

Civil War Statues at the

by John Zeller

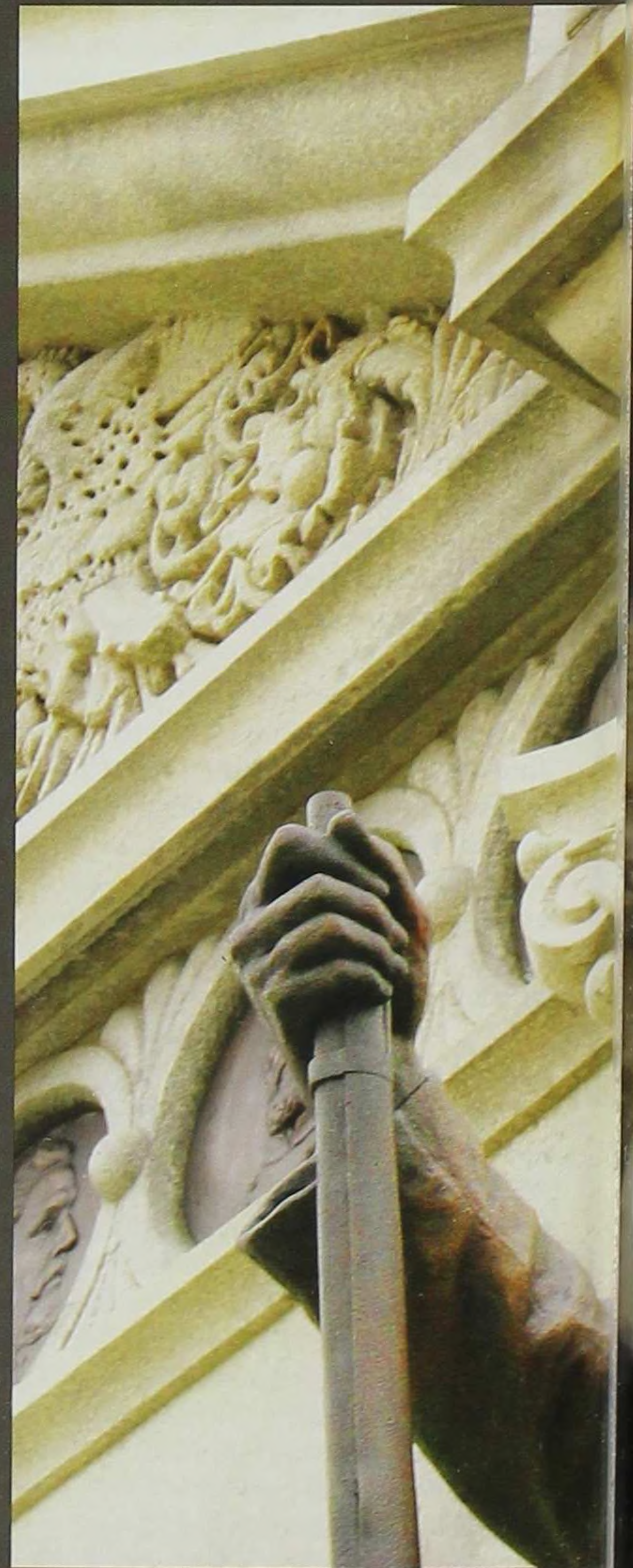
As a lifelong photographer in Des Moines, I have been drawn to the state capitol for years to capture the emotions that its sculptors, artists, and architects intended. Scattered across the expansive capitol grounds are a handful of Civil War monuments that are particularly powerful and evocative. One of these is the 135-foot *Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument*. I've photographed it often—from different angles and at different times of day, as long shots and close-ups. Four of those close-ups appear here and on the cover.

I encourage you to visit the capitol and stroll the grounds for yourself, spending some time with these mute testaments. Perhaps they will speak to you as they have to me.

And take a picture.

On the upper part of the base of the *Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument*, four statues depict individual Iowans who fought for the Union. This one represents the infantry. Shelby Norman, Company A, 1st Iowa Infantry, was killed in Iowa's first battle, at Wilson's Creek in Missouri in August 1861.

Portrayed here with a smile and flowers, 18-year-old Norman is generally accepted as Iowa's first fatal casualty of the war, although historian Leland Sage makes a strong argument for others in his 1977 article in *The Palimpsest*.



Iowa and the Civil War

Iowa Capitol



Civil War Statues at the Iowa Capitol

by John Zeller

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Representing the cavalry on the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument is 1st Lt. James Horton, Company K, 8th Iowa Cavalry. At age 22 in July 1864, he was acting regimental adjutant when he was shot while leading a charge against the Confederates in Georgia.

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William H. C. Michael served in Company B, 11th Iowa Infantry, in Missouri and at Shiloh and was discharged for injuries. But on the monument, he represents the navy because he reenlisted as a mate in the Mississippi Squadron. He served at Vicksburg and other engagements along the river. He also acted as commander at the Clarendon battle on the White River and was promoted for gallantry.

Iowan Henry Holcomb Griffiths (not shown) represents the artillery on the *Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument*.

Many more photos by John Zeller of the capitol and grounds are on display at the Iowa City center of the State Historical Society of Iowa, 402 Iowa Avenue.