

Iowa People and Events . . .

State Accepts New Historical Collections

Several sizeable and significant collections have recently been given to the Iowa State Department of History and Archives. They include such valuable and irreplaceable historical material as: the combat records of Iowa's 34th Division in World War II; the diaries, scrapbooks, and personal effects of Gen. Mathew A. Tinley of Council Bluffs; the Dr. Graeme O'Geran Civil War Collection; a number of scrapbooks and other material compiled by the Des Moines poet-composer, Agnes V. Flannery; and the correspondence of Dr. Winfield Scott Schermerhorn, pioneer Wisconsin legislator, regimental surgeon in the Civil War and country doctor of Jefferson, Iowa.

Mrs. M. A. Tinley graciously turned over to the state an extensive collection illustrating the outstanding career of her late husband, a noted Iowa soldier and surgeon. The items included the colors of Iowa's 168th Infantry which he commanded in France as part of the famed Rainbow Division during World War I, several fine dress swords, and four nearly complete uniforms dating from the Spanish-American War period to World War II. The uniform "General Mat" wore as a lieutenant general, accouterments and citations, including the American Distinguished Service Cross, may be seen in the World War I Room of the State Historical Building. Scrapbooks on his service in World War I, candidacy for vice-president in 1931, the Iowa National Guard in 1930-31, the Iowa Farm Revolt in 1933, the Maytag Company Strike at Newton in 1938, the Missouri River Flood in 1943, over 50 pictures and photographs, and valuable personal diaries that he began during the Philippine Insurrection and kept most of his life, have been placed with the Manuscript Division.

Several packing cases of original records on the 34th

Infantry Division in World War II have been transferred to the State Department of History and Archives through the cooperation of Lt. Col. Junior F. Miller and the Iowa National Guard. The "Red Bull" Division, in which more than 10,000 Iowa men served, compiled a notable war record, probably seeing more total combat in North Africa and Italy than any other division. A complete and authentic history of its campaigns in World War II has not as yet been written, but perhaps with the preservation of this collection of reports, journals, field orders, maps and some captured German manuscripts for future research, such a work will be undertaken as an appropriate and lasting memorial to those men who did not return. The existence of such valuable historical material, which in many cases was lost or destroyed, is believed due to the foresight of the division adjutant, Lt. Col. Dee M. White of Marshalltown, who took care to have it shipped back to Iowa after the war.

A significant Civil War collection has been presented to the State of Iowa by Dr. Graeme O'Geran of Syracuse, New York. The extensive personal correspondence of more than 250 letters dating from 1850 to 1865, original orders, and uniform of his grandfather, Colonel Harvey Graham of Iowa City, comprises one of the most interesting and important Civil War acquisitions in recent years. The correspondence is already under research for a modern study of the 22nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry, which will appear in the Annals of Iowa during the first year of the Civil War Centennial. Graham succeeded William F. Stone as Colonel of the 22nd Iowa in 1863, led the regiment throughout the remainder of the war, and was afterwards breveted as brigadier general by President Andrew Johnson. He was one of the first men to volunteer from Johnson County. The uniform in which he was slightly wounded while commanding Co. B of the First Iowa Volunteers in the bloody battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri, the first major engagement in which Iowa troops participated, is now on display

in the Civil War Room of the State Historical Building.

A number of scrapbooks, pictures and papers relating to the literature and music of Iowa over the past half century have been accepted from Miss Mary Conway in accordance with the wishes of the late Agnes V. Flannery. A successful pianist and poet-composer from a pioneer Des Moines family, Miss Flannery published 17 words and music compositions and was quite active in state and national literary organizations. She died October 16, 1955.

The papers of Dr. Winfield S. Schermerhorn constitute another recent addition to the Manuscript Division of the Iowa State Department of History and Archives. Presented to the state through the courtesy of Miss Grace Bryant, these letters and correspondence of an early Wisconsin settler, Civil War surgeon and Iowa country doctor, are of special interest due to the forthcoming Civil War Centennial, and illustrate the type of increasingly rare material that is still believed to repose in many family vaults and attics. The Schermerhorn Collection is one of the first such contributions to the success of the Iowa Civil War Centennial. Dr. Schermerhorn removed from Lodi, Wisconsin to Jefferson, Iowa in 1870. The family letters date from 1849 to 1872, and include his wife's diary note from August 1 to September 2, 1852, his Civil War diary while serving as regimental surgeon of the 16th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in 1865, and the letters of his son, George Schermerhorn, written at Iowa State College from 1884 to 1887.

Historic Landmarks Disappearing

A number of structures familiar to many Iowans have passed into history, or are scheduled to be torn down soon. "Texowa," the late Mrs. Emily Hanna George's impressive old home, located between Cedar Falls and Waterloo, has given way to new landscaping of the nursery which it housed for some years. The daughter of one of the first families to permanently settle in Black

Hawk County, Emily Hanna married John T. George, a wealthy Texas cattleman, in 1886 and later built the big white house with its spacious lawn and fruit orchard, as a summer home on her family homestead. Visitors especially remembered the Bar G brand set in the cement doorstep and also painted on the roof.

Three miles northeast of Hudson, Iowa, the Glenny farm, which was one of the few homesteads to remain in one family since its purchase from the government in 1875, will become the site of a pipe-line terminal. The fertile tract along Black Hawk Creek was originally settled by Alexander and Ellen Glenny, who built their home along the old Waterloo-Eldora road, now highway 63.

