

# The History of Henry County, Iowa, Containing a History of the County, Its Cities, Towns, a Biographical Directory of Citizens, War Record of Its ... History of the Northwest, History of Iowa

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The Northwest Territory. GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION. When the Northwestern Territory was ceded to the United States by Virginia in 1784, it embraced only the territory lying between the Ohio and the Mississippi Rivers, and north to the northern limits of the United States. It coincided with the area now embraced in the States of Ohio, I ndiana, Michigan, I llinois, Wisconsin, and that portion of Minnesota lying on the east side of the Mississippi River. The United States itself at that period extended no farther west than the Mississippi River; but by the purchase of Louisiana in 1803, the western boundary of the United States was extended to the Rocky Mountains and the Northern Pacific Ocean. The new territory thus added to the National domain, and subsequently opened to settlement, has been called the New Northwest, in contradistinction from the-old Northwestern Territory. In comparison with the old Northwest this is a territory of vast magnitude. It includes an area of 1,887,850 square miles; being greater in extent than the united areas of all the Middle and Southern States, including Texas. Out of this magnificent territory have been erected eleven sovereign States and eight Territories, with an aggregate population, at the present time, of 18,000,000 inhabitants, or nearly one third of the entire population of the United States. I ts lakes are fresh-water seas, and the larger rivers of the continent flow for a thousand miles through its rich alluvial valleys and farstretching prairies, more acres of which are arable and productive of the highest percentage of the cereals than of any other area of like extent on the globe. For the last twenty years the increase of population in the Northwest has been about as three to one in any other portion of the United States.

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