

The Early History of Iowa (pt. 2)

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upon the field. The conduct of the above named officers came under my personal observation. All did well and fought nobly, and did their part in winning a great battle.

The following is the number of the killed and wounded in each command.

* * * * *

I am, very respectfully,

Your obdt. servt.,

G. M. DODGE,

Col. 4th Iowa, Commanding 1st Brigade, 4th Division.

Lieut. F. W. SULLIVAN, A. A. A. General, 4th Division.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF IOWA.

BY CHARLES NEGUS.

[Continued from page 882.]

On the first of September, 1805, Gen. Pike, with his exploring expedition, arrived at the lead mines, the residence of Julien DuBuque, who, on their arrival, fired a salute with a field piece, and received them with every mark of attention; but he was very reserved in giving them any information about the country, or the extent of the mines.

Gen. Pike being attacked with a fever, and unable to explore the country in person, propounded to DuBuque a series of questions, which, with their answers, were as follows:

“What is the date of your grant of the mines from the savages?”

“Answer—The copy of the grant is in Mr. Souland’s office at St. Louis.

“What is the date of the confirmation by the Spaniards?”

“Answer—The same as to query first.

“What is the extent of your grant?”

“Answer—The same as above.

“What is the extent of the mines?”

“Answer—Twenty-eight or twenty-seven leagues long, and from one to three broad.

“Lead made per annum?

“Answer—From 20,000 to 40,000 pounds.

“Quantity or per cent. of mineral?

“Answer—Seventy-five per cent.

“Quantity of lead in pigs?

“Answer—All he makes, as he neither manufactures bar, sheet-lead nor shot.

“If mixed with any other mineral?

“Answer—We have seen some copper, but have no person sufficiently acquainted with chemistry to make the experiment properly, and cannot say as to the proportion it bears to the lead?”

At this place Pike met the celebrated war chief Blackhawk (called the Raven of the Reynards) on his return with his warriors from an invasion into the country of the Sauteurs, who made a very “flowery speech on the occasion,” which Pike “answered in a few words, accompanied by a small present.”

On the 4th of September, Pike reached Prairie du Chein, which at that time was quite a noted place with the traders in the West. The site then occupied as the town was first settled in 1783, by three traders, Messrs. Giard, Antaya and DuBuque. The old village was about a mile below that, “and had existed during the time the French were in possession of the country.” The town derived its name from a family of Fox Indians who once lived there, “distinguished by the name of dogs;” and the name Prairie du Chein indicates a prairie of dogs.

At this time there were twenty-six dwelling houses at the village, and eight houses within the distance of five miles on the east side of the Mississippi, and three on the west side, situated “on a little stream called Giard’s river,” making in all thirty-seven dwelling houses, which were supposed to average about ten persons each, making a population of three hundred and seventy souls. But in the spring and fall the

population was much greater. In the fall, the traders made this the last stage previous to launching into the wilderness; and in the spring, they returned, accompanied by large numbers of Indians, when there was held a kind of a fair, at which their remnant goods were disposed of, and frequently on these occasions there were thousands of persons present. There were very few white women in the settlement, most of the traders having taken Indian women for wives. A great portion of the inhabitants under twenty years of age had the blood of the aborigines in their veins.

When near the Upper Iowa river, La Fieuille (or Wabasha), who had seen Pike at Prairie du Chein, the chief of the four lower bands of the Sioux, who had their lodges near the mouth of that river, sent down six of his men to ask him to partake of a feast at his lodge. When they arrived opposite the village, the warriors were stationed on the bank with their guns, and fired three salutes with balls, which were returned from the boats with blunderbusses. On coming to the shore, the chief met the commander of the expedition, and invited him to his cabin. As soon as the guards were formed and the sentinels posted, he accompanied the chief to his lodge, where he found a clean mat and a pillow prepared for his reception. Pike says, the chief having passed the pipe around, addressed him to the following effect:

“That notwithstanding he had seen me at the Prairie, he was happy to take me by the hand among his people, and there show his young men the respect due to their *new father*. That when at St. Louis, in the spring, his father had told him that if he looked down the river, he would see one of his young warriors coming up. He now found it true, and was happy to see me, who knew the Great Spirit was the father of all, both the whites and the red people, and if one died, the other would not live long. That he had never been at war with their new father, and hoped to always preserve the good understanding that now existed. That he now presented me with a pipe, to show the upper bands, as a token of our good understanding, and that they may see his mark, and imitate

his conduct. That he had gone to St. Louis on a shameful visit, to carry a murderer, but that we had given the man his life, and he thanked us for it. That he had prepared something to eat, but he supposed I could not eat it; if not, to give it to my young men."

