

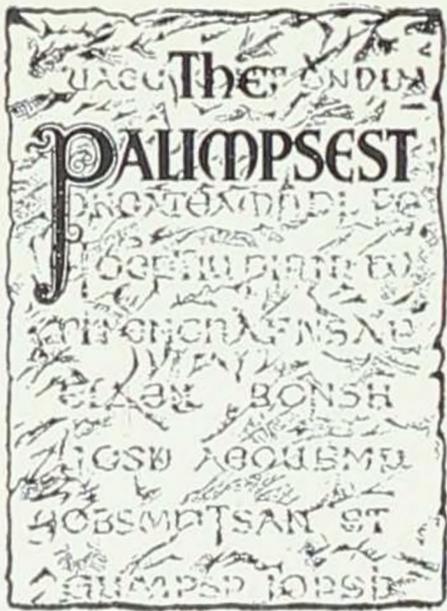
The
PALIMPSEST



KATE HARRINGTON
DAUGHTERS OF HAWKEYELAND

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The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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THE PALIMPSEST

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Women in History

The American frontier line moved westward across Iowa during the space of a half century of time. It first impinged on the Half-breed Tract in Lee County in 1830. During the next four decades it swept inexorably over broad prairies until 1870 when only the four northwesternmost counties — Lyon, Sioux, Osceola, and O'Brien — remained beyond the frontier. By 1880 the frontier line had left Iowa behind, pushing beyond the Big Sioux River and penetrating well into Dakota and Nebraska. A decade later, in 1890, the United States Census Bureau declared the frontier line, heretofore measureable, had bounded across the Rockies, reached the Pacific, and left only islands of unpopulated mountains and wasteland in its wake.

The rugged frontiersman is usually credited with the conquest of the prairies, plains, and mountains lying between the Mississippi and the Pacific. Too little attention has been paid those courageous women who went hand in hand with

their husbands and families to brave the hardships of pioneer life. These women not only raised families but played a stellar role in promoting the religious, educational, and cultural pattern of the American frontier. This is particularly true in Iowa.

Women were numbered among the first to penetrate the Half-breed Tract in Lee County. Maria Stillwell, wife of Moses Stillwell, was probably the first white woman to make a permanent residence in Iowa, coming to what is now Keokuk in 1828. The following year Dr. Isaac Galland brought his wife and family from Edgar County, Illinois, and settled on the west bank of the Mississippi at Nashville in Lee County. In 1830 Isaac Campbell arrived with his wife. By the close of that year several families were clustered about Nashville, and a school was built for their children. This was the first school in Iowa and it was opened three years before permanent settlement began in the Black Hawk Purchase.

Farther up the Mississippi, two intrepid women claim the honor of being the first to settle at Dubuque. In September of 1832, Hosea T. Camp moved with his family into a log hut on the island adjoining Dubuque. It is said, however, that Mrs. Noble F. Dean was rowed over to Dubuque in the fall of 1832, and spent the night in a cabin there. These incidents transpired in Iowa before the Indians vacated the Black Hawk Purchase on June

1, 1833, paving the way for permanent white settlement in Iowa.

In the years that followed, births, marriages, divorces, and even a claim jumping feud that involved a gun-toting heroine — Louisa Massey — add color and interest to the Iowa story. By 1838 the Territorial Census revealed the proportion of males to females was only four to three, the ratio of women probably being that high because the census included boys and girls who must have been about equal in number. The average number of members per household in 1838 seems to have been between five and six.

The arrival of pioneers in family units was particularly noticeable in the overland migration to Iowa. "So far as I could learn," one observer wrote, "no person in all that multitude traveled alone, or unattached to a family; and of the very few unmarried men among them each was usually, if not in every case, a member or a near relative of the family to which he was attached." This migration of females westward was not limited to the poor. During the fall of 1839 Governor Robert Lucas and his two daughters visited the site of the newly-selected seat of government in Iowa City. Truly the Iowa frontier held no fear for even the more sheltered women.

Although the Census of 1838 reveals more females present in the Black Hawk Purchase than generally suspected, it should be remembered that

women were very much in demand on the Iowa frontier. They married young, and newly arrived females seldom remained single very long. At Dubuque, where males outnumbered females 1,381 to 928, women were fondly remembered in the thirteenth toast delivered at the Fourth of July celebration in 1838. "The Fair of Iowa — May they all be blessed with matrimonial felicity; kind, warm hearted souls, God bless them." As the band bravely struck up "Haste to the Wedding," a lump must have formed in the throat of many a lonely bachelor, for women were scarcest in the mineral region.

Women played a leading role in the establishment of schools and in the founding of Sunday schools and churches. They contributed to and helped organize the first church in Iowa — the Methodist Church at Dubuque. In 1836 Mrs. Louisa King opened a school for young ladies in Dubuque which lasted until 1839. Her daughter, Louisa F. King, assisted her as a member of the teaching staff. In 1839 Miss King became instructor in modern languages in the first classical school in Iowa, Thomas H. Benton, Jr., being in charge. A generation later this same Thomas H. Benton, then Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Iowa, reported that 599 out of the 1,339 schoolteachers in Iowa were females. Out of a random group of 100 teachers 32 per cent were under 21, while 88 per cent were under 32 years,

graphic testimony of the youth of the frontier. Unhappily, men received double the salary of women, and it was being urged that more female teachers be employed to train the "plastic" minds of Iowa children. Equally significant is the fact that only one Iowa-born teacher was listed out of 556 teachers whose place of birth was recorded in 1854.

The women who settled in Iowa before the Civil War were leaders not only in religion and education, but also in the temperance movement, the Abolitionist crusade, and Woman's Rights. Their resourcefulness is revealed by the fact that at least one woman, Lucy Earll, who served as postmistress in Muscatine during the 1840's, married Oliver Hudson Kelley, the first telegraph operator in Muscatine, who became a founder of the Patrons of Husbandry, or National Grange.

Iowa editors in general were keenly alert to the need for making way for women in various fields. On August 31, 1872, the *Estherville Northern Vindicator* quoted the following item from the *New Northwest* entitled "Girls, Learn Trades."

Would this advice could reach every girl in the land. The great curse of woman is her dependence and helplessness. And these are caused mainly by her having no trade or profession by which she may earn a livelihood and be independent. And not only girls need this advice, but their mothers also. Mothers should impress upon the minds of their daughters, as much as upon the minds of

their sons, that it is their duty to be self-supporting members of the Commonwealth. But this is far from being the prevalent opinion to-day. The common idea is that it is not woman's place to do any kind of work except unremunerative household drudgery. Girls are taught that marriage is the end and aim of their existence, and that it is the duty of their husbands to support them.

