

bodily more of our history than can at present be found in any other form; therefore,

Resolved, (by the Senate, the House concurring): That the Trustees of the Iowa State Library and the Historical Department be, and they are hereby requested to make inquiries and report at the next session of the Legislature upon what terms said work can be republished by the State, and the cost thereof, for an edition of 1,000 copies.

This action gives a strong evidence of the interest which is now rapidly developing in our State in favor of improving every facility for the study of Iowa and western history. It will be noticed that this movement is not directed to the narrow purpose of benefitting any one interest or locality, but to place this very scarce and now most precious historical work in libraries throughout the State. The history of Iowa is one of which every citizen may well be proud, but up to this time it only exists in the shape of scattered materials for such a work. We believe that the next two or three years will see books published which will vastly widen this department of our knowledge. In that time the public will doubtless be able to see and appreciate more fully the labors of Dr. Wm. Salter, Jesse Macy, B. F. Gue, B. F. Shambaugh, F. I. Herriott, and perhaps others, who are now striving to bring something like order out of the chaos of the past fifty years.

TWO INTERESTING PAPERS.

Mr. J. T. Fields, of Omaha, Nebraska, has deposited in the Historical Department the original copies of two papers discharging William Bratton from the military service of the United States. He was first a member of the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River (1804-6). This expedition returned to St. Louis in September, 1806, and the discharge was dated a few days later. This paper seems to be in the handwriting of Capt. Meriwether Lewis, by whom it is signed in two places. It is more than usually interesting from the fact that it is all

in pen-writing, and not upon a blank form with spaces to be filled; and from the further fact that Capt. Lewis pays a hearty tribute to the zeal and fidelity of Private Bratton, a record of which a soldier might well be proud. This paper reads as follows:

St. Louis, October 10, 1806.

To all whom it may concern: Know ye, that the bearer hereof, William Bratton, private in a corps destined for the discovery of the interior of the continent of North America, having faithfully discharged his duty in said capacity so long as his services have been necessary to complete the objects of a voyage to the Pacific Ocean, is, in virtue of the authority invested in me by the President of the United States, hereby discharged from the military service of said States; and as a tribute justly due the merits of the said William Bratton, I with cheerfulness declare that the ample support which he gave me under every difficulty, the manly firmness which he evinced on every necessary occasion, and the fortitude with which he bore the fatigues and painful sufferings incident to that long voyage, entitles him to my highest confidence and sincere thanks; while it eminently recommends him to the consideration and respect of his fellow-citizens.

MERIWETHER LEWIS, *Capt.*,
1st U. S. Regt. Infy.

This endorsement is on the back of the discharge.

I certify that the within named William Bratton has received from me all arrears of pay, clothing and rations due him by the United States from the date of his enlistment to the present date.

MERIWETHER LEWIS, *Capt.*,
1st U. S. Regt. Infy.

OCTOBER 10TH, 1806.

The other paper discharges Private Bratton from the military service in the war of 1812. This is on a little, old-fashioned printed blank, the names having been filled in with a pen. It reads as follows—the last sentence being in writing:

I hereby certify that William Bratton, a private of Capt. Paschal Hutman's company of the First Rifle Regiment of the Kentucky Volunteer Militia, detached under the act of Congress of the 10th day of April, 1812, has duly served the United States of America in his tour of six months; and is hereby, in pursuance of the General Order of the commanding General, WILLIAM H. HARRISON, honorably discharged. Given under my hand, at Frankfort, this 27th day of March, 1813.

M. D. HARDIN, *Major*,
Commandant First Rifle Regiment, K. V. M.

William Bratton is a prisoner of war, having been taken at Frenchtown on the 22d Jan., 1813.

M. D. HARDIN.

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