

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,
Very truly yours,
CHARLES E. BESSEY,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

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.

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