

# Livermore, Iowa

**BLOODY  
RUN**

**LOTS  
CREEK**





LIVERMORE, with its population of 436, is beautifully located adjacent to the East Fork of the Des Moines River in Humboldt Township, Humboldt County. It is bordered on the north by the deep-wooded ravine of Lott's Creek. A footbridge spans the ravine.

Entering LIVERMORE from the west, historic Lott's Creek Park, with its natural beauty, welcomes visitors to its complete camping and picnicking facilities.

The Creek was named by early settlers since opposite the mouth of the stream was one of the places where Henry Lott settled. He was thusly memorialized though known as a brutal frontiersman.

As a squatter, Lott built the first log cabin in this County, 3 miles south of LIVERMORE, along another stream which, because of him, was later named "Bloody Run."

Henry was variously described in history as a boot-legger, scoundrel, cut-throat, horse thief, murderer and an all-around shady character who was rough, daring and wily! In his trading with the Indians, Lott was usually able to stay on friendly terms with them, trading them whiskey and trinkets for furs. These commodities he purchased at Oskaloosa and hauled one or two barrels at a time by team of horses to his home.

One day, the Indians came to his cabin and accused him of having stolen their ponies. They filled themselves with his whiskey, drove his family out into the snow, looted and burned his cabin. Mrs. Lott died from exposure and Milton, a 12-year old son, froze to death while going for help. Lott blamed Sidominadota, the Sioux Indian Chief, and planned revenge. This raid in 1849, and the subsequent revenge, is the forerunner of Indian history in Northwest Iowa.

At that time, the entire Sioux band under Sidominadota, broke camp on Bloody Run and moved to winter quarters. The Chief lovingly lingered with his friend Lott and his

jugs. The Chief had with him his own squaw, his very old mother, his two or three children and a young squaw and her two children. They occupied a couple of tepees on the right bank of Bloody Run.

The time for which Lott had so long and patiently waited had come. It was January, 1854. Loading his guns, furs and other valuables on his wagon to insure a quick getaway, he took his son and went down to the big bend on Bloody Run, selecting the best place for Sidominadota to die.

Here the son hid in the brush while Lott went to the tepees and enticed the fated Chief to ride up to his own execution. The Chief rode happily along, expecting to kill elk -- a great herd of which Lott had told him was at the bend. Lott led the way. Soon after, two shots were heard by the squaws and, at that time, Sidominadota rolled off his pony with two bloody holes through his body.

Lott took the pony but left the Chief's bloody body on the ice of the creek where he was found by his tribesmen. Hence the name of the creek, "Bloody Run."

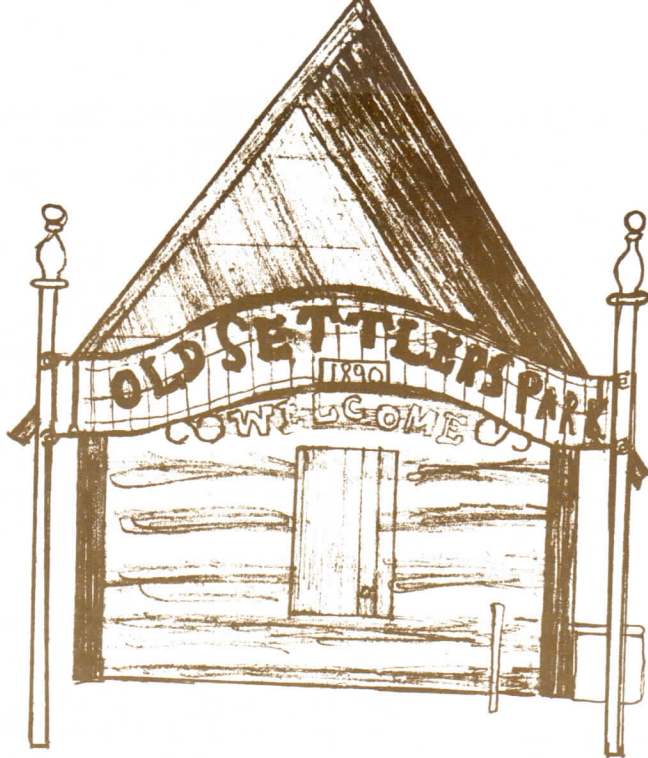
Lott and son returned to the tepees at nightfall and killed the remaining family and young squaw. Two children escaped by hiding in the tall grass and later warned the whiteman that revenge was brewing but it was disregarded.

Inkpaduta, brother of Sidominadota, was a familiar figure in the area and talked, drunk or sober, of his murdered brother, the Chief. He hinted at revenge because the authorities did not deliver Lott to the tribe.

It is believed that this injustice triggered Inkpaduta's rage and precipitated the Spirit Lake massacre in 1857. Inkpaduta led that assault and five years later carried his revenge to Minnesota in what is known as the "Sioux War of 1862."

The murders and plunder at Bloody Run are seen as the introduction to the Indian troubles which followed. Henry Lott died in California. Mrs. Lott is buried in Vegors Cemetery near Stratford, Iowa.

The Bloody Run area is now grazing land, but with any imagination, it is easy to visualize the enactment of this early period in history.



Art Work By  
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HUMBOLDT COUNTY OLD SETTLER'S ASSOCIATION  
LIVERMORE, IOWA

A log cabin was built in 1890 as a memorial to Humboldt County pioneers. Names of those contributing logs are carved in the timbers.

