

FRONTIER WAR PROBLEMS

LETTERS OF SAMUEL RYAN CURTIS
PIONEER - CONGRESSMAN - ENGINEER - SOLDIER

The State of Iowa has the good fortune to possess a most spacious public park surrounding and setting off an attractive state capitol, which could become, by the carrying out of the plans long ago adopted, one of the most beautiful state capitol areas of the world. A prominent feature of this capitol park is a monument to the memory of the soldiers and sailors of the war for the preservation of the Union. Upon this monument there are a number of representations of the faces or the figures of men who took part in that war. Not one of these men would ever have referred to that war as other than the great American Rebellion. To any proposal that their monument should be torn down for scrap metal without regard to sentimental or historic value they would have reacted with a vigorous challenge of wholesome patriotism. It is regrettable that the plan so well laid and embalmed into law for having this Iowa Soldiers and Sailors monument removed to a more acceptable place on the capitol park, has been long neglected. In some other period of world calm, when men can pause to measure the currents of history and appraise the contributions of the generations, the work of completing the capitol grounds of the State will be accomplished.

There are four striking figures upon this Iowa monument. They are equestrian statues of four Iowans prominent in the War of the Rebellion. One is that of Major Gen: Samuel Ryan Curtis. He was an Iowa pioneer. He was typical of the men who came across the old Northwest Territory and ferried over the big river to assist in creating a new state that was to be dedicated to freedom.

Samuel R. Curtis symbolized the Iowa of his time.

He was born somewhere on the dusty road from the Atlantic coast to the new inland empire of the then west. About the time that Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis were joining up for Indian warfare along the Mississippi river, Curtis came out of the Military Academy, and turned to the law. The war with Mexico found him in Ohio and he commanded a regiment in that short contest. Later removing to Iowa, he became the first republican member of congress from the district of southern Iowa. He witnessed the miserable break down of federal authority at the nation's capital which preceded the final resort to arms to settle political issues that had always in the past been silenced by compromises or evasions. Congressman Curtis was quick to give up his seat as a legislator to take up a sword in defense of his country.

It is true that Massachusetts and New York soldiers were first to stand guard at the national capital, because organization had been maintained in those state in anticipation of the irrepressible conflict; but out on the frontier, of which Iowa was a part, there was ready response to the needs of the nation for defense. It was early seen that inasmuch as the long controversy over free soil and slavery had hinged upon the status of new territories and new states, much of the armed controversy would also be along the frontier. Congressman Curtis lived at Keokuk, which was right on the border between conflicting views of patriotic duty. The threats of angry disputants could be heard. He had been close to the first scenes of rioting that menaced the national capital. He knew his own beloved home state and home city were in danger. It was inevitable that Curtis should be first in the frontier warfare. He did not hesitate.

The statue of General Curtis on the Iowa monument shows him in the role of major general of infantry. He did not attain this rank without fighting for it. A letter from James Harlan, then a United States senator from Iowa, stated that he was informed that the policy of President Lincoln as to appointment of a soldier to be

major general was that "he desires to keep these places open for a while 'to let the Brigadiers fight for them.'" General Curtis did fight and won a commission as major general. The letters here printed, and those that were printed in this publication in July and October of 1942, reveal what manner of man he was and why he attained the high rank.

The student of history who seeks light on the problems in conducting frontier war in America would do well to read not only the letters here printed but those previously given. They are interesting and illuminating. They deal with names familiar to all students of history. They open the door to a better understanding of the difficulties under which the defense of the Union was conducted. The grim realities of war change little with the centuries. These letters reveal how once the change-over from peaceful industry to readiness for war was accomplished. The Iowa pioneers who sought peaceful homes were quickly transformed into fighting units. General Curtis played an important part in this disagreeable job.

The concluding letters of the series follow.

St. Louis

Dec. 9, 1861.

Sir:

For the purpose of systematizing, and rendering more effective and satisfactory, the Custom House Service on the Mississippi, I very respectfully make the following suggestions:—

1st. Entire co-operation between the several Surveyors of Customs and the Provost Marshal General of the District of Missouri.

2nd. The use upon steamboats running either above or below St. Louis, of the books you have prepared, and the oath you have prescribed in your General Orders No. 5.

3rd. Upon every boat, at least one officer, (either the Captain, the First Clerk, or the Mate,) shall be selected by the owners or runners subject to the approval of the Provost Marshal and the Surveyor of the Port.