This might all be very well — although it is founded upon an unsound principle — if husbands did really support their wives; but they do not in the great majority of cases. And the consequence is that many, very many, with high aspirations and noble longings — who, if they were unfettered from the thralldom of the kitchen, would rise high in the ranks of their profession or avocation — are tied down to an unremunerative life of toil and drudgery. We do not say that woman should not cook or do housework, but we do say they should be allowed the same latitude of choice of the diversified labor of our country that men have. If a husband really loves and cherishes his wife as he should, would he not rather behold her in her chosen profession or avocation receiving remunerative employment than confined to the kitchen all her days?

It is worthy of mention that a decade after this editorial was written the October, 1884, issue of the *Annals of Iowa* (Second Series) featured an article by Jennie McCowen, A.M., M.D., entitled "Women in Iowa." The editor of this historical quarterly, the first publication of the State Historical Society of Iowa, observed in an editorial footnote that Dr. McCowen's article was "a notable example of what woman is doing and can do in Iowa." It had been prepared at the request of

the Iowa Commission for the World's Exposition which was being held in New Orleans.

Dr. McCowen based much of her article on the Federal Census of 1880 dealing with statistics on Iowa women. Her own personal experiences, her wide reading on the subject, as well as widespread inquiry throughout the state, are clearly reflected throughout the study. After praising Iowa's "progressive and liberal attitude" toward women, Dr. McCowen harkened back a half century to the time when women were first entering the Black Hawk Purchase in 1833.

In the "good old days" of our grandmothers there was more than enough work for women at home. But man invaded her "sphere," and with the invention of machinery one after another of her fireside employments was taken out of her hands. Her carding and dying, spinning and weaving have been absorbed by the factories; tallow dips are obsolete; the making of soap, one of the lost arts of the household; the hats and caps, and shoes which she made for herself and her children were long ago laughed to scorn; the making of men's clothing, as of youth's and children's as well, has been taken out of her hands by the immense manufactories, which are also grasping after the making of all kinds of women's furnishing goods, even down to the infant's bib. All this work and much more is now done out of the home, and done better, more rapidly and more cheaply by machinery. So that now there are many more women than are required to do the remaining work of the domestic circle.

After pointing out that the Census of 1880 revealed over eighty thousand Iowa women were

gainfully employed, Dr. McCowen noted that women had invested money in almost every kind of industry and business enterprise in the state. Many had become managers of wholesale and retail millinery firms, groceries, general dry goods and drugstores, and a variety of other stores handling china, fancy goods, toys, stationery, and books. The long list included women in straw works, hair works, photograph galleries, glove and hose factories, and jewelry. Mrs. Mary Turner was a stockholder, secretary and treasurer of the street railway in Des Moines, while a Mrs. McMurray was secretary of the Dey Mountain Mining and Milling Company in the same city.

Dr. McCowen referred with pride to the fact that women could also be found in pursuits supposed to be monopolized by men — from boiler makers, boot and shoe makers, and marble and stone workers, to pork-packers, barbers, blacksmiths, commercial travelers, and detectives. There had been a constant increase in the number of saleswomen, as well as in the number of bookkeepers and cashiers. According to Dr. McCowen:

We have two women who are presidents of banks, Mrs. L. A. Weiser, of Decorah, and Mrs. L. B. Stevens, of Marion; three who are brokers of money and stocks, four who are clerks and book-keepers in banks. An increasing number of young women have found employment in shorthand and type-writing. The number attending schools of this kind have increased rapidly. In nineteen schools in the State from which I have been able to collect statistics,

almost one-half the students are now young women. . . . Ladies can qualify themselves for court-reporting, but the duties are not so agreeable as the work in an office. We have one woman, however, Mrs. Fannie Harrison, of Clarksville, Iowa, who is doing most excellent and satisfactory work in this direction. Fifteen ladies are empowered to act as notaries public, there are five county recorders and various clerks, deputies, etc. The post-office and the offices of enrolling and engrossing clerks for both the House and the Senate have been filled by women for a number of years. The State librarian, the librarian of the State University, of many colleges and of many, if not most of the city libraries are women. . . . And lastly we have *manicures*, whose foothold in the list of our business enterprises ought certainly to gain us immunity from the further reproach of being "wild Westerners."

Dr. McCowen was especially pleased with the inventive genius of Iowa women as revealed by the following patents granted them:

- Miss Flora Grace, Webb City, for a thermometer
- Miss Eugenie Kilbourne, Cedar Rapids, egg beater and griddle greaser
- Mrs. I. T. Lamborn, attachment to door screens
- Viola J. Angier, Spencer, album for photographs
- Mrs. L. S. Avory, Manson, ironing board.

In education, in literature, in art and science, women had made giant strides. In her own field of medicine, Dr. McCowen observed, the balance in her bank account bore graphic testimony of the "increasing respect for and confidence in the capabilities of the woman practitioner of medicine." In 1880 there were 73 women doctors in Iowa.

Other professions were opening to women. Her investigations disclosed there were 43 registered pharmacists, 110 nurses, three lady dentists, and seven graduates of Iowa law schools. According to Dr. McCowen, Mrs. Emma Haddock of Iowa City was the "first woman" ever admitted to practice in the U. S. Courts.

After discussing the role of women as ministers, as leaders in benevolent and philanthropic enterprises, in the W.C.T.U. and Woman's Suffrage movement, and in fraternal organizations, Dr. McCowen declared her readers should not overlook the 310,896 women who are heads of families.

No work can be more ceaseless, more taxing, more deserving of appreciation at the hands of the commonwealth than the training up of the future citizens into healthful, useful and moral men and women; and many are the women to echo the sentiment of a mother of ten boys, who, when interviewed in regard to her public efforts, replied, "*I would rather be known as the mother of my boys.*"

The four women whose careers are sketched herein were born in other states, achieved considerable fame before coming to Iowa, but added greatly to the luster of their reputation as Daughters of Hawkeyeland. Three of the four — Bloomer, Harrington, and Sudlow — lie buried here. They have left an imperishable record for all to follow.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Amelia Jenks Bloomer

She stood at the back parlor entrance, a gracious old lady of seventy-two. Placid in black satin with its grey damascene front and frill of lace at the throat, Amelia Bloomer greeted Council Bluffs neighbors come to her Golden Wedding reception. Close by, her husband accepted congratulations. For thirty-five years the couple had occupied the same residence. Friends, calling on this afternoon of April 15, 1890, had almost forgotten their hostess as a militant female reformer who gave her name to a costume she did not originate. Rather, they thought of her as they had known her — “a dignified, serene-faced little woman,” walking on the grassy terrace near her home, plying her needle in the sunny nook of her bay window, and taking prizes for the best currant jam at the county fair.

