

Robert S. Black and the Black Hawk War

By George W. Jones

The Dodgeville (Wisconsin) *Chronicle* contains an obituary of Robert S. Black, who died at that place October 23, 1872, aged ninety-three years. Mr. Black was born in the city of Londonderry, Ireland, and came to America when quite young. The first years of his residence in this country were passed in Philadelphia and Charleston, South Carolina. He came to Wisconsin more than forty years ago. Those who now enjoy the peace and plenty with which this region is blest can little imagine the dangers and discomforts to which the pioneers were subjected. The Indian war-whoop and the howl of the scarcely less savage wolf, was the welcome that greeted those who came to wrest those beautiful hills and prairies from the hands of desolation.

During the Black Hawk War, Black rendered valuable services, and, on more than one occasion, was the bearer of dispatches when none others could be found willing to risk their lives in traveling through the Indian-infested country. Mr. Black leaves many relatives, friends and acquaintances in Dubuque, such as the Bensons, Wallaces, Wilsons, Gen. Jones, Lewis, and other old settlers. He married the widow McArthur, who will be remembered by early settlers as the hostess at Elk Grove and Belmont, in the days when Michigan Territory included not only the State by that name, but the territory now covered by Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and so on, including everything north of $36^{\circ} 30'$, and west to the Pacific ocean.

Mrs. Black was the half sister of Henry Dodge, the first governor, and the first senator in Congress, from Wisconsin, and colonel of the "mining regiment" which put an end to the Black Hawk War by the last battle at Bad Axe, when Black Hawk was defeated, and which induced Maj.-