4th. Officers and crew alike, and without any exception, to be required to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, in its strongest and most comprehensive form. And even to this ought to be added a restriction, which would completely tie up, for the time being, all boats *owned*, wholly or in part, by persons heretofore known and still continuing to be inimical to the Union.

5th. Notice to be given, by the Surveyor of Customs, to the Captain and the Shipping Clerk of every boat, on each trip, what places or landing, if any, either above or below this city, they are not to touch at for the purpose of discharging freight; similar notice to be given as to what places or landings, if any, they are not to touch at for the purpose of receiving freight; and a general notice to be served upon them, when they first engage in the trade of the river under these stipulations, that they are to receive no freight at the Port of St. Louis, or at any Port within this District which may from time to time be designated by the Surveyor, unless such freight be accompanied by a Custom House Permit duly executed. And a further notice to be given them, that if either of these stipulations shall be disregarded by them, the privileges of the river, for the time being, will forthwith be withdrawn from them, and such other proceedings be had against them as may be deemed necessary and proper.

6th. The Surveyor of Customs to detail one of his Deputies or Clerks upon this special service, to whom it shall be entirely committed, and or [?] the proper supervision of the Surveyor; which deputy or clerk, so detailed by him, shall be approved by the Provost Marshall General.

Regulations like these, properly put in force, will, I believe, fully protect the interests of the Government, and at the same time attain the desirable end, an end which I know the Secretary of the Treasury has constantly in view,—of leaving the transit and commerce of the river as free and unembarrassed as Safety will allow. The Surveyor of the Port will zealously co-operate

with the Provost Marshall General in putting and continuing such regulations in force, and in applying the Stated penalty for any disregard of them.

If these suggestions meet your approbation, I would respectfully propose that the contracts now existing for steamboats for Government service be annulled, and that the ordinary competition of the steamboat interest be then [?] left open for Government freights as for other freights.

Should an Inspector of Customs be found necessary at Chester, which I think will be the case,—I have authority to appoint one.

Very Respectfully Yours
W. D. Gallagher,
Special Agt. Treasury Dept.

P.S. I have made to Col. Farrar⁷⁹ such suggestions as I deem necessary for the protection of the interests of the Government so far as travel Westward by Railroad is concerned.

To Brigadier General
S. R. Curtis,
Commanding,
St. Louis District

Head Quarters St. Louis Dist.
St. Louis Mo. Decr 12. 1861

His Excy
A. Lincoln
President

The Hon. Col. Vandever informs me by letter that in a private conversation you kindly spoke of my deserving promotion. He also says that the Secretary of war expressed himself in favor of my being a Major General. All this is very agreeable and flattering to me. But you also remarked that General McClellan was "now well satisfied with your [my] Course" carrying the implication that he may at some time have been dissatisfied.

⁷⁹Bernard G. Farrar, maj. aid de camp of Missouri State troops, later col. Mo. Inf. and U. S. Artillery, and a brvt. brig. gen.

I had prepared full explanations with a map of the forts of St. Louis to send the Commander in Chief, when Major Genl Halleck arrived; but upon a suggestion of my purpose, with Consent of the New Commander; General Halleck expressed a desire to present the matter himself.

The Commander in Chief will perceive that I was thus prevented from explaining what may have appeared in terse telegraphic Correspondence a want of fidelity or lack of judgment.

I may so far intrude on your indulgence as to say the serious and petty Complications of the Fremont affair could not be detailed without needless imposition on your time; and assure you that no consequences to myself induced a moments delay, or a shadow of turning in the firm execution of your orders.

I hope no shadow may fall upon my path, because of my part in that affair; and earnestly desire that education long service zeal and fidelity, may entitle me to the confidence of the President and the Commander in Chief.

I made some sacrifice when I resigned a seat in Congress to take the hazards of Military reputation, even as a Brigadier; and at my period of life I am justified in seeking advancement by all honorable means.

My Command (24,000 men) my influence, my usefulness should however be the inducements to promotion; and I trust that my abilities and deserts will receive kind consideration from those under whom I have the honor to serve.

Hoping your Excellency will pardon this intrusion in behalf of myself I have the honor to remain

Your excellencies obt. servt.

Saml. R. Curtis

Brig. Genl.

[copy]

Washington, D. C.

Brig. Genl. S. R. Curtis.

