



History of Black Hawk County, Iowa, and Its People, Vol. 1 (Classic Reprint)

John C. Hartman

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Excerpt from History of Black Hawk County, Iowa, and Its People, Vol. 1

Seventy years have elapsed since the First permanent white settlers built their humble log cabins within the present confines of Black Hawk County. To gather the chronicles of the period covered and to present those most likely to interest the greatest number of readers has been the endeavor of the writer hereof.

Little or no attempt to record the happenings of the first few years was made by the settlers and a decade elapsed before the printing press arrived. Files of the earliest newspapers are but fragmentary now, the publishers having little realized their value to future generations. Hence the author has sought out such of the few real pioneers and their descendants as are still living and believes that sketches supplied by these in narrative form will meet with general approval.

Ruthless time has all but swept into the past, but happily not into oblivion*, the true American pioneer, a type of manhood and womanhood that arose to the conditions of its day and fearlessly and faithfully fulfilled its mission. A sturdy people they, possessed of a fortitude and spirit that enabled them to surmount difficulties that none but the most courageous could overcome. To enjoy the personal acquaintance of many of the first settlers of the county, to listen to the stories of pioneer days as they fell from their own lips, to partake of their boundless hospitality and feel the hearty handclasp of the true American was a privilege that the writer prizes most highly.

Black Hawk County long since shed its swaddling clothes and in agriculture, finance and manufacturing occupies a leading position. Its educational institutions are among the best in the land and all these are splendid tributes to the progressive spirit implanted by its founders. Many historians of the future have still greater achievements to record.

To all who have contributed to this volume and to the advisory editors, the editor and publishers desire to express their most sincere thanks.

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