

proper inscriptions, to be presented by the Governor to Captain Benjamin S. Roberts, of the Rifle Regiment, as a memento of the pride [196] of his fellow citizens of this State in the soldier-like patriotism and deeds of valor performed by him in the late war with Mexico.

Approved, January 15, 1849.

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No. 40.

MILITARY ROAD.

PREAMBLE AND JOINT RESOLUTION asking congress for a donation of land to construct a military road from the Mississippi to the Missouri river.

Influenced by proper considerations in relation to the general welfare and facilities required by our constituents, and the wants, wishes, and prosperity of a growing population, the General Assembly of the State of Iowa respectfully solicit of the general government a donation of one hundred thousand acres of land for the purpose of constructing a great western thoroughfare and mail route from Keokuk, on the Mississippi river, to Council Bluffs, on the Missouri river, leading through the Des Moines valley until it reaches Keosauqua, thence taking the nearest and most direct route through the southern counties of this State to the Missouri river.

The termination of the proposed public highway and mail route, will be opposit the commencement of the great national highway and mail route reported at the last session of Congress, by the committee on military affairs, making an appropriation for a line of stockade and blockhouse forts along the valley of Platte river to Oregon Territory.

The improvement of such a road is not within the ability of this State at present, and the essential public accommodation it would afford to the intercourse, trade, and agricultural interests of this State, and its proposed terminations at the commencement of the military and mail route to Oregon, clearly brings an appropriation to improve it within the prescribed constitutional power delegated to Congress.

A glance over the map of the country through which this road will pass, must satisfy any person that it will at no distant day be the great avenue upon which a large majority of the emigrants to Oregon and California are destined to travel, and upon which the mail to the Pacific Ocean must and will be conveyed. In addition to this it will pass nearly central through the late purchase of land from the Pottawattamie Indians in the western part of Iowa, a country that will soon fill [197] up with an enterprising population that will be greatly benefited by such an improvement.

*Resolved,*

That the Secretary of State be requested to forward one copy of this preamble and joint resolution to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved, January 15, 1849.