

## Transcribed Excerpts from "The Musquakas of Tama County" Annals of Iowa Article, 1870

I thought it might be well to sketch a few incidents in the early history of Tama county. On the south bank of the Iowa river ... was a settlement or colony of Musquakas, These Indians, according to certain treaty stipulations, were required to leave for the more distant west, and to enforce their removal, a company of United States troops were sent out, who, on arriving at the place, planted their cannon on a neighboring bluff, ready to enforce their order.

Here was real trouble for the poor Indians. It was true, such a treaty had been gotten up, somehow, but they did not consider themselves a party to the contract. They were innocently there, where game and fish were plenty, where springs of pure water flowed from the sides of the bluffs, where the tortuous Iowa ran silently by their cabins, where a broad belt of timber furnished poles and bark for their wigwams, and fuel for their fires, and where were a healthful climate, fertile soil, and a variegated landscape scarcely surpassed in the west. On the north side of the river was an opening in the timber, where the squaws had raised several acres of excellent corn, which was now in the milk, ready to be gathered and dried for winter's use. It was sad to leave all these, but a power greater than they compelled submission. A few white men settled in that vicinity about the time the Indians left, and the writer has heard them say, that, although it was for their interest to have them go, yet they could not help pitying them as they went ...

In September, 1855, the writer first visited this settlement. The Indians had returned, and for some time had been occupying their old camp-ground on the banks of the river; while the whites had commenced their town at the foot of the adjacent bluffs. Here the two races were living in peace, and while the white man seemed to be a protection to the Musquaka against his inveterate enemy, the Sioux, the Indian afforded some variety to the incidents in the life of the few pioneers ...

About the year 1859, the Indians purchased eighty acres of land lying on the Iowa river, about five miles below their old ground. To this place they removed, built their village of bark cabins, and make it, to this day, their summer residence, while the winter is chiefly spent on the Cedar river. They have recently had an agent appointed by government, which, I suppose, entitles them to annuities, so long and so much needed ...