

With the demise of Mr. Aldrich one of the great men of pioneer Iowa times has passed away. He has left a record of usefulness not accorded to any one else in the State. He was not as rich as some others in scholarship, but he was active and untiring in gathering the material for scholars.

#### TRIBUTES FROM ABSENT FRIENDS.

Extracts from a few of the many letters and telegrams received from Mr. Aldrich's friends at the time of his death:

*Gen. G. M. Dodge, New York:*

I have just received your dispatch announcing the death and funeral of my old friend, Charles Aldrich. I go back to my early days when I first made his acquaintance which grew into a friendship which has lasted all our lives. I think there is none who appreciates better than myself the great work he has done not only for your Department but for the whole State of Iowa. If he had to go it was fitting it should be while he was in the institution that he founded and has done so much to build up. \* \* \*

*Senator Wm. B. Allison, Washington, D. C.:*

Regret to hear of the death of Mr. Aldrich, a good citizen, lover of Iowa, devoting his life and strength to the service of the State. His death will be greatly and universally mourned. \* \* \*

*Alonzo Abernethy, Tampa, Florida:*

Have known and loved Mr. Aldrich for nearly half a century and wish to add my tribute to the life and work of this marvelous man. Iowa has produced many noble patriots but none of rarer usefulness or worth. The Historical Department, the *Annals* and the Historical Building will perpetuate his memory.

*Robert F. Palmer, Chicago, Ill.:*

The death of Mr. Aldrich is a personal loss. My services at your disposal if I can be of assistance.

*Judge Henry C. Caldwell, Los Angeles, Cal.:*

\* \* \* In common with the people of Iowa I mourn the death of one whose work for the State will be as lasting as the history of the State itself, for largely through his life-long, earnest and intelligent work, have the materials for that history been gathered and preserved. Fifty years ago I answered many times to his roll call in the House of Representatives, now he has answered the Master's roll call ahead of me but not for long.

*William H. Fleming, Washington, D. C.:*

News of death of Iowa's great historiographer; am deeply grieved.

*Benj. F. Shambaugh, Iowa City, Iowa:*

\* \* \* It is my feeling that on Wednesday the friends of Mr. Aldrich and the Historical Department can do the memory of the great founder of the Department no greater honor than to resolve that at any cost his work will be carried forward according to the ideas and the spirit in which he himself conceived it. The career of Charles Aldrich will remain for all time an inspiration for those who believe that honest, sincere devotion to a cause will be realized in bountiful success.

*Father John F. Kempker, Davenport, Iowa:*

\* \* \* In life he was all that the papers said of him and much more. The achievements of his energy and talents were so great that, however much we may wish to give due acknowledgment, the true worth of the fruits of his work will not be thoroughly appreciated until many years or a century have passed. His researches and untiring application in the study of local history deserve the more our praise because there seemed no one at the time to undertake what he has done and it was only by self-sacrifice and perseverance in the face of astounding difficulties that he has preserved for posterity estimable memories of noble pioneers and succeeded in awakening in the breasts of many a love for our own Iowa history.

In mind and heart his qualifications were so beautiful and enchanting that nothing excepting good seemed his surround-

ings and company. May his soul rest in peace and the Lord grant him life everlasting. \* \* \*

*Reuben G. Thwaites, Madison, Wis.:*

\* \* \* I have always been greatly interested in the work of Mr. Aldrich in building up the Historical Department of Iowa. For the last twenty years we have frequently been in correspondence, and he has several times visited our institution, although it has not been my good fortune to have visited his. He was a man of great energy and with high ideals; one of those self-denying pioneers in the field of collection of western historical material of which Lyman C. Draper may be considered the archetype. He did for Iowa a work akin to that of Draper in Wisconsin. All of you owe much to him. Your sense of indebtedness will increase as the years go by, just as our debt to Draper becomes more and more evident as time goes on. No matter how large your institution may become in the future, in the hands of younger men and as a result of a quickened public consciousness in the importance of preserving materials for the history of your State, you will always look back to the work of Aldrich with keen pride and genuine enthusiasm. Men such as he are rare, even in this self-denying field, and we do well to honor them. Your Historical Department is bound to become of great importance from every possible point of view, but whatever magnitude it may attain, you will always be conscious that he laid the essential foundations.

*H. H. Rood, Mount Vernon, Iowa:*

With profound sorrow I note in the press the death of my friend, companion and comrade. I have known Mr. Aldrich since 1859-60, and have loved and honored him. Mr. Aldrich did more for the history of Iowa than any other man; his large view, his quick sympathy, his love of the things which go to make a state regardful of its past, its history, its mental and moral attitude, was deep, broad and strong.

In the struggle for material things by the young state, he did not forget that it should have high ideals, and to fix them in the mind and heart of the state, he did great things. \* \* \*

*Frank Springer, Burlington, Iowa:*

\* \* \* We—his friends and the State—may well mourn the loss of such a man, but for his sake we need waste no regrets. His work was done. If ever a man lived out the full measure of a rich, well-rounded and successful life, surely that man was Charles Aldrich. He leaves a monument of high and useful achievement in the service of his State, more lasting even than the splendid structure—inspired by him—which marks the completion of his labors. Let us be content, and proud to be sharers in the legacy of his life and example.

*R. H. Moore, Ottumwa, Iowa:*

I am inexpressibly saddened at the death of my old and valued friend, the Hon. Charles Aldrich. It will be a long time before the niche he occupied in this grand commonwealth will be filled if ever. His work was peculiarly his own, but it was a great work for the State he loved so well. But we should all bow in humble submission to His will.