The Bloomers had come to Iowa in 1855 in order that Dexter Chamberlain Bloomer might further himself as a frontier lawyer and editor. They were a part of that great sweep of people who, caught by the promise of Iowa's fertile prairie land, brought security and settlement to the Hawkeye State. As a river packet carried them from St. Louis to St. Joseph they must have been

astonished at the magnitude of the western country. Perhaps, as the yellow Missouri unfolded new vistas, their thoughts turned back to their marriage in Seneca Falls on April 15, 1840, when Bloomer was the struggling editor of a Whig newspaper and Amelia Jenks was publishing the *Lily*, a ladies' journal devoted to temperance and literature. No doubt they reviewed wistfully their home in Mount Vernon, Ohio, where they moved in 1853 to edit the *Western Home Visitor*.

It may be that Mrs. Bloomer recalled the satirical reception given by coarse male commentators to the novel costume she sponsored in 1851, and was still wearing. A contributor to *Yankee No-*

tions, however, recommended the new fashion of knee-length skirt over Turkish pantaloons.



For who would hear the scoffs
and jeers of boys,
The old maid's scandal, and the
young men's snigger.

Or she might have found encouragement and considerable comfort in a poetic endorsement which appeared in another publication — *The Carpetbag*:

The maids were very beautiful,
With ebon locks and tresses,
But what so much enhanced their charms,
Were those short Bloomer dresses.

Even the dour *Chamber's Edinburgh Journal* said kindly, "If the question is between the present skirts and Bloomerism, then we are Bloomerites," and *Bentley's Miscellany* was not too severe.

Down the swaying gangplank at St. Joseph, the travelers moved with their carpet-bags and valises. To their dismay they found that the regular stage for Council Bluffs had left only a short time previously. For two days they lodged at a "very ordinary" hotel. "The waiting was long and tedious," wrote Bloomer years later. "We could not even walk about and view the city because of a high wind which prevailed and blew the dust in clouds into our faces." Finally, they pushed themselves into a lurching stage. Among their fellow passengers was Kit Carson, resplendent in fringed buckskins. Toward dusk of the second day, April 15, 1855, the coach pulled to a halt in front of the Pacific Hotel in Council Bluffs. There was the legendary back-of-beyond come to reality.

What a contrast between that frontier community of two or three thousand inhabitants and the orderly villages of Ohio. In Iowa, observed Bloomer, the buildings were mostly of logs. Sidewalks were lacking and some streets were but beaten paths through fields of sunflowers. The

city lay about three miles from the river, added Mrs. Bloomer. She noticed that from the Missouri the land sloped upward until it reached a chain of high hills. "Among these bluffs," she continued, "are numerous beautiful valleys, some of them sufficiently extensive for large farms, and through which clear and pellucid streams of water flow gurgling down to join the mighty Missouri."

Within a few days Amelia Bloomer found a new house located on Bancroft Street, not far from Willow Avenue. From Bancroft to the river not a single structure obscured her view. As she unpacked her cherished dishes, hung curtains, and set out shrubs and fruit grafts brought from the East, she heard the noises of progress. Several brick and frame houses were going up. A three-story hotel was being rushed to completion in order to catch immigrant trade. Private residences and the United States land office were under construction. She saw gardens being fenced, "trees planted, streets opened and graded, and every preparation made for accommodating the population." Indians camped near her home; daily stages brought news and frontiersmen from south and east; settlers and speculators crowded the land office. Already land within a few miles of Council Bluffs was selling for as much as ten dollars an acre. Shouts from saloons rang in her ears, and she saw games of chance openly played along the streets.

The Bloomers entered into this bustling life with zest. For a few years the activities of Mr. Bloomer eclipsed those of his wife, though she almost persuaded the Nebraska legislature to adopt woman suffrage in January, 1856. Within a short time citizens knew him as a competent attorney in partnership with W. H. Kinsman.

A dramatic interlude in the placid life of Council Bluffs was occasioned by the firing upon Fort Sumter. When chattering telegraph keys brought the news of secession, citizens responded with zeal. No sooner had Company B of the Fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry been recruited than Amelia Bloomer organized the Soldiers' Aid Society. Her committee, meeting in the Bloomer residence, as it so frequently did, stitched a large silk flag. And on the pleasant afternoon of August 9, 1861, the troop was drawn up in parade formation to receive the colors from Mrs. Bloomer.

"You are now going forth to sustain and defend the Constitution," she told Captain Craig's command, "against an unjust and monstrous rebellion, fermented and carried on by wicked and ambitious men who have for their object the overthrow of the best government the world has ever seen. To this noble cause we dedicate this flag."

The volunteers, commented the local press, listened with deep emotion, and "many a brawny breast heaved, and tears trickled down many a manly face." Then Lieutenant W. H. Kinsman,

responding in behalf of his captain, accepted the flag in words which seemed moderate as compared with those of Mrs. Bloomer. The company, he began quietly, was not imbued with the spirit of revenge, nor was it motivated by vindictive malice against the South. Rather, it was taking the field to "preserve inviolate the institution for which our fathers fought." He had no doubt that "the members of our company are as brave a band as the sun ever shone upon, and under their rough shirts beat hearts as true and loyal as ever throbbed beneath the tattered garments of our fathers at Valley Forge." A crash of drums and the saucy "Yankee Doodle" echoed over the parade grounds as the command passed in review. Within a few minutes Mrs. Bloomer and her ladies heard cheers in their behalf. Truly, it was an exciting occasion!

By September, 1861, the Soldiers' Aid Society, working diligently, had put up 122 havelocks, 174 towels, and twelve needle books fitted with thread, needles, buttons, pins, and tape. A month later, twenty bed sacks, fifty pillow sacks, fourteen cotton and feather pillows, and many pillow cases were packed carefully in the Bloomer parlor and shipped to Company B at Rollo, Missouri.

D. C. Bloomer, not to be outdone by the war activities of his energetic wife, opened his office as a recruiting station, and served as chairman of the Committee in Charge of Donations to Soldiers' Families. Over a thousand dollars in cash was

collected, as well as stove wood and groceries. Almost a hundred families were cared for during the fall and winter. Bloomer's committee, as well as the Soldiers' Aid Society, supported the activities of both the Christian Commission and the United States Sanitary Commission. So interested, indeed, was Mrs. Bloomer that she attended the great Northwest Sanitary Fair held in Chicago in June, 1865. She exclaimed over the booths and exhibits, and declared boastfully that Iowa made "a very creditable appearance in fancy articles and curiosities."

While her husband was thus engaged in patriotic affairs, Amelia, not forgetting her early reform interests, took the lecture platform. Although she had ceased wearing the Bloomer costume before 1860, she still retained her liberal viewpoint. More and more, as the decade came to a close, she spoke upon women's rights. A Good Templar meeting in the spring of 1866 heard her give an interesting and excellent interpretation of suffrage for women. The following February she lectured in Burhop's Hall. "We expected to hear her rave and rant," commented the critical *Weekly Bugle*, "but heard none of this. She was argumentative and even eloquent in some of her remarks, and had just enough sarcasm to them to spice them well." High praise, indeed, from an editor not too friendly to the Bloomers! In March, Mrs. Bloomer, wishing to raise funds

for the Library Association, spoke in Glenwood. Her lecture was described as well-written and as delivered in a manner which few men could surpass. Chicago audiences heard her in 1869.