Pike replied to him, telling him of the object of his visit, that his government was about to establish a military post among them, and to send officers and agents into their country to attend to their wants, and above all to try and make peace between the Sioux and Sauteurs, and that he intended on his return to bring down with him some of the Sauteurs, and take them and some of the Sioux chiefs to St. Louis, for the purpose of bringing to a close the long and bloody war which had existed between the two nations; that he accepted the pipe with pleasure, and assured him it should be used as he had directed.

After the conference had closed, they partook of a dinner prepared from wild rye and venison. Pike was then invited to attend a dance, the performance of which was attended with many curious manœuvres. Men and women, dressed in a most fancy manner, danced promiscuously together, each holding in their hands a small skin of some description, with which they would occasionally point at one of the dancers, and blow in his face, when the person blown at would fall over and appear in the greatest agony, and sometimes seem almost lifeless, but after a little would revive and go to dancing again.

These ceremonies were carried on with the greatest reverence, and it was only a few of the most noted of the tribe that were permitted to engage in the dance.

After partaking of their hospitalities, Pike presented the chief with some tobacco and a few other presents, and then resumed his voyage up the river. On the 22d of September they arrived at the mouth of the St. Peter's river, near which, a short distance up the river, was a large village of the Sioux. Here they made a halt and camped. In the afternoon Le Petit Corbeau, the head chief of the Sioux Nation, came

down from the village with one hundred and fifty warriors. They ascended the hill on the point between the Mississippi and the St. Peter's, and fired a salute with their guns loaded with balls, after which arrangements were made for a council the next day.

Gen. Pike prepared a shade on the bank of the river, by spreading his sails over some poles, under which the traders and chiefs assembled on the 23d, at 12 o'clock, for a council. Pike first addressed the council, and requested that they should make peace with the Sauteurs, and that they should give a tract of land on which to establish a military post, telling them that they were now under the protection of the United States.

The speech of Pike was replied to by Fils de Pinchow, Original Leve and the head chief. They gave the grant of land which Pike asked of them, amounting to 100,000 acres, and promised him any chiefs he might bring down from the nations above a safe passport, but would give no positive assurance that they would make peace with the Sauteurs.

The next morning after the council, Pike missed the flag from his boat. Being in doubt whether it had been stolen by the Indians, or had accidentally fallen overboard, he sent for Original Leve, the war chief, and in his presence punished the guard for suffering it to be missing, and sent some men down the river to hunt it, for the purpose of letting the Indians know that he considered the losing of the flag as a matter of great importance to him; and if taken by the Indians, he intended to take measures to have it returned. Early the next morning, before Pike had got up, Corbean came to the boat to learn what had happened. Some of his men had found the lost flag some fifteen miles below, floating in the river, and the old chief, supposing that there had been some difficulty between the Indians and the men belonging to the boat, and that the latter had been killed, or some other accident happened to them, had hastened up from his village, about twelve miles below, to see what was the matter.

Though the losing of the flag much annoyed the commander

at the time, yet it proved to have been a fortunate circumstance, and prevented much blood from being shed among the savages; for a chief called Outard Blanche, in a difficulty with some of the tribe, had had his lip cut off, and on meeting with the head chief told him "that his face was his looking-glass, that it was spoiled, and that he was determined to have revenge." The parties interested were preparing to have a fight, when the missing flag was brought up by some of the men from the village below. The sight of the flag, with a broken staff, attracted the attention of the angry parties, and for the time being they cooled their passions to look at the returned flag. Seizing upon this favorable moment, the head chief spoke after this manner to the angry parties:

"That a thing so sacred had not been taken from the boat without violence; that it would be proper for them to hush all private animosities until they had revenged the cause of their eldest brother; that he would immediately go up to St. Peter's to know what dogs had done that thing, in order to take steps to get satisfaction of those who had done this mischief."