Dec. 12, 1861

My dear Sir,

I snatch a moment to both thank you, and apologise

to you—In all sincerity I thank you for the complete and entirely satisfactory manner in which you executed the tasks I confided to you by letter.⁸⁰

You, and others, particularly, and the public service generally, were wronged, and injured by the publication of Gen. Thomas' report, on his return from the West. I have no apology only to say it never would have been done, if I had had the least suspicion it was to be done. Being done, I thought the maxim "least said, soonest mended" applied to the case.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln

P. O. Dept. 24th Dec. /61

Dear General:

I made one more attempt last night to further your wishes, as I understood them to be indicated in your letter to me of the 6th inst. The Prest expressed his high opinion of you & your judgment, spoke of the difficulty of satisfying the claims of different states, wanted my opinion of Dodge⁸¹ in writing; but said he could not now say that he could appoint another Brig. from Iowa. But he also seemed clearly opposed to app'g *more* than one additional.

The cabinet will make every effort to avert war with England.⁸² It can only be precipitated by her deliberate intent to force her armstrong guns upon us. The Govt will even concede all doubts in her favor in the Slidell affair, & will concede the irregularity of their arrest, (without the intervention of an admiralty Court), and would release them if necessary, I think, preferring the issue of national existence to that of national pride.

⁸⁰Refers to the commission given Curtis to forward the order of dismissal to Fremont, and the other orders contained in the presidential letter of Oct. 24. See above.

⁸¹Grenville M. Dodge, Col. 4th Iowa Inf., rose to brig. gen. of vols. March 21, 1862, and maj. gen. of vols, June 7, 1864. He achieved great reputation during the war as a railroad engineer, a profession he had worked at before 1861, and which as chief engineer of the Union Pacific and other roads he was to gain even greater fame in post-war years.

⁸²The "Trent Affair" arose when U. S. Capt. Wilkes stopped the British vessel *Trent* on its way to England Nov. 8, 1861, removed two Confederate agents, James M. Mason and James Slidell. The action did not conform to Continental law. British complaints threatened a breach of relationships and possible war, until Lincoln ordered the return of the two agents in December.

With this spirit a war seems possible only by her own determined will. If it comes, I trust it will be to the hilt of the knife; and I will enlist with any 3 well selected regiments to invade England as Pizarro invaded Mexico, burning every unwallled city in the march & burning the ships that carry us as we leave them.

I remain with sincere regard

Yr frd & obt Servt
John A. Kasson⁸³

Head Quarters, Department of the Missouri,
St. Louis, Mo. Dec. 25th 1861

Special Order No. 92.

* * *

III . . Brigr Genl. S. R. Curtis is assigned to the Command of the South Western Distr. of Missouri, including the country south of the Osage and West of the Merrimac River.

By order of Major General Halleck
J. C. Kelton.
Asst. Adjt. General

Camp Herron, Pacific City [Mo.]
Dec. 27. 1861

Captain.

Part of this force have struck their tents and will move within an hour towards Rolla and I will go with them. Colonel Maupin takes command with directions to report to you and me also. There are no foes here except some of the great resident sorte that will be carefully watched. Some of these were taken prisoners, condemned and sent to St. Louis where they procured sundry discharges with orders on the Quarter Master in some instances to deliver back arms. The Provost Marshals must not be allowed to disparage military fidelity in this way.

⁸³John A. Kasson, a leading Iowa Republican politician and diplomat who helped shape the 1860 Chicago platform, was named 1st Asst. Postmaster General in 1861, and made a marked success of that office. Prominent in many later international negotiations, Kasson also served as minister abroad at Vienna and Berlin. He likewise served in Congress at three separate periods.

I have ordered new arrests for new offenders and some open expressions of exultation at rascality on the W. Missouri Rail Road will be regarded as encouragement and the offenders again sent down. There are about 580 Missouri Militia Service men that are expecting to be mustered out on Monday. They need pay as all these Home Guards do. Indeed it is absolutely necessary that payment should be made. But I doubt the propriety of *entire payment and discharge* just at this time. They are armed and drilled to this Service. It would be better to pay up to the first of December and leave the *final muster out and last payment* for a more convenient season. There is some danger that some heedless discharged troops might be lead off into mischief. I attach considerable importance to this matter and hope it will be brought to the special attention of the General.

I take all the blankets and overcoats and good pants and good arms that I find deposited here, and design to do all I can to prepare against the cold as well as the armed foes.

