

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion, Together With Historical Sketches of Volunteer Organizations, 1861-1866. Volume I. First-Eighth Regiments Infantry. Published by Authority of the General Assembly, Under Direction of Brigadier General William H. Thrift, Adjutant-General, Des Moines. Emory H. English, State Printer; E. D. Chassell, State Binder. 1908.

This is the beginning of a long-desired work. It was authorized by the Act of April 10, 1907, of the Thirty-second General Assembly, entitled "An act providing for the compilation of a roster of Iowa soldiers, sailors and marines in the war with Mexico and the War of the Rebellion, the Spanish-American and the Philippine wars, including military service in the Spirit Lake expedition, and other services against the Indians; providing the manner of its publication, distribution and sale and making an appropriation therefor."

It is a volume of 1,245 pages, compiled under the direction of the Adjutant-General and the general supervision of the Board, consisting of the Governor, Albert B. Cummins; the Attorney-General, H. W. Byers; the Adjutant-General, W. H. Thrift; the Curator of the Historical Department, Charles Aldrich, and the member selected under authority of the Act, by the Department Commander of the Iowa Department, G. A. R., George W. Crosley. Acknowledgment by the Board is made of " * * * the careful and efficient labors of its Secretary, Col. George W. Crosley, who, on account of his long and honorable service as an Iowa soldier, was selected to prepare the Historical Sketches and to assist the Adjutant-General in carrying on the work of compiling and revising the rosters."

In the beginning of the volume is a clear and comprehensive introduction, setting out the plan, scope and magnitude of the work and suggesting the difficulties encountered. The volume fitly discloses the gratifying extent to which these have been overcome. The plan originated by Colonel Crosley is to present each regiment in order of its number; each list of officers in order of their rank, and all enlisted men in each regiment whose names begin with the same letter, in one list, which is subdivided by company arrangement. Thus general indexing is dispensed with. Introducing each regimental group is a succinct history of the organization, a skillful abbreviation of the wealth of authority in existence in each case. The complete military record of each officer and man as paragraphed under his name is a most important feature of the work, as it preserves for posterity the personal record of these brave men, that of the private soldier having received the same care and attention as that of the commissioned officer. The whole combined makes what is comprehended in the Act "a complete military history of the State." Such a publication has been in contemplation by Iowa for a great many years and has been issued by a number of other states, whose work, on careful consideration, has been followed in some essentials, but in many it is believed improvement has been made. In point of economy of time and money the present volume has not been equalled by the corresponding work of any other State. Every citizen who is, or may become, interested in the record of any Iowa soldier, or in Iowa military history, will be pleased with the work of the Board, and will anxiously await or gladly welcome the completion of the work.

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