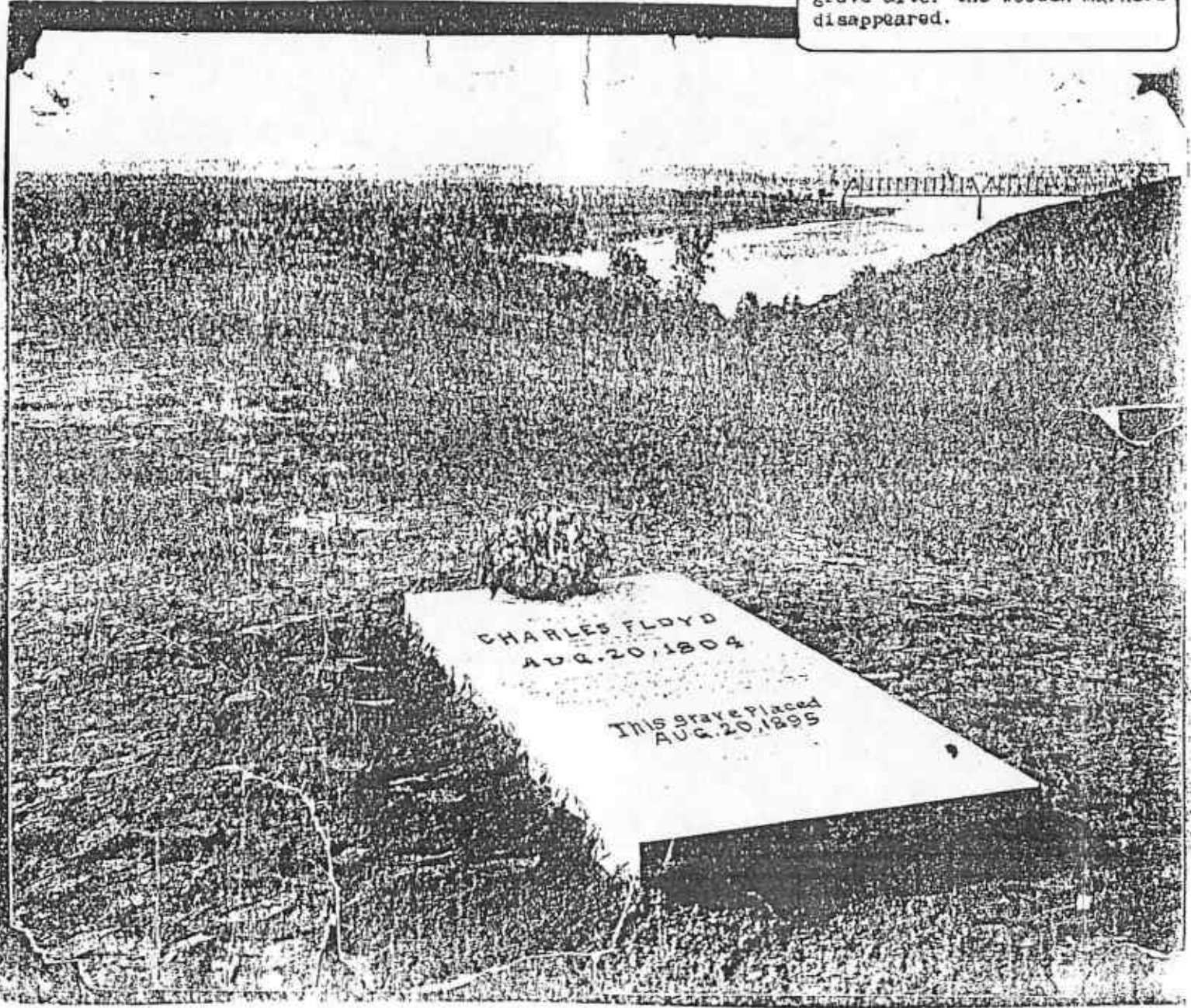


A placque to mark Sgt. Floyd's grave after the wooden markers disappeared.



GRAND COUNCIL CALIFORNIA  
GLI. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Two views of the skull of  
Sgt. Charles Floyd.  
From a picture at the Sioux  
City Museum.