Very Respectfully Yours;
S. R. Curtis,
Brigr Gen.

Capt J. C. Kelton
A. A. G.

Camp near Rolla December 28th 1861

General

To avoid misunderstanding and to know my position as an officer and commander, I beg leave to request you, to send me the date of your commission as a Brigadier General.

I am General
yours
Very respectfully
F. Sigel
B Genl

Rolla Dec 28. 1861

General

Your note enquiring as to the date of my Commission is received.

My Commission is dated 17th May the same as yours. (See Army Register page 13.).

I stand 19th on the list of Brigadiers, and you as the 25th—You will therefore see there is no question about our relative rank.

I have telegraphed for a copy of my order to assume command of the W S District

I am General

Very truly your obdt servt

Saml R. Curtis

Brig Gen'l

To Genl F. Sigel

Head Quarters

South Western Dist of Missouri

Rolla Mo Dec 28, 1861

Colonel

In my absence you will command the Cavalry expedition which is ordered to move from this point tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock. At an early period you will ascertain and report to me the strength of your command, which I estimate at 1700.

You are expected to go beyond Springfield, or so far as to feel the enemy; and if in broken ranks fall on him and cut him to pieces. If found in superior numbers, and with artillery and infantry in force; you will not give him battle, but strive to draw him up by cautious and safe retrograde movements.

You will carefully husband your supplies, by adopting measures for using whatever you can procure by the way.

Let all foraging be done under orders of prudent officers, giving certificates of the amount and value of property taken of good Union men, but giving no certificates to those who are in rebellion against the United States.

Persons deserting from the retreating army and surrendering to us, may be received and discharged upon

taking an oath of allegiance to the United States and obligating themselves to forfeit their lives property and honor if they betray our National Government, or return to the rebel army.

You will avoid the incumbrance of your command with contraband property, by sending it back to these Head Quarters at your earliest convenience.

You will advise me frequently of your progress and avoid undue exposures to the enemy and the difficulties of procuring supplies.

Approaching near the enemy, leave your train with a portion of your command, and dash down upon him with the forage and rations you can carry on your horses, hurrying back to the support of your train.

I am Colonel
Very truly yours
Sam'l R Curtis

Col E A Carr
3d Ills Cavy

Rolla Decr 30. 1861

My dear wife

I arrived here Thursday Evening at 8 Oclock and immediately arranged for sending out the Cavelry which moved yesterday morning. It made a good show, but is not large enough to fight Prices whole army—We may harrass his retreating column. I think some of following and overtaking the Command tomorrow; but it will depend on the arrangements that can be made today. My Major seem to have made no preparations whatever for living further than to order tents which have just arrived. William says he has his old "Kit" and I may pick up some Pork and beans here. The sugar you sent will be a convenient item in the way of stores all of which should have been bought in St. Louis where they would cost far less and be much better than I can get here. Of course my duties have been very arduous, but I have found them interesting. It is now 4 P.M. and I have been in the saddle all day, missing my dinner.

I have been the guest of Col Dodge since my arrival,

where I have a comfortable room with a fire in it; but I am not so much at home as I would be in my own tent, and I have therefore a longing desire to have my own premises.

This is a very rough little country town. The hills are very rocky and the whole country is a timber land the trees generally oak, with the leaves shielding the troops from storms.

It is dry now here in town, but in rainy weather it must be awful muddy and there is not a rod of sidewalk that I have yet seen.

Camp would therefore be far better and I am bound to go into a tent. The weather too is so delightful at present it seems to entice one out doors. I am weary today and have snatched a moment to write you this the first letter since I left home—or rather St Louis.

Col Dodge, as the papers informed you was badly wounded the night I arrived by a shot from his pocket pistol. I arrived just in time to see the ball carefully extracted, and he is getting along very well.

I have just heard from my Cavelry. They are getting on very well.

As usual I am in excellent health. Troubled a little with dyspepsia when weary.

The rest of our friends all well.

I am in a great quandry as to going on or staying till more of a fighting Command takes the field. The Cavelry could do nothing against Artillery and do not expect to more than attack stragling rebels: but they may do considerable in the way and I am anxious to go with them.

Affectionately yours
Saml. R. Curtis

Senate Chamber
Dec. 30th. 1861

Dear General

I have seen the President on the subject of yours of the 12th inst. He speaks in the most complimentary terms

of you and is disposed to favor our request; but says that he desires to keep these places open for a while "to let the Brigadiers fight for them."