And St. Mary's Catholic Church, probably the oldest existing church in Des Moines, is due to be razed in the near future unless a responsible organization arranges to restore and preserve it. Construction of this fine old example of Gothic architecture at 2nd and Crocker was begun in 1871.

Fayette County

Fayette County in northeastern Iowa was originally established December 21, 1837 by an act of the Wisconsin Territorial legislature when Iowa was still a part of the Territory of Wisconsin. It was partly taken from Dubuque County and probably had the unique distinction of territorially being the largest county ever established. The act described it as "the whole of the country lying west of the Mississippi river and north of the southern boundary of Clayton, extending westward to the western boundary of Wisconsin territory, and not included within the proper limits of the said county of Clayton." The Neutral Ground, designed to separate the warring Sioux and Sac and Fox comprised most of the present county of Allamakee, some of Clayton, a large tract to the west, and some north. All the rest of the territory north of township 90 was part of the new county of Fayette. It extended to the British

dominions on the north, and from the Mississippi to the White Earth, taking in all of the future state of Minnesota west of the Mississippi, and except for a small tract in the southeast corner, all of what became the territory of Dakota east of the Missouri and the White Earth, an area totaling almost 140,000 square miles. However, it was a paper county, and had no organization until reduced to its present boundaries in 1847.

Contemporary Description of Camp McClellan and Vicinity

Camp McClellan, the United States recruiting depot for the state of Iowa, is pleasantly situated on one of a series of rolling hills extending back from the Mississippi river. It commands a splendid view of the river six or seven miles down and two or three up and also of the cities of Davenport, Iowa, and Rock Island and Moline, Illinois. The camp is built on three sides of a square; the side which is open is towards the river. The parade and drill ground is in the middle and extends toward the river. Headquarters, officers quarters, post office and sutler's are on the western side. Quartermaster's and commissary buildings are on the north side, the hospital is on the northeast corner, kitchen and dining room on the southeast corner, privates' quarters on the east and north sides. The privates' barracks are about 70 feet long; built of pine timber, they contain 66 bunks and each bunk will hold 2 men. The officers' quarters are about 12 feet square and will comfortably contain 7 or 8 persons. Headquarters are in two different buildings. The largest contains the captain's office, post clerk's office, police sergeant's office, dining room and kitchen the other is the post adjutant's office. The hospital is in two buildings also. One is 1½ stories high; it contains the surgeon's office, room for examining recruits, and accommodations for a part of the patients. The other, a low building, contains the kitchen and dining room; behind these are a washroom and conveniences

for drying clothes. Our dining room is a long building, about 70 feet long, formerly used as a hospital. It contains the post commissary's office and the soldiers' dining room. There are two tables one on each side of it, the whole length. There are long benches for seats; the kitchen is a small square building immediately behind the dining room; it is furnished with a large square stove and other conveniences for cooking food for 200 men. The parade grounds between the barracks is about 50 yards by 70. Sometimes we drill in it but when it is muddy we go down on the point of the hill towards the river.

There are rolling hills, which terminate about half a mile back in from the river, a beautiful level productive country. East Davenport a small town about twice as large as Troy is one half mile from Camp McClelan. Davenport is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from it: it is a large thriving city and contains many handsome buildings. A great deal of business is done in it. In the northern suburbs is Camp Hendershott the camp of the 6th Iowa Cav. In the northeastern suburbs is situated Camp Herron where the Union brigade is encamped. Opposite Davenport is Rock Island. It is not quite so large as Davenport but equally thriving. Moline is up the river from Rock Island; it contains about one half as many inhabitants as Davenport does. The Island of Rock Island is in front of Camp McClelan; This was the scene of Col. Davenport's murder. For further description see journal.

(From the Journal of Charles B. McCormack, Co. D, 3rd Iowa Cavalry, commencing at the time of my departure from Camp McClelan Davenport Iowa for the seat of war in the west Friday, February 27, 1863. Mrs. George E. Carlson of Des Moines has kindly permitted the Iowa State Department of History & Archives to microfilm this original journal in its entirety).

Health of Farmers' Families

Let all, especially the young, who look to farming as the future pursuit of life, and who desire to avoid a large share of the ordinary discomforts, privations, unhappiness, and want of health which too often befall so worthy and so large a class of society as farmers' families are, remember these two cardinal suggestions:

First. Never purchase more land for farming purposes than can be paid for without borrowing.

Second. Never attempt to cultivate more than can be thoroughly done with the help which can be readily commanded; for one acre will yield more with a given amount of well-expended labor than two acres will yield with the same.

Finally, let the farmer always remember that his wife's cheerful and hearty co-operation is essential to his success, and is really of as much value in attaining it, all things considered, as anything that he can do; and, as she is very certainly his superior in her moral nature, it legitimately follows that he should not only regard her as his equal in material matters, but should habitually accord to her that deference, that consideration, and that high respect which is of right her due, and which can never fail to impress on the children and servants, who daily witness it, a dignity and an elevation of manner, and thought, and feeling, and deportment which will prove to all who see them that the wife is a lady, and the husband a man and a gentleman, and large pecuniary success, with a high moral position and wide social influence will be the almost certain results.—*Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, 1862, Washington, D.C.*

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