

Additions

Dr. Samuel C. Muir, vol. ii, 212, 224

Dr. Samuel C. Muir, was the son of Rev. Dr. James Muir, a noted clergyman of Scotland, and long of Alexandria, D. C., and was apparently a native of Edinburgh, where he was educated. In his boyhood, his parents removing to this country, he subsequently became a physician; and in April, 1813, was appointed a surgeon's mate in the army. He was retained on peace establishment, and served awhile as hospital surgeon's mate, and post surgeon in 1818, but was dropped in July, 1819.

It would seem, that it was while he was located at Fort Edwards, now Warsaw, Illinois, at the foot of the rapids of the Des Moines River, or at some other post on the Upper Mississippi, that he married an Indian maiden of the Fox tribe, under very romantic circumstances, if we may credit the *History of Joe Daviess County, Illinois*. A beautiful maiden, the daughter of a chief, whose name has not been preserved, visited the post where Dr. Muir was stationed. In her dreams she had seen a white brave unmoor his canoe, and paddle it across the river directly to her lodge. According to the superstitious belief of her race, she knew full well this betokened her future husband, and came to the fort to find him.

Meeting Dr. Muir, she instantly recognized him as the hero of her dream, which she, with child-like innocence and simplicity, related to him. Her dream indeed proved prophetic; for the doctor, charmed with Sophia's beauty, innocence, and devotion, honorably married her. After awhile, the sneers and contumelies of his brother officers, led him, when his regiment was ordered down the river to Bellefontaine, to desert his dark-skinned bride, supposing that she would either not attempt to discover his retreat, or would fail in the effort. But with her infant child, the intrepid wife and mother, started alone in her canoe, and after many days of weary labor, at last reached her truant husband, much worn and emaciated after a lonely journey of several hundred miles. She said, "when I got there, I was all perished away—so thin." The doctor, touched by such unexampled devotion, took her to his bosom, and, until his death treated her with marked affection and respect—regretting, we may well judge, his cruel abandonment of so true and devoted a wife. She always presided at his table, and was respected by all who knew her. She never however, discarded her native dress.

It was this marriage with this noble forest maiden, that led to Dr. Muir's retirement from the army—probably yielding to the wishes of his