An anonymous author, writing in the *Weekly Bugle* for February 18, 1869, took her to task for these activities. He characterized her as a failure because she "had failed to convince the women of America that voluminous pantaloons and tight-waisted coats were becoming and convenient." Her friend, Anna Dickinson, was described as a "squatty, pug-nosed, cross-grained maiden lady." Then this colorful buckaroo congratulated Mrs. Bloomer upon taking up cudgels again in support of female suffrage, warning her, however, not to "Get into bad company."

Amelia Bloomer, wise woman that she was, ignored the criticism and began urging the appointment of a woman as postmaster of Council Bluffs, if the proper man could not be found. In May, 1869, she attended the stormy convention of the Equal Rights Association in New York as a vice-president for Iowa. There she visited old friends, among them Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who were busy forming the National Woman Suffrage Association. She helped organize the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association in 1870, and served as the second president. In 1890 she was made an honorary vice-president of the American Woman Suffrage Association.

Although her husband was equally preoccupied with business and public affairs, this did not prevent the Bloomers from enjoying a tranquil domestic life. Their home was the cynosure of social eyes, just as the new Bloomer Block, on the corner of Bancroft and Broadway, was the center of business and professional activity. Their comfortable home was shaded by trees planted when first they reached Council Bluffs. Fruit blossoms made the yard white and pink in spring. Bloomer tended his apple orchard so assiduously that his fruit took prizes at the county fair, not only for size but also for flavor. Great beds of asters made the lawn a mass of color. Toward the rear of the house currant bushes hung heavy with fruit.

In the airy kitchen, Amelia Bloomer, like any housewife, pulled loaves of the "best" graham bread and jelly cake from her spacious oven. On the broad back of the wood stove she put up sweet pickles, currants, and apple jelly. Here she cooked her clear crab-apple jelly and stirred her plum preserves. On closet shelves she racked cake after cake of homemade hard soap and her special fancy soaps. From cellar rafters hung hams and bacon. Busy with household chores and public duties throughout the week, she found time on Sunday to attend St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

For years, the Bloomer residence attracted distinguished guests. Susan B. Anthony came to chat reminiscently of a speaking tour through New

York in 1853. Both women recalled the cordial reception given them by Horace Greeley. Frederick Douglass, famed almost as much for his leonine head and frizzly hair as for his abolitionist oratory, spent a few days. The indomitable Elizabeth Cady Stanton, reformer and leader in the women's rights movement, was pleased with Council Bluffs. A noted group of singers, the Hutchinson family, called on Amelia early in 1867 to meet the "promoter" of the Bloomer costume.

Many visitors were received in the alcove where, surrounded by books and magazines, Amelia spent much of her time. There she frequently turned the yellowing pages of the *Lily*. If her thoughts roamed the past, they perhaps lingered lovingly upon Cortland County, New York, where on May 27, 1818, she was born. Certainly, this aging woman recalled her experiences as governess in Waterloo, New York, and, without doubt, she remembered her courtship with the Quaker lad, Dexter. She dreamed again of the frontier Council Bluffs and she reread her early letters and notes. In 1890, the very year which marked the closing of the frontier, her health began to fail. On December 30, 1894, she died. The *Iowa State Register* spoke of her not only as a woman of national reputation, but also as a gentle woman. Her devoted husband, who published her biography in 1895, died in 1900.

PHILIP D. JORDAN

Annie Turner Wittenmyer

[Annie Turner was born on August 26, 1827, at Sandy Springs, Ohio. Educated at an Ohio seminary, she married William Wittenmyer and moved to Keokuk, Iowa, in 1850. During the Civil War she established diet kitchens in military hospitals and was appointed State Sanitary Agent. She helped found and became national president of the Woman's Relief Corps (1889); inaugurated the movement for a National Woman's Relief Corps Home at Madison, Ohio; served as national president of the W. C. T. U., 1874-1879; published two Christian papers; and wrote numerous books, articles and hymns. She was active in the Iowa Orphans Home Association and the State Orphans Home in Davenport is named in her honor. She died on February 2, 1900, and is buried at her home in Sanatoga, Pa.—
THE EDITOR]

The Wittenmyer Diet Kitchens

One morning in January, 1862, a woman walked into a military hospital at Sedalia, Missouri, and glanced keenly about the large room filled with cots, each one holding a sick or wounded soldier. It was breakfast time and the attendants were moving about with trays. As the men looked up in surprise at seeing a woman visitor at that hour of the morning, some of them may have recognized her, for many of the patients were Iowa men and the woman was Mrs. Annie Turner Wittenmyer of Keokuk, already experienced as a relief worker among the soldiers.

As she stood there surveying the crowded room, Mrs. Wittenmyer was surprised to see on

one of the cots her youngest brother, David Turner, a lad of sixteen. He had just waved away the attendant carrying his breakfast tray.

"If you can't eat this you'll have to do without, there is nothing else," was the response of the waiter.

The sister stepped to the side of the cot and glanced at the rejected tray. "On a dingy-looking wooden tray," she wrote later, "was a tin cup full of black, strong coffee; beside it was a leaden looking tin platter, on which was a piece of fried fat bacon, swimming in its own grease, and a slice of bread." No wonder the young soldier, sick with typhoid fever and acute dysentery, looked upon such food with distaste. The meeting was indeed fortunate for the sick boy, who was nursed back to health by his efficient elder sister.

The incident, however, had a more far-reaching effect, for it made Mrs. Wittenmyer realize in a concrete way the need of special diets for hospital patients. At this time Mrs. Wittenmyer was a woman in her middle thirties — born on August 26, 1827. Her hair was already snow white, but her keen blue eyes and fair complexion denied the suggestion of age. For almost a year she had been going about the camps and hospitals along the Mississippi River where Iowa regiments were to be found, bringing good cheer, food delicacies, and supplies for the men in the hospitals. She had helped to organize the Keokuk Soldiers' Aid

Society and partly through her efforts the women of Iowa were mobilized to furnish money, jellies, potatoes, fruit, sheets, hospital garments, and whatever else was needed to make the men a little more comfortable.

As she went about her work distributing these goods, doing errands for the wounded, helping in all sorts of emergencies, Mrs. Wittenmyer was more and more impressed by the wretched provision made by the government hospitals for feeding the patients who were very sick or desperately wounded. The fare served to these men was almost exactly the same as the rations issued to the men in the field.

