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**Resolution of the Legislature of Iowa, in favor of granting bounty lands to the volunteers of the Spirit Lake expedition, in March, 1857.**

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## RESOLUTION

OF

## THE LEGISLATURE OF IOWA,

IN FAVOR OF

*Granting bounty lands to the volunteers of the Spirit lake expedition, in  
March, 1857.*

FEBRUARY 9, 1858.—Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

JOINT RESOLUTION to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States,  
asking for bounty land warrants for the volunteers of the Spirit lake expedition.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States :*

Your memorialists, the general assembly of the State of Iowa, respectfully represent, that whereas, some time in March, 1857, a party of Sioux Indians attacked and destroyed the entire settlement at Spirit lake, in Dickinson county, of this State; and whereas, when the news reached Fort Dodge, a party of over one hundred men immediately put themselves under the command of Major William Williams, and marched to the scene of slaughter to protect the living, (if any had survived the general massacre,) give the dead a Christian burial, and punish the savage intruders; and whereas this party of volunteers endured almost unheard-of hardships, being on the continued march for eighteen days, crossing swollen streams, marching over drifted snow, and over an almost pathless prairie, alike destitute of timber and inhabitants, and this, too, in the most inclement weather, so cold that two of the number, Captain J. C. Johnson and William Burkholder, perished and were lost on the prairie, while all underwent almost unendurable hardships, many being frozen and maimed for life; and whereas, by the self-sacrificing perseverance of these men, several families in southern Minnesota were rescued from the perils of savage warfare, and saved from death by starvation, and the victims of Indian butchery were decently interred: Therefore—

Your memorialists petition that you give and grant to each person engaged upon that expedition who received an honorable discharge a military bounty land warrant, calling for one hundred and sixty acres of land, and provide that said warrant can be located upon any land upon which the Indian title is extinguished, has been surveyed, and is not otherwise appropriated.

**BOUNTY LAND TO THE SPIRIT LAKE VOLUNTEERS.**

And your memorialists would further petition that the heirs of Captain J. C. Johnson be given and granted one section of government land, to be selected by said heirs from any land as above described; and that the heirs of William Burkholder be given and granted one section, to be selected by said heirs, as above prayed for in the case of Captain Johnson.

*Resolved*, That the secretary of state be instructed to forward a copy of the above to Congress.

**STEPHEN B. SHELEDY,**  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

**ORAN FAVILLE,**  
*President of the Senate.*

Approved January 30, 1858.

**RALPH P. LOWE.**

**OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,**  
*Des Moines, February 1, 1858.*

**I, Elijah Sells, secretary of state of the State of Iowa, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the original on file in my office.**

**ELIJAH SELLS.**