

Filling the Quota

On April 21st when the Pioneer Greys offered their military services to the Governor, the *Gazette* noted that eighty-two names were on the company roll. Of these, some men were physically handicapped and others had obligations which prevented their enlistment. Captain Smith hoped to raise the number of his men as far as possible beyond the minimum of seventy-eight requested by Adjutant General Bowen. Not only were local boys invited to join but the Cedar Falls company served as a nucleus for recruits from the "up-country", as the northern tributary valleys of the Cedar were colloquially called.

Two energetic and responsible young men, Thomas Salsbury and Charles Mullarky, were dispatched to recruit as many men as possible from Waverly, Charles City, and neighboring communities. Three days later they galloped across the Cedar River bridge and with a loud shout reined up in front of the Carter House. With them rode fifteen recruits. The emissaries took pride in informing Captain Smith that within a few days between twenty and twenty-five more boys would arrive from the "up-country".

Presently the sound of drums, fifes, and trumpets playing "The Star Spangled Banner" brought hundreds of people into Main Street and an enthusiastic impromptu ovation was staged for the fifteen recruits. In a surprisingly short time a parade formed. The Cedar Falls Brass Band headed the procession in its brightly painted new bandwagon, the pride of the little city. On horseback, behind this gaudy wagon, rode the fifteen recruits who were greeted with cheers on every street corner. The Pioneer Greys, in marching ranks brought up the rear, gaily flaunting all the banners and flags which the company possessed. From the by-standers, the fifteen recruits "called forth such hearty and oft-repeated cheers" that it was reported on excellent authority that one hundred and fifty of the cheerers nursed sore throats for the remainder of the week.

During May the citizens of Iowa anxiously followed the news of the war. The first regiment of volunteers rendezvoused at Keokuk and was mustered into United States service. Enough additional companies to form two more regiments clamored for acceptance. On May 17th Governor Kirkwood received a request from the War Department for more troops and he immediately ordered the second and third Iowa regiments to rendezvous at Keokuk on May 25th and June 3rd

respectively. The Pioneer Greys of Cedar Falls were placed in the Third Regiment of Iowa Volunteer Infantry as Company K. "The term of service", wrote Governor Kirkwood, "will be three years or during the war." Meanwhile, more and more recruits were swelling the ranks of Captain Smith's company. He inaugurated intensive military training during the final week at home, requiring the men to report for drill at nine in the morning, four in the afternoon, and again in the evening.

On Sunday morning, May 26th, the citizens in Cedar Falls on their way to church learned that Captain Smith had received the official summons to report for active military duty with his company. The news circulated rapidly that the Pioneer Greys must be ready in a few days to leave Cedar Falls. Officials of the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad had been ordered to have five passenger cars at the station to transport the Greys to Dubuque. There they would be transferred to a Mississippi steamboat bound for Keokuk, where they would be mustered into the army and receive intensive training.

As the news spread that afternoon from house to house in Cedar Falls and from farm to farm in the upper valley of the Cedar, the realization that the country was actually at war came home to the

people. The thoughts of all were directed to the Tuesday morning ten days hence when considerably over a hundred men would leave Cedar Falls to take part in the War of the Rebellion.

During the five weeks which had intervened since the first call to arms, partisanship had apparently been forgotten. Throughout the city the Stars and Stripes floated from attic windows, porch posts, and fences. One observer counted twenty-seven flags in the four blocks of the business district. Every person who could afford to spend twenty-five cents, purchased and wore a silver pin engraved with the words, CONSTITUTION AND UNION. With colored sugar one young bride inscribed the words, THE UNION FOREVER as a patriotic insignia for her wedding cake. Citizens digging into the pockets of their homespun jeans or tailormade trousers contributed liberally to soldier relief funds, demonstrating that they "stood ready to meet the great struggle for Union, Law and Freedom." It seemed that no one could do too much for the Pioneer Greys. Fathers, mothers, neighbors, and friends proffered help and everybody responded according to his resources and capabilities.

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