The food would be condemned today as unsatisfactory for well soldiers and, indeed, attacks of scurvy were all too common. But for men sick with typhoid fever or running a high temperature as a result of infected wounds—and most wounds were infected in those days—bacon, beans, hard tack, and coffee were evidently unsuitable food. Moreover, most of the cooking in the hospitals as well as in the camps was done by soldiers detailed for that work, most of whom did not care for the job. Many of the patients needed a satisfactory diet more than they needed medicine. But military red tape could not be expected to distinguish between a well soldier and a sick one: certain rations were provided for each soldier—if no dishonest contractor or surgeon intervened.

The aid societies, the United States Sanitary Commission, and the United States Christian Commission, had attempted to supply delicacies for the critically ill patients, but distribution was difficult. Women like Mrs. Wittenmyer could not be present in every hospital all the time, and spasmodic gifts of lemonade or broth were unsatisfactory.

Moreover, the surgeons were frequently unwilling to have visitors distribute food promiscuously in the wards, although it is difficult to see how anything — except poison — could have been more harmful to most sick men than the food regularly served. If, on the other hand, the delicacies provided by the women at home were turned over to the commissary for distribution, they often failed to reach the men for whom they were intended.

Mrs. Wittenmyer pondered the problem of suitable food for sick and wounded men, and in December, 1863, an idea came to her, as she says, "like a divine inspiration." She proposed that special diet kitchens be established in the larger military hospitals, with two experienced women as supervisors or dietary nurses. The diet for each patient needing special food was to be prescribed by the attending surgeon, prepared in the special diet kitchen, and served to the patient according to the name or number on the diet slip.

Although her suggestion was at first opposed

by the hospital surgeons, some experiments with these special diet kitchens convinced the commanding officers and surgeons of their worth. The United States Christian Commission took up the work and in May, 1864, Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer resigned her position as State Sanitary Agent of Iowa to devote all her time to the organization, management, and supervision of special diet kitchens in the army hospitals. By the close of the war more than a hundred of these kitchens had been installed, where such delicacies as toast, chicken, soup, milk, tomatoes, jellies, tea, gruel, and vegetables took the place of army fare or augmented it.

The government furnished most of the supplies and the attendants required in these diet kitchens, but additional delicacies, including such things as jellies and preserves, were donated by private relief agencies. The two women supervisors in each kitchen were chosen by Mrs. Wittenmyer, who was the agent of the United States Christian Commission, and their expenses and maintenance were also provided by the Christian Commission. In October, 1864, the War Department issued a special order permitting Mrs. Wittenmyer and "such ladies as she may deem proper to employ" to visit United States general hospitals "for the purpose of superintending the preparation of food in the Special Diet Kitchens," upon the request of the surgeons. The quartermaster's department was ordered to furnish transportation.

It was not always easy to secure, as supervisors in these diet kitchens, women who were sympathetic, efficient, and tactful; and the work required these qualities in a high degree. The following directions sent out by Mrs. Wittenmyer in July, 1864, indicate the standards she set for the women workers in the diet kitchens:

INSTRUCTIONS TO MANAGERS OF SPECIAL DIET KITCHENS

In accepting your present position of responsibility, you place yourself in the service and under the general care and direction of the U. S. Christian Commission; and in my absence you will be under the general direction of the Field Agent of the Department, and will look to the nearest Station Agent of the Commission for assistance and supplies.

The following statements and requirements must receive careful attention, and be scrupulously observed:

1st. Your work in the Kitchen is to assist the Surgeons in giving comfort and restoration to languishing men, who are in need of carefully prepared nutritious food.

2d. The order of the Surgeon in charge, is the law of the Kitchens, as it is of all other hospital arrangements.

3d. Under the direction of the Surgeon in charge, it will be your duty to prepare such articles of diet, and only such, as are ordered or approved by the Surgeons in charge of the sick.

4th. You will keep open to the inspection of the Surgeon in charge, an account of all the stores received from any source outside of the hospital, and at the end of each month, send to me at Louisville, Ky., a statement of the expenditures from such sources, and an invoice of the

stock on hand, accompanied by a requisition for the supplies needed for the coming month.

5th. In addition to the monthly report, you will communicate with me at Louisville, Ky., at the end of each week, noting any incident of interest you may choose, and giving a general statement of the conditions and working of the Kitchen.

6th. Great good may be daily accomplished by bringing kind words and Christian sympathy and solicitude, with articles of comfort and necessity, to the cots of the sick and wounded; but all such visits to the wards must be by the Surgeon's permission, and in strict conformity with hospital regulations.

7th. A spirit of censoriousness and evil speaking and intermeddling, unchristian anywhere, is doubly mischievous here, and dangerous to all concerned. First impressions of what can and ought to be done in a large hospital, are very likely to need the correction which extended experience and candid observation are sure to give.

8th. Neatness and simplicity of dress, are intimately connected with your success.

9th. A uniform Christian deportment, above the shadow of reproach, and the avoiding of the very appearance of evil, is absolutely necessary.

10th. Your work has its foundation in Christian self-sacrifice. The only possible sufficient motive for you, is a desire to do good to the suffering. For this you will be willing to forego, in a large degree, home comforts, and especially that of social intercourse, in order to give yourself, with a single aim, and with all your might, to the work you have undertaken.

But even these special diet kitchens had to fight against graft. A woman helper in charge of the special kitchen in the hospital at Madison, Indi-

ana, complained to Mrs. Wittenmyer of the food, especially the coffee. Mrs. Wittenmyer sent Miss Lou E. Vance, one of her shrewdest women assistants, to the hospital with instructions to find out what was going on and report. Miss Vance got her first clue when she observed that the attendants had been ordered to deposit all the coffee grounds in a barrel beside the kitchen door. When she asked them why they kept the grounds, they replied laconically, "It's the surgeon's orders."

She learned from further questioning that the surgeon had given orders that the coffee grounds so collected be dried on the commissary floor. When she inquired what was done with them after that, she received the non-committal reply, "I don't know," and a general laugh. Sure enough, when she visited the commissary room, she found piles of coffee grounds, but the only reply she could get from the men was that they "guessed" the surgeon was going to sell the dried grounds.

Miss Vance, however, was no mean detective. She poured some of the coffee served at the hospital on some white pine boards and decided that it had been adulterated with logwood — an extract used for dyeing. She was quite sure then that she knew what was being done with the coffee grounds. To prove her theory she picked out one of the attendants who looked rather meek and asked him point blank why the men in the commissary room put logwood in the coffee for

the sick and wounded men to drink. The boy turned pale and stammered, "We have to do it; it's the surgeon's orders."

Miss Vance immediately sent the news to Mrs. Wittenmyer, who advised her to secure affidavits from the men without letting the surgeon know about it. She herself started at once for Louisville, Kentucky, where General Robert C. Wood, the Assistant Surgeon General, had his headquarters. With the proofs in her hand, Mrs. Wittenmyer asked to have a private interview with the General. Immediately she stated her charges against the doctor at the Madison hospital.

