



THE LATE EX-LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MATT PARROTT,  
1837-1900.

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

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### THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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This terrible tragedy occurred at Ford's Theatre on Tenth street in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, on the night of April 14, 1865. The news reached Des Moines by regular press despatches about midnight of that date. *The State Register* of the next morning contained the full details of the tragic event that startled the inhabitants of the Capital City as they had never been startled before. About ten o'clock the succeeding day a considerable number of the leading citizens of Des Moines voluntarily assembled in the editorial rooms of the office of *The State Register*, which was then on the corner of Third and Walnut streets, and consulted as to the best manner in which this terrible tragedy should be considered in a public assemblage of the people. After an exchange of views by the gentlemen assembled, Hon. Frank W. Palmer, editor and proprietor of *The State Register*, was invited to prepare an address to be delivered the succeeding day (Sunday) at a public meeting to be held in the Court House yard.

Mr. Palmer went at once to his residence, and without having taken with him files of *The Register* or any other documents from his editorial rooms, set about the task of preparing an address which would be appropriate to the occasion. Before daylight on Sunday he had completed his work, and at two o'clock in the afternoon of that day in the presence of an audience estimated to have numbered many thousand persons,

assembled in the open air, he delivered the address, a copy of which will be found in the present issue of THE ANNALS.

When the reader considers that only a little more than twenty-four hours had elapsed from the time the news of President Lincoln's assassination had been published in Des Moines, and that telegraph and mail facilities were not then employed to any considerable extent, he will wonder how an assemblage such as that gathered on that occasion could have been brought together; but no event of a more tragical nature had ever occurred in the history of the United States, and the news of it seemed to be carried on the wings of the wind, and every person of whatever class was imbued with the sense of his or her own personal loss as though bereaved of a dearly loved kinsman. When Mr. Palmer reached his own residence with the news of this national calamity, the Irish serving-maid in his household manifested her profound grief in sobs and tears as inconsolably as if she had lost one of her own family. And the scene of sorrow enacted in this household was also repeated in many a home in the City of Des Moines and its immediate surroundings. A third of a century has passed since that memorable assemblage in the Capital City, and yet the memory of it among those who were present will linger with them vividly until the end of their days.

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#### GEN. NATHANIEL LYON.

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The fact that this brave soldier fell while leading the First Iowa Infantry at the battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo., will always endear his memory to the people of our State. For this reason, as well as for the merit of the paper itself, we are glad to publish in the present number of THE

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