents quite a romantic appearance. It contains about twenty houses, two stores, one grocery, one hotel, and several mechanical shops. At about three-fourths of a mile from the town is the celebrated Red Rock, or the point from which the old Indian boundary line commenced. It began at this rock, and ran due south to the Missouri River,¹ and due north to the neutral grounds. All the country west of this line was occupied by the Indians until October 11, 1845, at which time they were required by the terms of the treaty to move west of the Missouri. I should be pleased to give the reader a faint idea of the scenery in the vicinity of Red Rock, were it in my power to do so; but for this undertaking I would need the graphic pen of an Irving, or the vivid imagination of a Lippard. Here Nature is seen in every form; along the river bottom, both wind and water seem to have conspired to uproot and level down the sturdiest trees, and to have thrown them in wild confusion amongst the standing timber, conveying the idea of a Red River raft upon dry land; while in the distance, and upon the margin of the valley, stupendous rocks and overhanging cliffs, gaily festooned with running vines and creeping moss, and a thousand varieties of stunted shrubs and diminutive trees, form a bold outline to the valley below. As for the Rock itself, I could see nothing so very remarkable about it except its color, which is quite red and very soft, and its singular projection above and over part of the river; a very good port, thought I, for a flat boat in a heavy shower of rain.—*Weekly Miners' Express*, Dubuque, Iowa, September 15, 1847. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department of Iowa.)

¹This should have read "the Missouri state line."—Editor.

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