The officer was astonished and exclaimed, "Why, he is one of my best surgeons."

"But my opinion of him is that *he ought to be hung higher than Haman*," Mrs. Wittenmyer replied.

And then she presented the proofs, so positive that the Assistant Surgeon General was convinced. "I will punish that man to the full extent of the law," he declared. Mrs. Wittenmyer urged that the case be turned over to the Governor of Indiana, but General Wood insisted that this would be a reflection of his own honesty and injure his standing in the service. Finally Mrs. Wittenmyer consented to have charges preferred by a military commission and the General agreed that she should select the commission. But as soon as the commission appeared at the hospital at Madi-

son, the guilty surgeon telegraphed his resignation to Washington and he himself was soon far away — unpunished. The hospital, however, benefited by his absence.

On the whole, the diet kitchens seem to have answered a very real need and to have been fairly successful. Some of them furnished rations to as many as a thousand or fifteen hundred of the very sick patients at one time. During the last eighteen months of the war more than two million rations were issued monthly from the diet kitchens, some of which were established almost under fire. Even if they did not furnish "mother's cooking," the appetizing foods sent out from these special diet kitchens must have greatly increased the chances of recovery for many patients.

Mrs. Wittenmyer remained in charge of this work until the war was over. The hospitals were gradually emptied and the sick and wounded men went home to eat once more the food prepared by wives or mothers. Of her, General U. S. Grant said: "No soldier on the firing line gave more heroic service than she rendered."

RUTH A. GALLAHER

Kate Harrington

An American Lady

In the summer of 1856 the book stores of the "northwestern States" displayed a new novel by an Iowa author. "We are pleased to announce an Iowa book to the public — the first of a purely literary character, of any particular pretensions," wrote the editor of the *Des Moines Valley Whig*. Because it was in some respects a fictional reply to *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the two books were frequently paired to encourage sales. In Keokuk the novel was announced with enthusiasm: "*Emma Bartlett, or Prejudice and Fanaticism*, for sale by Cave & Son. Fifty copies sold in one day!"

The title page of *Emma Bartlett* did not reveal who, by means of this novel, was presuming to expose the hypocrisy of Know-Nothingism and the dogmatism of Abolitionism. It was written simply by "An American Lady," and was dedicated to the "True Upholders of the Constitution and of the Union." According to a Keokuk newspaper, the author was "one whom we esteem and who is well known to the readers of this journal, to which she has contributed much and frequently under the *nom de plume* of 'Kate Harrington.'" That name was familiar beyond the boundaries of

Iowa. The editor of the *Louisville Journal* wrote that the young lady had lived in Kentucky, and that he had "known her for some years as a very charming writer."

Although the "American Lady" may have been widely known as Kate Harrington, neither the book nor the contemporary newspapers identified the author by her real name. The copyright notice alone afforded a clue to the authorship which the title page concealed. The novel, *Emma Bartlett*, was "entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by R. H. Smith." Investigation would have revealed that R. H. Smith was in reality Miss Rebecca Harrington Smith, the "American Lady," who lived at Farmington, Iowa, and signed her newspaper articles and poems "Kate Harrington."

Rebecca Harrington Smith was born in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, on September 20, 1831. Her father, Nathaniel Ruggles Smith, was a playwright and an authority on Shakespeare. His interpretations attracted the attention of John Wilkes Booth and the tragedian, Edwin Forrest, who came regularly to Pittsburgh to read with him. Both in Allegheny City and in Pittsburgh, Professor Smith taught in private schools; and in the former city he was editor of *The Hesperus*, a literary journal. Kirkham's *English Grammar*, whose pages Abraham Lincoln perused by candlelight, was based upon Professor Smith's method of presentation.

Eventually Nathaniel Smith with his wife and four children moved westward, settling first in Ohio, and then in Kentucky. It was at Crab Orchard, near Danville, Kentucky, that Rebecca, dark-haired, energetic, keen-witted, and kind-hearted, began her teaching career as a young girl in a fashionable school for girls. Her influence among Kentuckians, however, did not end with this experience. About thirty years later, while teaching in a private school in a fashionable district of Chicago, she lived and worked again among people whose names were familiar to her.

It was at Louisville, Kentucky, that her literary work began. There she was a contributor to the *Louisville Journal* — considered to be the best edited and most widely read newspaper in that region. George D. Prentice, whose opposition to secession had an important influence in keeping Kentucky from withdrawing from the Union, was the editor at that time. Through him, Rebecca Smith imbibed much of the spirit of Unionism, and through him she met Oliver I. Taylor, a New York poet and editor, whom she married in 1858 at Farmington, Iowa.

Her regular contributions to the *Journal* were entitled "Letters from a Prairie Cottage." She also conducted a children's corner, containing stories of the taming of wild animals; of raising domestic animals; of a cat that was taught to mother some orphan chicks.

After her marriage, she moved from Farmington to Keosauqua, where she and her husband edited a newspaper, the predecessor of the *State Line Democrat*. About a year later, Oliver I. Taylor purchased the Burlington *Argus*, and changed the name to *Gazette* at the suggestion of Mrs. Taylor. Wherever she lived, in Farmington, Keosauqua, Burlington, and later in Keokuk and Fort Madison, she was constantly called upon to write verses and special articles, often of a political nature, for the local papers. Her first collection of poems printed in book form was *Maymie*, published in 1869. It is a tribute to her ten-year-old daughter, who died in that year. Henry W. Longfellow, in one of his frequent letters to her, wrote that this poem "brought tears to my eyes."

After the death of Mr. Taylor, Rebecca Smith Taylor returned to Farmington where she devoted her time to teaching. Even after her second marriage in 1862 she continued in that work. James Pollard of Bloomfield, her second husband, seems to have had political ambitions. In 1862 he was elected to the State Senate, where he sat for one session in the seat of Cyrus Bussey, who was serving in the Union Army as colonel of the Third Iowa Volunteer Cavalry. Pollard's friends thought he was qualified for higher public offices. His political enemies pronounced him "the smartest man in Iowa and the biggest fool."

In her private schools at Farmington, Keokuk,

and Fort Madison, Mrs. Pollard developed unique methods of instructing small children. All the battles of the Revolutionary War were re-fought in the school yard. Broom-guns, blackboard-eraser pistols, the roll of the beating drum, served to revive the Spirit of '76 in 1876. "Tomorrow we are going to have Bunker Hill. Ralph is to be Warren and will speak: 'Stand! The ground's your own, my braves!'"

One of the children who attended that peculiar school writes: "We planted a garden each year and an extra one where we could pull up the plants to study how they grew. Botany was always studied out of doors and we could go out to the woods carrying picnic baskets of lunch and finally bringing them full of specimens we had gathered under her direction."

