

G. M. Dodge to Joseph B. Thoborn

This is a letter from G. M. Dodge, Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Joseph B. Thoborn, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Dodge tells how Fort Dodge was named. According to the letter, in 1864 or 1865 G. M. Dodge sent out a regiment to where Ft. Dodge was eventually established. It was late in the season and the regiment did not have materials to build barracks, so they made their living quarters in the hills. The colonel of the regiment was incensed that they were sent to the area without proper supplies, so he named the makeshift quarters Camp Dodge. The government later officially named it Fort Dodge.

Creator: Dodge, Grenville Mellen, 1831-1916

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G. M. Dodge to Joseph B. Thoborn

Dodge, G. M.

Letter to

BALDWIN BLOCK

C Council Bluffs, Iowa

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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October 24, 1910.

Joseph B. Thoborn,

910 W. 21st St.,

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dear Sir:-

I have yours of October 21st inquiring as to Fort Dodge, Kansas, and whom it was named for. It was named for me under the following circumstances:

In the fall of 1865, a regular regiment reporting to me at Ft. Leavenworth pretty late in the fall, I forget the number of it, and I sent it out to where Ft. Dodge now is to make a post. It was on the Great North and South trail of the Indians. It was so late in the season that it was impossible to send material to the regiment for the purpose of building barracks or any comforts. They, therefore, had to make their houses for the winter in the hills and dig out rooms and put their tents, etc. over them. The Colonel of the regiment was very much incensed at my sending them out there without the proper preparations and he said the place was so unpleasant and uninviting that they named it Camp Dodge. The Government afterwards established it as Ft. Dodge, and whoever laid off the town of Ft. Dodge still kept the name of Dodge City, so you see even though it was named after me it was not with any honor; however, I am glad to know that it has grown to be quite an enterprising city. Ft. Dodge Iowa was named after Gen. Henry Dodge, as you state.

Truly,

G. M. Dodge

*J. C. Union June 3, 1865, mentioned
"Ft. Dodge" named after Dodge.*

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*ack out
31.1.1910*