This had the effect to quell the angry passions, and Pike gave the head chief some goods to present to Outard Blanche to appease his wrath and compensate him for the injury he had sustained.

Pike, with his men, left the St. Peter's on the 26th of September, and on the 16th of October made a stop two hundred and thirty-three miles higher up the river. By the hardships and fatigue of working their way up the river, some of his men became sick and unable to work. He found that it was necessary to give his men rest, and to dispose of his sick. He made a stop a short distance below the mouth of a small stream called Pine Creek, where he went to work and erected a fort in which to leave a portion of his men with a part of his stores. He left this station under the command of his Sergeant, Henry Kennerman, with written instructions how to execute his command.

Pike, after arriving at this place, spent his time till the 10th

of December with his men, in building the fort, making canoes and sleds with which to pursue his journey, and in hunting, for the purpose of obtaining a supply of provisions, when, with a portion of his men, he pursued his journey up the river, a part of them with canoes in the river, and the others with sleds on the land.

On the 8th of January, 1806, Pike, with one man, his Corporal, having out-marched his other men, arrived at a trading post on Lake De Sable, in latitude 47° , occupied by a Mr. Grant, an Englishman. This trading post belonged to the North-West Company, and was established in 1796, and at first was under the charge of Charles Brusky, and at this time was furnished in a manner that it enabled Mr. Grant, the Superintendent, to live very comfortably. They had a large number of horses purchased from the Indians, raised an abundance of Irish potatoes, and had a plenty of various kinds of fish and wild meat, though for the most part of the time had to use bread made out of wild oats.

The English first extended their trade into this country in 1766, by and through the agency of a few desperadoes, whose mode of life and habits were more like savages than civilized men. From this small beginning the powerful North-West Company came into existence, which in 1806 carried on a trade with the Indians from the Hudson Bay to the St. Lawrence river, up both sides of that river and along the lakes to the head of Lake Superior, at which place the Company had their headquarters; from thence to the source of Red river and all its tributaries west to the Rocky Mountains, embracing within their scope the territory of Iowa, and at that time were making arrangements to extend their trade west of the mountains and to the North Sea.

Pike made a short stop at this place, after which he pursued his journey, and on the first of February arrived at the head waters of the Mississippi. He says: "We left our camp early, passed a continued train of prairies, and arrived at Lake La Sang Sue at half-past 2 o'clock. I will not attempt to describe my feelings on the accomplishment of my

voyage, for this is the main source of the Mississippi." "Crossed the lake 12 miles to the establishment of the North-West Company," "and was received with marked attention and hospitality by Mr. Hugh McGillis, the Superintendent."

(To be Continued.)

SKETCHES OF HISTORY AND INCIDENTS CONNECTED WITH
THE SETTLEMENT OF WAPELLO COUNTY, FROM 1843 TO
1859, INCLUSIVE.

BY G. D. R. BOYD, OTTUMWA.

[The following Historical Sketches of Wapello County are a continuation of "Sketches of the Sac and Fox Indians and the Early Settlement of Wapello County," written by Hon. Uriah Biggs, and published in previous numbers of the ANNALS; taking up the subject at or near the time when it was dropped by that gentleman, and bringing it down to a recent date—incidentally, we suppose, for we have no authority for believing any concert between the writers.—EDITOR.]

The whites were first permitted to make settlements in Wapello County on the 1st day of May, 1843, in accordance with the provisions of a treaty made with the Indians, by which this part of the territory was ceded to the whites. Being anxious to take possession of the best locations, thousands were ready on the ground, and had been waiting for many days to make "claims" in the "New Purchase." Their white tents and wagon covers were strung all along the line that had hitherto separated the white and Indian country, presenting more the appearance of a large army than the peaceable and quiet settlement of a colony of hard-working immigrants. Many of them did not wait for daylight, but as soon as the time arrived for the taking effect of the treaty, they crossed the line and marked their claims off at the dead of night. These first locations were made at and in the vicinity of Dahlonga, Agency City and Ottumwa, and the rich prairie intervening between Dahlonga and Agency. The evils resulting from this scramble on the night of the 30th of April, for the most valuable locations, were felt for many years. Such hasty and irregular proceedings resulted in numerous conflicts of boundaries, which were extremely difficult of adjustment, and these engendered quarrels, litigation,

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