Who could forget volcanic action when a pot of boiling mush was prepared to illustrate it? Spilled milk was far from being a matter for tears. To seeing eyes there were created innumerable geographical formations — milky bays and peninsulas and islands, naturally distributed. Sand piles were used *during* school hours. Apples might be eaten in school, but they were divided, and so a lesson in fractions was simultaneously digested.

Out of her resourceful experience in teaching, Mrs. Pollard produced a series of spellers, readers, stencil pictures, and a teacher's manual. The "Pollard Series" was adopted in practically all

places where it was tried. Sarah Winter Kellogg at one time urged Mrs. Pollard to send someone to present her method of reading at a teachers' meeting. Miss Kellogg was at first chagrined when she met the tall representative, a Kentucky woman with a very noticeable accent, who was to illustrate the new way of learning to pronounce English. But she capitalized her own imperfections of diction and thus emphasized the virtues of Mrs. Pollard's system. "You will perceive befo' I have sayed ten words that my pronounciation an' my enunciation air incorrec'. I confess that at the staut — an' I explain that it is so because I did not learn to speak an' read English by the Pollud synthetic method. I stan' befo' you a livin' example of how the pronounciation an' the enunciation of a smart chil' may be spoiled for want of the Pollud. Take wahnin' by me, all you teachers, an' put the Pollud in you' schools."

Edward Everett Hale firmly championed Mrs. Pollard's methods. After an entire day with her, visiting in the suburbs of Boston where her system was used, he told her that the columns of his journal, *Lend a Hand*, were open to her at all times.

Although she was widely known in educational circles as Rebecca Pollard, her literary reputation pertains mainly to her earlier years when she was known as Rebecca Harrington Smith, or, more popularly, Kate Harrington. Nevertheless, she continued to write all her life — if not stories for

children, nature studies, or articles on current politics, then textbooks and poetry. Even in her eightieth year she produced a thirty-seven page poem, *Althea, or The Morning Glory*.

Kate Harrington, the poet, was keenly patriotic and sensitive to the beauties of nature. Rich in metaphor, her verse is full of rhythm and color. In an unpublished poem relating to Iowa these couplets appear:

Here we stand on a threshold with crystal inlaid —
Its mosaic of lakes, by Omnipotence made —
With the hearth-light of sun in the azure-arched door,
And the Prairie beyond with its emerald floor.

During her later years she wrote many hymns. Ira D. Sankey, the evangelist, encouraged her in this work. Her *Songs of the Red Ribbon Club*, written in the cause of temperance, were widely used. It was probably her interest in religious matters which led to the frequent confusion of her identity with that of Josephine Pollard, a New York author who wrote chiefly on religious topics.

Although a Presbyterian, she staunchly defended Catholicism against Know-Nothingism. The religious intolerance of the period before the Civil War she thought was only one manifestation of a general social attitude that was rooted in prejudice and fanaticism. Her political and social views were already pronounced at the age of twenty-five when her most notable book, *Emma Bartlett*, was published.

Having lived both in the North and the South, she felt qualified to judge the temper of the people in both sections. During the impressionable period of her girlhood in Kentucky she formed her views of social and political affairs. And like most people of her class and character, she learned to take politics and religion very seriously. While her home was in Louisville she was associated with slave owners who treated their Negroes with kindness. "Aunt" Theodocia was a trusted member of her own household. It was out of this experience that she produced *Emma Bartlett*.

The contemporary opinion of this book was both favorable and unfavorable. "We noticed, some weeks ago, that a new work, in the style of a novel, on the exciting and immediate political themes of the day, by a lady well known, by her excellent contributions to American literature, was in press," wrote a reviewer in the *Ohio Statesman* on July 3, 1856. "It is a book of 500 pages, very neatly printed and bound, the leading feature of which is an exposition of political and religious prejudice and fanaticism as seen in Abolitionism, Know Nothingism, and kindred heresies. The great and alarming evils of these popular delusions are depicted principally in the social and domestic circles, and though the characters are fictitious in name we do not doubt that the fair authoress has had living originals in her eye, as the characters are life-like and true delineations of personages

who figure, some of them very conspicuously, at the present day and hour. The heroine, Emma Bartlett, is the off-spring of a young and lively German woman, who is driven, with her relatives, by political and religious persecution, from her own land, to seek a home in America. From the hour of her birth, which is the result of a cunning plan of deception contrived by one who disgraces the name of an 'American,' to the moment she returns to her native land to die, she illustrates through a succession of thrilling scenes, the character of a gentle, noble and gifted woman, suffering from the evils with which a corrupt social system, and an unwise and unjust proscription have surrounded her."

Nevertheless, the book was not received with unanimous approval. "We have read this book," wrote a critic in the *Cincinnati Times*, "and while we pronounce the plot an excellent one, and the style of the authoress charming in many respects, we must say that she has failed to fulfill the intended mission of the book. In the selection of her characters and the language she gives them, she exhibits all the prejudice and fanaticism of that class of politicians she attempts to defend, and it is evident that her knowledge of political life, of political movements, and of political sentiments among her countrymen is far short of what is required in the construction of a stirring, effective

political romance. Nevertheless, 'Emma Bartlett' has its merits, and will no doubt have a large sale."

This reply to *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is unknown to the present generation. Few copies are available, even in the large libraries of the country. Yet some people, particularly in southeastern Iowa, not only knew Rebecca Smith Pollard, even as Kate Harrington, but also cherish recollections of her novel. Three children of Mrs. Pollard remember well the "American Lady," who died but recently, on May 29, 1917, at the home of her son in Fort Madison, Iowa. She was a woman who presented observations "with an air of naiveté, impregnated with knowledge and worldly shrewdness, while, womanlike, she looked kindly upon the errors and wickedness of mankind — trying with a pleasing singleness of heart to palliate the very faults she exposed."

MARIE HAEFNER

Phoebe W. Sudlow

A bronze marker at the Sudlow Intermediate School of Davenport bears this inscription:

PHOEBE W. SUDLOW

1831 - 1922

Superintendent

Davenport Public Schools

1874 - 1878

First Woman City Superintendent

Of Public Schools

In the United States

This plaque, presented to the school by the Hannah Caldwell Chapter of the D.A.R. on October 1, 1936, pays tribute to an earnest, faithful teacher who taught in Iowa for more than a quarter of a century. To Phoebe W. Sudlow belongs the honor of having been elected first woman principal and the first woman superintendent of public schools in the United States. In addition, she was the first woman to serve as president of the Iowa State Teachers Association.

Phoebe W. Sudlow was born at Poughkeepsie, New York, on July 11, 1831, the daughter of Richard and Hannah Sudlow. With her family she moved to Ohio while she was yet a child. There the Sudlows settled near the town of Nel-

sonville and there Phoebe grew to womanhood. She received her elementary education at a little country school near her home, and later attended an academy at Athens, Ohio. At fifteen (in 1846) she began her teaching career in the small log schoolhouse near her home where she herself had studied as a child.

