

out some of the early history of the Mormons in Iowa. In 1845 they left Nauvoo, Ill., and in September of that year about 3000 camped on the east side of Grand River. Not having any definite idea of how long they would remain, they lived in their wagons and booths until the next spring, when they continued to occupy their wagons until fall and then proceeded to build log huts. They also built two log churches and held worship until in 1852, when the colony went to Utah. While in camp at Pisgah, the Mormons built a mill, and instead of importing a French millstone they dug two Iowa granite boulders, commonly known as "nigger heads" (of which the origin was given by a professor at the Smithsonian, in Washington, as having been brought down from the Hudson Bay land by icebergs, when there was a big gulf stream that reached from Chicago to Cheyenne and ran from the Arctic ocean to the Gulf of California). These stones are hard and if the reader will examine the foundation of the Iowa State Capitol he will see a sample of this stone. How the Mormons ever cut these stones is a mystery. The mill stones are about twenty inches in diameter and are very nearly round in form. The grooves are cut straight from the center to the outside, and not diagonally as in ordinary mill stones. The depth is just enough to make a coarse quality of meal. The mill was first run by horse power, but afterwards was operated by water. The ingenuity they displayed is worthy of the people who started out as reformers. They believed in home rule, home protection and home manufactures.

During the stay of the Mormons in this county they appeared to live in peace with all around them, including the few white settlers and Indians that had temporary homes in the valley. While here about 300 died and were buried on the east shore of the river on a beautiful plat of ground now known as the farm of Mr. A. C. White. There were several tombstones at one time in this country. One was the headstone of Bishop Huntington. One of another, but the name was not cut sufficient to be intelligible, and another with the Masonic emblem cut on it. This was very well done and would indicate the workmanship of a very good stone cutter. The graves in some parts of the cemetery were headed to northwest and almost any direction to suit the lay of the ground. The Mormons occupied sections 30 and 31 in New Hope township, sections 12 and 13 in Union township, sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 30 in Jones township. The cemetery now occupies a part of section 8 in Jones township.

When Mr. White became possessor of the land, including the cemetery, he placed a temporary fence around the "Mormon Acre" and wrote to Brigham Young in regard to the land and of the propriety of the friends of those buried there to build a permanent fence or put the grounds in order as the brush

had grown thick and it was not in the condition that Mr. White wanted the ground, if it was to always remain a cemetery. This letter was referred to the family of Bishop Huntington, who began the work of canvassing for friends of those who had buried friends at Pisgah. This required much labor in Utah. The press was used and considerable correspondence followed until finally, after about five or six years' effort, the friends in Utah concluded to purchase the ground, fence it, and erect a suitable monument. To enable them to carry out their plans they employed Mr. White as their agent, and he has completely satisfied the friends by carrying out their instructions fully. The ground was deeded to trustees named by the "Pisgah Committee." Next the fence was selected as to what was thought the most substantial there was built, as per instruction and paid for as agreed upon. Next was the monument. On this there was much correspondence. Some wanted a shaft, others a memorial and finally after considerable delay the committee decided to have a plain shaft, fifteen feet high, and the names of the dead inscribed thereon of the families who have contributed to the purchase of the ground and expense of the monument. In all the correspondence attached to this the writers are very profuse in the return of thanks to Mr. White for his labors in carrying out their instructions, and generally the letters wind up with a special reference to their trials and persecution by the people in Utah; and in their expression of the government at Washington they are very strong in their condemnation. In their reference to the faithful who have died at Pisgah they express the idea of them as martyrs, and that in time the government will be called to account for their persecution.

The monument stands a short distance north of the crossing of the C. B. & Q. Railroad at Grand River, or near the station of Talmage, on the C., St. P. & K. C., Railway. It is said that when the Mormons arrived at Pisgah, the view, which is a very fine one, caused them to exclaim, "This is a land of promise, and here we will sojourn," until they could recruit sufficiently to go on to the land of Utah, the Canaan of their future. Of the number that left Nauvoo, the first halt made by any portion of them was at Garden Grove, then Pisgah, next at Mormontown, in Taylor County, and one point in Fremont County, and at Kaneshville (Council Bluffs). Two trails are today visible in Southern Iowa, over which the Mormons traveled, one through this tier of counties, and one through the south tier of the State, the one they started on when they crossed the river at Nauvoo.

The terrible mortality that left ten per cent of its population in the cemetery at Pisgah is credited to the poorly prepared condition the Mormons were in to begin such a pilgrimage, and there is but a small proportion of the results of that

exodus, for subsequent history gives the terrible life and privation of these people before they reached Utah.

The monument was photographed and a copy of the photo. sent to the forty-six contributors to the erection of the monument. After the death of Brigham Young President Taylor carried on part of the correspondence, and finally the committee took exclusive charge and completed the work of giving instructions and paying expenses.

#### PRICE TO FORT DUCHESNE.

Leaving Price we start over the country to the northeast across washes and up and down gullies, until Soldiers Canyon is reached, where we catch sight of the first and only cultivated field for the day. Up this canyon we journey for several miles, to stop for dinner at the mail station, which consists of a small log cabin and much better stable. Rocky mountains rise high on either side. Just before we reached this point a black bear had been exhibiting himself on the mountain side, but refused to await our arrival.

From the mail station to the divide are many pretty views of crags and rocks in fantastic shapes, and towering cliffs that look as though they were ready to fall. At the summit a solitary cattle ranch relieves the monotony of the journey. Here we enter Nine Mile Canyon, and pass here and there a cattle ranch until we reach Taylors, where we find a telegraph station in charge of a signal service man, and quite a ranch. A short way on we pass the mouth of the Argyle's Canyon where we find a little stream of clear water, rounding an abrupt point, and we find ourselves in a little cove surrounded by rocky steep on either side. Here is a comfortable ranch where we concluded to stop and became the guests of Mr. Winn.

We were informed that the mountains hereabout are full of paraffine, asphaltum, zolante and mineral wax in different forms. Fire specimens of this in a hard condition like jet were shown us. They would burn with a clear flame like wax, but would not smoke a clean piece of paper if held over the flame, and emitted a smell like the burning of a piece of gutta-percha.

These parts are infested by mountain lions, several having been killed and trapped by the stockmen. It is said that one rancher had to move his horses because these creatures were destroying his colts.

At Winn's we felt the cold for the first time for some weeks, realizing the beauty and pleasure of a log fire in the house. Leaving this place we journeyed down this canyon to where it is joined by Gate Canyon, which is one of those dry washes peculiar to this region, full of grand cliffs and most romantic scenery. It gets its name from a stone gateway formed by the cliff running out into the canyon and being divided so as to form a gateway quite perfectly, the rocks rising about forty feet on either side of the opening.