*Rev. William Salter, D. D., Burlington, Iowa:*

Your telegram informing me of the funeral memorial services to be held on the 11th inst. for the Honorable Charles Aldrich, brings me a heavy sorrow. I deeply regret that the infirmities of age will prevent my attendance at the service. But I shall be there in spirit to mourn his death and to honor his memory. For the last twenty years he was among my most cherished and delightful friends, and I was never happier than in his company, he was so genial and kindly, and we had so many sympathies in common. His pride in Iowa and his devotion to its history have a lasting monument in the Historical Department, in the *Annals of Iowa*, which he edited, and in the rich collections he gathered which show the changes that have lifted up this portion of the world from a savage wilderness to the highest measures of modern civilization. He possessed so many admirable qualities, and rendered such a variety of services in many different fields, in legislation, in the front of war, and in the purity and integrity of his high-toned character, as well as in the history of the commonwealth, that too much cannot be done to perpetuate his memory, and write his name high in our Hall of Fame,

for the instruction and emulation of the people of Iowa in future times. \* \* \*

*Hon. C. J. A. Ericson, Los Angeles, Cal.:*

It was with a feeling of great sorrow I learned through the newspapers of the death of Mr. Charles Aldrich, Curator of the Historical Department of the State of Iowa. Yet, I am thankful that his life was spared to see the great Historical Building completed for which he had worked and planned so long. It will always remain a monument to his memory in recognition of his untiring efforts to make it what it is to-day. His work is done and well done and it will be appreciated more and more as future generations shall here have the opportunity to study the history of the early pioneers of the State. Mr. Aldrich was my friend and I was his friend to the best of my ability to show my appreciation of his friendship. He was the best equipped man for this work in the whole State of Iowa. I was glad his remains were taken to Des Moines to lie in state in the Historical Building. Peace to his ashes. \* \* \*

*Ex-Gov. William Larrabee, Clermont, Iowa:*

\* \* \* I feel deeply the loss of Mr. Aldrich. He rendered most loyal and efficient service to the State and his work is highly appreciated by our people. One can afford to die after making such a record as he has made. \* \* \*

*John C. Parish, Iowa City, Iowa:*

\* \* \* I shall never cease to be thankful that I was privileged to know him these last few years; and the memory of the talks I have had with him will always be an inspiration to me. He was a man whose influence upon the State will, I am sure, be increasingly appreciated. \* \* \*

*Geo. H. Yewell, New York City:*

\* \* \* Owing to the fact that from great vitality and tenacity of life, Mr. Aldrich had more than once before come up from death's door, as it were, I had a faint hope that he might overcome this serious and painful attack; but it was not so ordered and, at last, another good, true and valuable man, who will be long remembered has gone to his rest and his reward. No man had a more unselfish desire to do a good work

for the benefit of those who were to come after him than Mr. Aldrich. We should be thankful that his life was spared long enough for him to see the successful beginning of a work that through coming years will never cease to give honor to his name and memory. \* \* \*

*Hon. Edward H. Stiles, Kansas City, Mo.:*

I was greatly pained to hear of the death of Mr. Aldrich. I was absent when telegram was received and did not get it for several days. Had I been at home I should have endeavored to have gone to the funeral. My thoughts turn to him with great frequency mingled with admiration for his fine qualities and regret that he could not longer stay his departure. Iowa has indeed lost one of the most useful, and along the line he has for so many years been pursuing, the most useful of her citizens. \* \* \*

*A. S. Van Winkle, Keota, Iowa:*

It is with profound sorrow that I have learned of the death of Curator Charles Aldrich. The tribute due to his memory is similar to that paid to the great Agassiz, founder of the Museum of Comparative Biology at Cambridge. Mr. Aldrich had a vast knowledge, a keen perception and a full comprehension of the needs of the future in Iowa when he brought about the foundation of the work being done in the magnificent building that will remain a tribute to his memory. \* \* \*

*Rev. O. H. Holmes, Algona, Iowa:*

As one of the younger members of the Thirty-second General Assembly who came somewhat closely in contact with Mr. Aldrich and the Historical Building, I cannot let his death pass without acknowledging the great debt the younger men of the State owe to Mr. Aldrich and to the class of Iowa pioneers of which he was a type. Not one among these early comers to Iowa but whose life was in some measure a sacrifice. Many of the things they greatly desired they never had. But by their character and fortitude they have left an impress on our State that will not pass with time. True more are absent from roll call now than are present, but let us not forget those who do not answer. Many have forded the unbridged

river that runs where the dusky horizon shuts down on our uncertain and blinding vision. Pioneers they are, prospecting over there where thought and act preceded them, looking for that ideal which they could not realize here.

'Tis whispered low within the heart  
 We hear it rise and fall,  
 A song of those who answer not  
 However we may call.

\* \* \* \*

They can not be where God is not  
 On any sea or shore;  
 Whate'er betides, Thy love abides  
 Our God forevermore.

## RESOLUTIONS COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF MR. ALDRICH.

Resolutions or memorials commemorating the death of Mr. Aldrich were adopted by the following organizations:

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States,  
 Commandery of the State of Iowa.

Winfield Scott Post No. 66, Department of Iowa G. A. R.

Soldiers' Roster Board:

Board of Trustees of the State Library and Historical Department.

Octogenarian Association.

Monday Club.

The Board of Trustees of the State Library and Historical Department adopted the following resolutions:

*Whereas*, The Hon. Charles Aldrich has for many years been associated with this Board as Curator of the Historical Department of the Iowa State Library, in this relation affording us opportunity to know him intimately, and

*Whereas*, His qualities of head and heart have impressed us as of the highest order and his service to the State of the greatest worth, therefore be it

*Resolved*, By the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Library that in the passing of Mr. Aldrich we have lost a loved associate and wise counselor; that in creating and fostering the Historical Department and in conserving the early history

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.