The Sudlows moved to Iowa in 1856 and settled at Round Grove in Scott County. There Phoebe resumed her teaching career, instructing pupils at the Round Grove school until her work attracted the attention of Abram S. Kissell, Scott County superintendent of schools and superintendent of the Davenport city schools. Mr. Kissell was instrumental in bringing Phoebe Sudlow to Davenport in the fall of 1858 to become assistant in sub-district No. 5.

The following year Miss Sudlow was named assistant principal at Grammar School No. 2 and District School No. 3, with an annual salary of \$350. A year later she became principal of these schools — reputedly the first woman principal of a public school in the United States — at an annual salary of \$400. She continued in this position until 1866, when she turned her full attention to serving as principal of Grammar School No. 3.

On April 21, 1869, a convention composed of about forty county superintendents and as many more public school superintendents, principals, and teachers met in Des Moines to consider cur-

rent educational problems. Abram S. Kissell, then serving as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, presided over this meeting and Phoebe W. Sudlow presented an "illustrative" lesson on the teaching of language in the schools.

Miss Sudlow took another step in her teaching career when she became principal of the Davenport Training School for Teachers in 1872. Her experience and long service in various grades of school work and her tact and skill as a teacher made her well fitted for this position. In 1873 she also served as principal of Grammar School No. 8. By this time her annual salary had increased to the fabulous sum of \$1200.

The year 1874 was a highlight in Phoebe Sudlow's career, for on June 19, 1874, she was unanimously chosen city superintendent of schools by the Davenport board of education. The idea of a "lady" superintendent seems to have been a novelty to Davenport citizens, but Miss Sudlow soon proved herself capable of carrying her responsibilities with such marked ability that the townspeople were generous in their praise of her. A booklet published by the Citizens' Association of Davenport in 1874 stated: "All the public schools of the city are now under the charge of a *lady* Superintendent, who is fully competent for her responsible duties."

Additional honors came to Phoebe Sudlow while she was serving as Davenport superintend-

ent. In 1876 she was elected president of the Iowa State Teachers Association, winning over two highly respected men candidates, Professor Henry Sabin, city superintendent from Clinton, and Professor Amos N. Currier of the State University of Iowa. As the first woman president of the I.S.T.A. she presided over the 1877 meeting held at Cedar Rapids on December 26-28. In her inaugural address at the opening session she spent some time in discussing the importance of kindergartens in the public schools, the value of industrial and technical education, the advantages of good lighting in the classrooms, and the place of women in the educational system.

At the 1878 commencement services at Cornell College, Miss Sudlow was again honored when she was awarded the honorary degree of Master of Arts. That summer she resigned from the Davenport superintendency to become professor of English Language and Literature at the State University of Iowa. Her resignation was accepted with regret and a Davenport editor wrote: "We do not hesitate to affirm that at no period during the past twenty years has there been such absolute freedom from complaint, disaffection, jealousies or friction among the teachers as during the years in which Miss Sudlow has been Superintendent. Certainly, also, our schools have never given better evidence than now of thoroughly efficient instruction, or of real progress . . . of pupils."

The *Iowa Normal Monthly*, published at Dubuque, July, 1878, said:

"Miss P. W. Sudlow, the lady who has so successfully conducted the Davenport schools for the past few years, has been elected to a professorship in the State University, with the full rank and pay of other professors. Every institution of this kind should have at least one lady in its faculty; and we know of no one more worthy to fill the place than Miss Sudlow."

Phoebe Sudlow taught at the University until 1881 when she was forced to resign because of ill health. At her leaving, members of the University faculty held an informal meeting and expressed regret at her retirement. On behalf of the faculty President Josiah L. Pickard presented her with a Paris clock, a token of friendship and appreciation.

After Phoebe Sudlow returned to Davenport in 1881 she seems to have held an interest in the Fluke & Co. Bookstore. The Davenport city directories for 1882-1883 and 1885-1886 indicate that W. H. Fluke and Miss P. W. Sudlow were joint owners of a store at 317 Brady Street. In 1888 Miss Sudlow was again called into service in the Davenport public school system as principal of School No. 1. She appears to have taught only one year. After that she retired from school life to devote her time to her home and community.

In 1889 she organized "The Club of '89," one

of the first women's organizations to be formed in Davenport, and for some time she served as president of this group. She was also active in the Ladies' Industrial Relief Society, serving as its president for fifteen consecutive years. She was a loyal member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and devoted much time to the Women's Missionary Society and to the church's Sunday school.

On June 14, 1921, when Phoebe Sudlow was nearing her ninetieth birthday, the Davenport board of education voted to change the name of "East Intermediate School" to "Phoebe W. Sudlow Intermediate School" in her honor. This was to be "a memorial befitting her superior character, her ennobling influence and her dignified example." The action came about following a resolution filed by the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, the Women's Club, and the Club of '89.

One year later, on June 8, 1922, Phoebe W. Sudlow died at her home in Davenport. An obituary in the Davenport *Times* paid tribute to this woman who had expended so much time and energy in serving her community. She had been more than a teacher. She had reached out to the community as a whole and had given much to her city in unselfish service.

The story of Phoebe Sudlow's life would not be complete without a brief consideration of her attitudes and beliefs — the ideals by which she

lived. She always maintained the attitude of a student. Although her formal education had been limited, her favorite reply to the question, "Where did you receive your education?" was, "All along the way."

Phoebe Sudlow was a vigorous exponent of women's rights. When she was first appointed to the principalship of School No. 3 in Davenport, the matter of equal salaries for men and women arose. Miss Sudlow took the ground that women doing equal work with men should receive equal salaries. The Davenport school board was at first unconvinced by this argument, but at Miss Sudlow's insistence finally acquiesced, thus setting a precedent which had influence not only in Davenport, but throughout the Middle West. Further evidence of her belief that men and women should have equal rights as educators is found in her inaugural address as president of the Iowa State Teachers Association, when she stated: "I cannot understand why equal attainment, equal culture, and equal strength of purpose and will should not have equal influence whether in man or woman."

In this same address Phoebe Sudlow gave her own aims in teaching: "Woman, in professional work, must learn to separate herself more from other seeming duties; to invest more as capital; to expect less in the present, and to provide more wisely for future usefulness and preferment. She

must continue the work of preparation till her views shall be more comprehensive, and her professional aims and plans more far-reaching. She must be more eager to *become* than to *have*, must understand that *being* rather than *doing* is the 'better part,' must tarry longer in the upbuilding and furnishing of a true and noble self-hood, not for self, but for service."

Herein are embodied the ideals which made Phoebe W. Sudlow a worthy teacher, a valuable citizen, and a distinguished woman.

CORNELIA MALLET BARNHART



AMELIA JENKS BLOOMER

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ANNIE TURNER WITTENMYER



PHOEBE W. SUDLOW