

in which work he was assisted by Malcolm Smith.¹ They were boarded at the house of a Mr. Green, who lived with his wife on a farm near by, having come to the place in 1827.

The following from the quarto *History of Iowa Co.* (p. 844) gives some idea of the first attempt at settlement here: "The point of greatest interest in the north part of the county, from 1828 to 1840, was what is usually termed Old Helena, which was located on Section 29, in what is now the town of Wyoming. As will be seen in the general history, the first village in the county was planted here in 1828, the intention then being to build a place at that point which would rival Galena, as by that means the great water thoroughfare of Wisconsin could be utilized advantageously for the shipping of lead, and also for transporting all needful supplies into the country. In 1828, there were a few huts, but the principal objects to be seen were the stakes that marked out the town lots. In 1829, a large hewed-log house was erected by three Morison brothers, who also broke a few acres of land. In 1830, this house was purchased by George Medary, who moved there with his family and opened a sort of hotel, and also did (or rather attempted to do) legal business. Soon after him, William Green, who was afterward killed by the Indians, came here with his wife and erected a comfortable log house, and preëmpted the land where the shot-tower was afterward built. The first white child born in the north part of the

A large crowd turned out to see this remarkable duel. Each of the men, accompanied by his second, came to the appointed place, the mouth of an old mining shaft, just outside the little village. When called upon to indicate where his opponent was to be stationed, Shaunce coolly proposed that McMurtry should stand at the bottom of the shaft, which happened to be just forty feet deep, and he would stand at the top. Of course the affair was declared off, and the whole party adjourned to the nearest tavern, to drink at the expense of the discomfited Irishman.

¹So I am told by Milton D. Persons, who arrived in Dodgeville Oct. 20, 1827. He remembers these two men stopping with him all night at his little cabin, on their way to and from Galena. Smith was afterwards killed in the Black Hawk War.