Do not deem any thing I can do to promote your well-fare a trouble to me. Let me hear from you soon

Yours truly,

Jas Harlan

Head Quarters

S W Department

Rolla Dec 31 1861

Captain

I over stated the number of my Cavalry moving towards Springfield: Two companies of the Benton Hussars were erroneously included in the report to me. There are only 1346. I have sent forward two companies to night to guard returning wagons that carried out provisions. I still have four companies of Cavalry at Salem, and to day a scouting party under Colonel Richardson of the State troops came in from Linn Creek. He left "West Glaize" neighborhood (Camden County) yesterday. There was news there of 5000 rebels at Springfield, but it was not reliable. Price was in Orleans Polk County a week ago last Sunday.

Col Carr reported 30 miles out his arrangements, which would bring him within 52 of Springfield at this time. He will then make forced march without any camp equipment to the city of Springfield if he does not feel too strong a force on this side.

My expectation is that he will be there Thursday morning if he is not checked by the rebels.

I had arranged to join him to night but the duties here are imperious. The resignation of Brigr Genl Sigel has caused a mutinous murmur in ranks heretofore sufficiently turbulent. Officers have been collecting in the 3d Division and considering the question of a general resignation. I had seen no manifestation of the kind when I inspected the camp on Monday. General Sigel was unable to be out in consequence illness, but his officers seemed in good humor and his camps were all quiet. It

would be a benefit to them to move them immediately if it were not more than ten miles. I have been ordered "from pillow to post" ever since the first day of June last, sometimes as I thought to accommodate more officious comrades, but I have no patience with service claims and make none myself. I do not however concede to others a right to choose over my rank, all the leading movements, because they have had such distinguished honors before.

Col Osterhaus⁸⁴ accompanied me through General Sigels Division. He seems to be a leading spirit in that Division and I think his good sense will lead him to act wisely and assist me in preserving the good order of this command, which it will be my purpose by the most earnest efforts to secure.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
yours
Sam'l R Curtis
Brig Gen'l

Capt. J C Kelton
A A Gen'l
St Louis
Mo.

Head Quarters 3d Division Army of the S W
Camp near Rolla Dec. 31. 1861

Sir

I hereby tender my resignation, unconditionally and immediate, for the following reason.

Before leaving St Louis, I was verbally and afterwards by Telegraph ordered to take the command of the troops at and near Rolla, and to discipline and prepare them to take the field; but after having begun this work and been in command for five days, I was superceded by Brig Gen'l Curtis, whose commission bears the same date as mine.

Although the name of the General appears before mine in the Army Register, I regard this proceeding against

⁸⁴Peter Joseph Osterhaus, Prussian born, was a maj. of Missouri inf. at the outbreak of the war, became Col 12th Missouri Inf. in Dec., 1861, a brig. gen. of vols. in 1862, and a major gen. in 1864.

me under the present circumstances, as not consistent with my feeling of justice and honor.

Having made now three campaigns in the South West of Missouri, I thought it not more than just, to have given me an opportunity to reconquer under favorable circumstances, the same country which I assisted to defend with unequal forces, and under the greatest difficulties and hardships. And to be superceded in the moment, when at the head of an army prepared to strike the last blow to our enemies in this State, must naturally involve the opinion, that I did not possess the confidence of higher authorities and that I was not able to perform the duties resting on me as a soldier and commander.

I am Sir

Very respectfully

F Sigel

Brig Gen'l Comdg

To Major Chipman

A. A A Genl S W Dist.

House of Reps.

Decem. 31—1861

S R Curtis

Brigr. Genl. U. S. A.

St. Louis Mo.

General

I returned to the City this morning after an absence of a week. I repaired at once to the department & made requisition, for 1200 Sharps Carbines—1200 Colts revolvers—& 1200 Aimes Sabers—but there is no certainty about getting them very soon for the supply is exhausted, and the manufacturers supply them slowly. I found a requisition in ahead of all others for shipping 2000 of each of these articles to Genl. Jim Lane,⁸⁵ and ten thousand stand of arms [illegible] to be sent forward to Fort Leavenworth for his use.

