

HON. FRANK W. PALMER, EARLY IOWA JOURNALIST, U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 29, 1899.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of the invitation of the Executive Council of Iowa and yourself, to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building, at Des Moines, on the 17th proximo.

I regret to say that official duties here will prevent my acceptance of this kind invitation, but I take pleasure in extending to you and the Executive Council, for whom you speak, my congratulations at the prospective commencement of the building which is to be the permanent home of the historical treasures of Iowa.

As this will be to yourself individually a partial realization of the ambition of a life-time, I am sure the citizens of Iowa will accord to you the right to a liberal share of credit for this educational enterprise, especially as the results of your labors will be their inheritance.

Yours truly,

MR. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

F. W. PALMER,

GEN. JOHN W. NOBLE, EX-SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

St. Louis, May 16th, 1899.

DEAR SIR: It is with great regret I find it impossible for me to attend the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building tomorrow. It would have pleased me very much to have heard the eminent and eloquent men who are to participate with you all in the ceremonies of the occasion.

Iowa may well be proud of her past history and most hopeful of that she will yet make, and the records should be well preserved.

Most respectfully yours,

JOHN W. NOBLE.

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

RT. REV. THOS. M. LENIHAN, R. C. BISHOP OF CHEYENNE.

Cheyenne, Wyo., May 11th, 1899.

MY DEAR FRIEND: I thank you very much for your thoughtful remembrance in extending me an invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the Historical Building for Iowa, on May 17th, 1899.

I am sure the ceremonies and addresses will make the occasion most memorable.

I congratulate you on your wonderful success in making the Historical Department of Iowa grow to such proportions that it now demands a separate building of its own to meet its needs.

With best wishes,

† THOS. M. LENIHAN,

Bishop of Cheyenne.

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

HON. J. B. KNOEFLER, EX-SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

LANSING, IOWA, May 13, 1899.

DEAR SIR: I hereby desire to acknowledge my thanks to you for the cordial invitation to be present at the laying of the Corner-stone of the new Historical Building, Wednesday, May 17, 1899.

I regret exceedingly that my duties forbid my attendance. I had the honor to be a member of the Board of Trustees at the time the Department was organized and helped elect you as its first curator, and the further honor of being chairman of the purchasing committee for the first two years of its existence. - This naturally deepened my interest in the Department, and I have since been surprised and proud to see its rapid growth and development. I congratulate you on the success that has attended your zeal and untiring perseverance; I congratulate the trustees on their choice of curator; I congratulate the commonwealth of Iowa on the possession of a Historical Department that will soon rank with that of any of her sister states.

Cordially yours,

HON. CHARLES ALDRICH,
Des Moines, Iowa.

J. B. KNOEFLER.

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.

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