Clouday about 10 o'clock it Cleared up we arrived at the Mahas Village about 2 o'clock P m Sent Som of ouer men to Se if aney of the natives was at Home thay Returnd found none of them at Home

Tuesday august 14th Lay by for ouer men How we had Sent after the Desarter on the 7th thes Indians has not Live at the town Sence the Smallpoks was so bad abut 4 years ago thay Burnt thare town and onley live about it in the Winter and in the Spring Go all of them in the praries after the Buflow and dos not Return untill the fall to meet the french traders thay Rase no Corn nor aney thing excep Som times thay Rase Som Corn and then the Ottoe nation Comes and Cuts it Down while thay are in the praries

Wendesday august 15th Capt Clark and 10 of his men and my Self went to the Mahas Creek a fishen and Caut 300 and 17 fish of Difernt Coindes ouer men has not Returnd yet

Thursday august 16th Capt Lewis and 12 of his men went to the Creek a fishen Caut 709 fish Difernt Coindes

Friday august 17th Continued Hear for ouer men thay did not Return Last night Saturday augt 18th ouer men Returnd and Brot with them the man and Brot with them the Grand Chief of the ottoes and 2 Loer ones and 6 youers of thare nattion

[On last fly-leaf.]

the 22th June

Charles Floyd

Winser 22thd

R. Field 22thd

J. Field Gard for thompson 16th July

Newman 4

Gass Gard for thompson

MCNeel

thompson

[Inside of last cover.]

CHAS. FLOYD Bought  
at River Debaus 13th March

1804

Thomas M. Winn

Thomas M

Thomis Thomis ;

Thomas M. Winn

Elaxander Willard

George Shannon

William Lebouch

Lasuness

Pall

Jo' Whitehouse



## REPORT OF THE FLOYD MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.

### *Sec. 4. Floyd's Death and Burial, Aug. 20, 1804.*

As we have seen,

the last entry in Floyd's Journal is of August 18, 1804, two days before his death. The official record of August 20 stands as follows in the Biddle History of the Expedition, 1814, p. 48:

"Here we had the misfortune to lose one of our Sergeants, Charles Floyd. He was yesterday seized with a bilious colic, and all our care and attention were ineffectual to relieve him. A little before his death he said to Capt. Clark, 'I am going to leave you;' his strength failed him as he added, 'I want you to write me a letter.' He died with a composure which justified the high opinion we had formed of his firmness and good conduct. He was buried on the top of the bluff with the honors due to a brave soldier; the place of his interment was marked by a cedar post, on which his name and the day of his death were inscribed. About a mile beyond this place, to which we gave his name, is a small river about 30 yards wide, on the north, which we called Floyd's river, where we camped."

To this curt and precise record the Journal of Patrick Gass (who was made Sergeant August 22, vice Floyd, deceased) adds some particulars. We quote from the original edition of 1807, p. 29:

"This day (August 19) Sergeant Floyd became very sick and remained so all night. He was seized with a complaint somewhat like a violent colic.

"Monday, 20th. Sergeant Floyd continued very ill. We embarked early, and proceeded, having a fair wind and fine weather, till 2 o'clock, when we landed for dinner. Here Sergeant Floyd died, notwithstanding every possible effort was made by the commanding officers, and other persons, to save his life. We went on about a mile to high prairie hills (i. e., to Floyd's Bluff) on the north side of the river, and there interred his remains in the most decent manner our circumstances would admit; we then proceeded a mile further to a small river on the same side and encamped. Our commanding officers gave it the name of Floyd's river; to perpetuate the memory of the first man who had fallen in this important expedition."

Here it is seen that, contrary to the general belief, Floyd did not die at Floyd's Bluff, where he was buried, but a mile below—say one-third of the distance between that bluff and the present site of the town of Sergeant's Bluff, Woodbury County, Ia. The hour of death is not given; but it was after 2 p. m. The place of death was lowland, and the Captains proceeded for the interment to the first point above where the bluffs strike the river.

The two foregoing notices remained the only known published records of the death till 1893.



Taken from the Sioux City Journal  
Saturday, August 21, 1971 -- pg. 2  
Commemoration Service

In March 1857, flood-like conditions on the river washed out part of Floyd's original grave. Some of his remains including the skull were retrieved by concerned persons and again buried on the bluff with full rites.

This grave, marked by wooden posts, was lost until an 1895 search. Sgt. Floyd's body then was exhumed and identified. The body was buried a third time in a grave marked by a seven by three foot marble slab.

Five years later, the grave again was disturbed. The remains of Sgt. Floyd were placed in the monument erected to his honor.

The monument, the first Registered National Historic Landmark, was obtained largely through the efforts of Geo. D. Perkins, a U.S. congressman and publisher of The Sioux City Journal.

Congress and the State of Iowa each appropriated \$5,000 and local citizens raised \$10,000 for building the 100-foot tower.

The "shrine to no class or creed confined" the community of Sergeant Bluff, the river, schools, and streets bearing the Floyd name are all memorials to the first U.S. soldier buried west of the Mississippi River.