⁸⁵James H. Lane, colorful figure in Kansas politics, leader in free soil migration to that state, and friend of Lincoln's, was active in leading the military forces of Kansas against Price's Missouri followers. Named a brig. gen. in June, 1861, his commission was cancelled in 1862. In the post war period he opposed the radicals.

assured me they would do all they could to supply you speedily and immediately gave the order to Maj. Hagner of New York to send forward to Capt'n Collender for your uses. My requisition was not in form but they disregarded the formality. I think you had better make the requisition in form yourself and with Genl. Hallecks approval endorsed I will get it supplied before some others now pending. Carbines, Pistols & sabers of the right kind are very scarce

I have had Enfield rifles ordered for Col. Woods regmt. the 12th. No news to day. I hear however of a steady advance toward the enemy on the other side of the Potomac

Very respty
Your obdt Servt
Wm Vandever

[Captain Phillip H. Sheridan, 13th Infantry, was assigned to General Curtis's South Western Missouri command as Chief Quartermaster and Commissary, by notice of Special Orders No. 2, December 29, 1861]

Headquarts South Western Dist of Mo
Rolla Mo January 4th 1862

Special Order
No 5

The Commanding General of the District is ordered to have this command ready to march at a moment's warning. It contemplates and requires immediate and vigorous preparation for a winter campaign in a rough and rather desolate country.—such a movement will demand all the energy, courage, and segacity [sic] that officers and men can exert. Officers and privates must so arrange their baggage as to be ready to leave all surplusage without the least delay. Boxes will be provided by the Quartermasters for this purpose on the proper requisitions or orders of officers: and they should be plainly marked, and ready to pack and turn over.

Two pairs of shoes, socks, drawers undershirts, and pantloons, one coat and one over coat will be allowed.

Bed ticks and extra blankets may also be carried, at the discretion of company officers. The requisite number of Tents should be retained, but no more than necessary. Field and Staff Officers are expected to reduce their equipments in propotion [sic] to that required for companies and company officers will be arranged for close quarters, similar to, but not so narrow as that of the privates.

For non commissioned officers and privates the maximum will be

Eighteen to a Fremont Tent

Fifteen to a Sibley Tent

Ten to a Wall Tent

Six to a Common Tent

No stoves but those of sheet iron will be transported. No more cooking utensils than appear absolutely necessary will be allowed. And the company officers will see that the mess is so arranged as to require as little as possible.

Articles such as chairs, stools, and luxuries of every kind, will be prepared to be turned over at a moments warning. Bands, Sutlers and extra servants will be left behind, and extra horses, public or private turned over to the Post Quartermaster, the moment an order to this effect is issued. The proper officers will forwith see to the early execution of this order, having inspections of Regiments, Companies and files from day to day till every extra article is in condition to be deposited in a few hours after final order to move may be given.

Quartermasters, Commissaries and surgeons are expected to study the utmost economy, without neglecting all necessary provisions for their departments. No extra or useless arms will be taken but all commanders will see that ample and proper ammunition is provided. Each man must have a Haversack & Knacksack, and company officers will immediately inspect the men, and see to the procuring of all little necessaries for field duties; and every man must see to the preservation of his personal effects as his life may depend upon it. This order will

be published to Regiments and Companies if possible in the hearing of every soldier and translated to our comrades of different languages. A prompt response to a call for duty and a readiness to move with celerity, and a brave exhibition of endurance will command the admiration of our comrade of other fields and receive the cordial commendation of the Commanding General.

By order of Brig Genl Curtis

N. P. Chipman

Maj & A A A Genl

LOOKING TO IOWA'S CENTENNIAL

With Iowa's statehood centennial only three years away—it will fall in 1946—it isn't too early for our state to begin preparations for an observance worthy of the event. It doesn't require an optimist to think that the war will be victoriously ended by that time.

In 1939 Iowa did an outstanding job of celebrating its territorial centennial. Public morale was measurably lifted by the observances staged in the various towns and counties of the state. The statehood centennial will be an even more auspicious occasion and this should be reflected in a stepped-up observance.

Senator Stewart of Maynard, Fayette county, has introduced in the legislature a bill authorizing the governor to appoint a permanent nine-member Centennial committee to report to the 1945 assembly. A modest appropriation would be provided the state historical department to defray necessary postage and clerical expenses while the groundwork is being laid.

Having been active in the territorial centennial program and observed at close range the benefits which came to Iowa by reason of it, this newspaper is very hopeful that the Stewart measure will have the ready and enthusiastic approval of the legislature.

Now is the time to work if the observance is to be well-planned. The next legislature will be too late if we want a complete job done. And surely we do. — *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, March 25, 1943.

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