

Library Notes

The State Historical Library has recently received a checklist of "Regimental Publications & Personal Narratives of the Civil War," by C. E. Dornbusch. Much of the research for this bibliography was done in the library.

The first publication of the Iowa Civil War Centennial Commission has also just been received. This is one of three which will be published this year dealing with Iowa's role in the Civil War.

Ding's Half Century, edited by John M. Henry, has been added to the Iowa Author Collection. This is a book of cartoons drawn by the late Jay "Ding" Darling, cartoonist for the *Des Moines Register* from 1906 until his retirement in 1949.

"The Diary of Benjamin F. Gue in Rural New York & Pioneer Iowa 1847-1856," edited by Earle D. Ross, was released by the Iowa State University Press. Gue assisted Charles Aldrich in the Department of History and Archives and also wrote some for the *ANNALS* around 1893.

Museum Notes

Specimens of life of the past have recently been received by the museum of the State Department of History and Archives. Among the more interesting ones are a tooth from a mammoth, an ancient elephant-like creature; an armor plate of an arthrodire, a prehistoric fish, and a rare crinoid fossil.

The mammoth tooth is still intact with part of the animal's jaw and is one of the best to be found in Iowa. The creature lived over 20,000 years ago. It was about 10 feet in height and weighed around 8,000 pounds.

The arthrodire is a fish which lived 255 million years ago. It was about 20 to 30 feet long and was believed to be one of the largest creatures of its time. Part of its body was covered with calcium plates like the one the museum acquired.

A specimen of *dichocrinus delicatus*, a particularly rare fossil crinoid found only at the LeGrand quarry, was recently donated to the museum by Dr. B. H. Beane. Crinoids are sea animals which were plentiful in the seas over 250 million years ago. A few stray forms are found living in some oceans today.

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