

DOWN WITH THE TRAITORS

Fellow Citizens!—Sixty desperadoes passed through Mason City this morning, insulting the public by shouting for Jeff Davis, Lee, Beauregard, and Huerfango for the death of Old Abe. They defied the town, and dared the people to take it up. Let them not go unpunished. Meet at Mason City this evening, with such horses and such arms as you have. They stay at Lyman Hunt's to-night with their cattle and teams.

Facsimile of broadside received by the Historical Department from Scotland, which illustrates the tenseness of feeling, in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa during the Civil war.

ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

CIVIL HISTORY MATERIALS OF THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD.

Newspapers of the Civil war period devoted comparatively small space to home events. Matter printed voluminously nowadays which is of value for study of biography and local history would then have been omitted unless associated with the larger subjects. Papers printed for home reading told the soldier at the front more about war than peace. He read the tragic just as and where he witnessed it. He read of the dramatic at Washington and of the ominous in Europe, but he read very little of the heart throb or hearth side story of affairs at home. If he knew or learned anything, for instance, of the tenseness of feeling of his brother at home, who experienced and therefore did not need to read it, it was imparted by letters or was revealed directly to him on his return.

What was true then as to one far from home is true as to those who shall be distant from the Rebellion in point of time. The searcher of published sources will have to turn to other repositories for light on many an important local subject, or grope blindly. Topics treated conspicuously both before and after the war almost disappeared during the war.

The Historical Department therefore looks upon Civil war letters and their enclosures with an interest additional to that for the light they shed on the war itself. All letters, pamphlets and documents of the period whether derived from those in the ranks or remote from the front have special

value. It is known that in these repositories is much information that exists nowhere else and yet that is necessary.

It is from the war generation alone that the future can expect the aids with which to learn the full truth of struggle and effort which at home kept balance with achievement at the front. "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war," but so far as the Civil war period in Iowa may be in mind the available accounts do not support the statement, although memory and personal and confidential memoranda tend to do so.

We regretfully observe the rapidity with which materials of the character mentioned are being scattered and destroyed, after they are laid aside forever by the hands which first received and afterwards preserved them, and we are daily reminded that all there is of written and printed matter of this kind that can ever be gathered and authenticated must be almost immediately discovered and acquired or be lost forever.

Accident and ingenuity combined resulted in our recovery during the past year of large repositories of letters and documents which will be found indispensable in the future writing of three of the Iowa regiments. One came from an Iowa cellar, one from an Oklahoma attic and one from a Colorado ranch. In each instance there are, in addition to facts accessible in published reports, masses of statements and accounts concerning not only commissioned officers but non-commissioned officers and private soldiers who became factors in important movements in later civil life. And usually in such repositories are found the facts from home in which publications are wanting.

It is a pleasure to record in this connection an item of value throwing light on an Iowa local affair. It came by sheer accident from across the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to the illustration we present herewith, nothing more need be given than the letters following:

The Grange, Bearsden, Glasgow, 5th August, 1911.

Dear Sir: When visiting the United States in June and July of this year I was talking over old times with a gentleman who knew Iowa in the early sixties. I was telling him of an old paper

I had kept beside me ever since 1865. He said to me: "You should send it on to the Librarian of the State Library at Des Moines. I think he would value it as a souvenir of the old times."

The sixty desperadoes referred to were the drivers or cowboys or bullwhackers as they were then called of an ox train owned by Jas. Henry. (One of the wagon bosses being Marcellus Pugsley then and now, I believe, living at Woodbine, Iowa.) I joined the outfit when it reached Woodbine (after the episode referred to in the poster) in May, 1865. We had one hundred and six wagons in the outfit. We crossed the Missouri at Plattsmouth and were divided into two parties of about fifty wagons each, proceeding to Denver with corn for the U. S. troops who were fighting the Indians somewhere about Powder River. The Indians (Sioux, Cheyennes and Arapahoes) had cleaned out every ranch and fort on the Platte in the fall of 1864. Coming back we carried wood from the mountains to Julesburg to build some of the places burnt by the Indians the previous fall while returning to Omaha. I enclose poster referred to and shall be pleased should it interest you to have it.

Yours truly,

D. M. SCOTT.

Hon. Johnson Brigham, The Librarian,

The State Library, Des Moines, Ia., U. S. A.

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The Grange, Bearsden, Glasgow, 6th September, 1911.

Dear Mr. Harlan: I am much gratified at the interest you have taken in the "Broadside" I forwarded to the State Librarian and which he was good enough to hand over to you.

Regarding the Mason City incident, the "bullwhackers," as they were then termed, were arrested one by one as they were "strung" out on their way to camp, and an armed guard put over the men as they were arrested, or I dare say there might have been trouble had they been attacked in a body. A number of the men were tried and acquitted. The trial was held before a committee of the citizens. I dare say it might have been done for a bit of bravado without at all meaning to be serious, but in these times it was very bad form. All this I learned from the men who were in the outfit at that time. I only joined it after it reached Woodbine where I had been staying on holiday with my aunt, Mrs. Kinnis.

At Woodbine "the train," as we called it, consisted of one hundred and twenty Schaffler Chicago wagons all new and loaded up with Indian corn for the U. S. Cavalry who were fighting the Indians at that time. We delivered the corn at Denver. The train at Woodbine was divided into two portions. My cousin and I traveled with the second part, as one hundred and twenty wagons with their

teams was too big an affair to handle in one corral. So some fifty wagons started off in June, I think, and the remainder left Woodbine about the 1st of July, I think. Anyhow we crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth on the 4th of July, 1865, as I well remember the celebration going on that day as we were crossing.

We made a start from Plattsmouth with only forty-eight wagons in our section leaving a number behind for some reason unknown to me.

At Fort Kearney, as we were a party of about fifty, one wagon-master got a commission or permission to go on through the Indian country, as part of Colorado was called at that time. All being well armed it was considered safe, but smaller groups were kept at Fort Kearney until there were enough together to traverse the country with safety. After having delivered our corn at Denver and taken on a quantity of sawn lumber from some point not far off, which we delivered at Julesburg, we returned again by the Platte river to Omaha in October and learned when we got there that some twenty-three miles of the Union Pacific track was laid.

I came right on to Scotland, after spending a few days with my aunt at Woodbine, my cousin Daniel M. Kinnis who is still resident in Woodbine, and I walking from Council Bluffs rather than wait for the stage coach to Woodbine after leaving camp.

Yours sincerely,

D. M. SCOTT.

Edgar R. Harlan, Curator, State Historical Department, Des Moines, Iowa.

NOTES.

Hon. Thomas H. Carter, of Montana, who died in Washington, D. C., September 17th, was from 1877 to 1882 a resident of Burlington Iowa.

We have published a volume entitled, *Rafinesque, a Sketch of his Life with a Bibliography*, by T. J. Fitzpatrick, M.S., which we review elsewhere. C. S. Rafinesque distinguished himself in many lines of intellectual activity. His investigations and writings on natural history topics of the Mississippi Valley as early as 1820, give him interest to us. The widely-scattered information concerning him and especially his publications, gives Prof. Fitzpatrick's work great value.

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