

HON. JAMES WILSON, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR: Your kind invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building is received. I regret that public duties will prevent my acceptance. It will be a notable occasion.

Your work is attracting attention throughout the country and throughout the world. You are laying down a way for the future historian and future student to follow, and doing a work which, if left undone, would leave a curtain drawn upon the early history of the State to such an extent that our annals would never be perfect. I congratulate you upon your great work, and remain,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Very truly yours,  
JAMES WILSON,  
Secretary.

H. L. RANN, EDITOR MANCHESTER PRESS.

MANCHESTER, IOWA, May 12, 1899.

MY DEAR MR. ALDRICH: I acknowledge your kind invitation for the 17th and regret much that previous arrangements compel me to be at Mt. Vernon on that day. I am grateful to you for the remembrance, however, and hope that you may be favored with a fair day for the ceremonies. I feel that the value of your work is excelled by no other department of state work, and am heartily glad that such generous recognition is being made of that fact.

Pray accept my kindest wishes for your good health and the continued success of your work and believe me,

Yours cordially,  
H. L. RANN.

PROF. CHARLES E. BESSEY, FORMERLY OF AMES.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, LINCOLN, NEB., May 6th, 1899.

DEAR SIR: Permit me to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building in Des Moines on Wednesday, May 17th. While it will be impossible for me to be present, I beg to assure you and all the friends who still remember me in the good State of Iowa that I am much interested in the purpose for which this new building is intended. We usually begin all too late to gather up fragments of the earlier history of even our new states. It is so hard for the people to learn that from the beginning they are *making history*; it is so hard for them to learn that it is necessary to record and preserve as much as possible of the history which they are making.

Again thanking you for your courtesy, I beg to subscribe myself,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Very truly yours,  
CHARLES E. BESSEY,

CAPT. WASHINGTON GALLAND, SOLDIER AND PIONEER LEGISLATOR.

MONTROSE, IOWA, May 12, 1899.

DEAR SIR: Am in receipt of your invitation to attend the ceremonies pertaining to the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building. For reply, I have to say that prior engagements will prevent my participating in your services either as a spectator or otherwise. I am most heartily in sympathy with the important work in which you are so ardently engaged, and am glad that the wisdom and generosity of our General Assembly has made it possible that a suitable building can be erected in which to preserve historical and other important relics, which if preserved will continue to increase in value with the lapse of years.

Cordial greetings to all Iowa pioneers, old settlers and friends present on the occasion, and may God bless you and your work!

Truly and sincerely yours,  
WASHINGTON GALLAND,

In date of settlement the oldest pioneer now living in Iowa.

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

REUBEN G. THWAITES, SECRETARY WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

MADISON, WIS., May 4, 1899.

MY DEAR MR. ALDRICH: I have your very kind invitation of the 25th ult. to attend the ceremony of laying the Corner-stone of the Iowa Historical Building. to occur upon Wednesday, the 17th inst., and beg to thank you most cordially therefor. As, however, I shall at that time be absent in the East, inspecting library appliances for our own new building, it will, I regret, be impracticable for me to be present.

The Wisconsin Society begs sincerely to congratulate the Historical Department of Iowa upon its splendid success and prospects, and sends the heartiest sort of greetings for this interesting occasion. I am, dear Mr. Aldrich, yours very sincerely,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

R. G. THWAITES,  
Secy. and Supt.

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

142 DEARBORN AVENUE, May 4, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building; and, in expressing on behalf of this Society its appreciation of your courtesy, to venture the prediction that this auspicious event in the history of the Department will mark the beginning of a period of even greater usefulness for the Historical Department of Iowa.

Yours very truly,

MR. CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

CHARLES EVANS,  
Secretary.

HON. L. S. COFFIN, EX-RAILROAD COMMISSIONER.

FT. DODGE, IOWA, May 29, 1899.

MY DEAR ALDRICH: Allow me to thank you most sincerely for your kind invitation to attend the laying of the Corner-stone of your contemplated Historical Building. I regret exceedingly that I was out of the State at the time. I was at New Orleans attending a convention of the Brotherhood of Trainmen. . . .

Allow me to congratulate you on so much of the great victory you have already won. This long fight . . . has been a hard and discouraging one, but you begin to see the triumph from afar. This much now won enables you by increased faith to bring the complete victory nigh. I most earnestly hope your years and strength will be increased and strengthened, so that you will remain to see the full realization of all your hopes. . . .

With heartfelt sympathy and best wishes,

L. S. COFFIN.

HON. HENRY HOSPERS, STATE SENATOR.

ORANGE CITY, IOWA, May 23, 1899.

MY DEAR SIR AND FRIEND: I feel proud of you and your noble work, which will be better appreciated in the future. I was sorry circumstances did not permit me to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone. I congratulate you upon your success, and I am glad that you could see with your own eyes the consummation of your wishes, for which you so patiently and industriously labored. May you many years enjoy good health and happiness. . . . With very high respect,

Your obedient servant and friend,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

HENRY HOSPERS.

MRS. JUDGE AUSTIN ADAMS OF DUBUQUE.

DEAR SIR: The invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building is received. I regret my inability to be present and listen to the address of Hon. John A. Kasson. . . . The interest in the study of history is beginning to take its place in the education of the people. "To awaken the consciousness of their own past," to study the evolution of humanity and to preserve the facts so that there can be a true history of our time; this is now being appreciated and cared for. As our own civilization becomes perfected we appreciate the history

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