

The
PALIMPSEST

OCTOBER 1941

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J. A. SWISHER

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

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 records 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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Lorenzo S. Coffin—Farmer

To promote the settlement of the northwestern counties in the years of readjustment following the Civil War, the Iowa General Assembly, in 1870, created a Board of Immigration to attract settlers from the eastern States and Europe. The Board was continued, with some changes in the basis of selection, in 1872, but in the code revision of the following year provision for the work was omitted and the Board's activities ceased on September 1, 1873.

Under the direction of the secretary, Alexander R. Fulton, the Board of Immigration functioned through publications, original and subsidized, and soliciting agents at home and abroad. The twenty-seven agents who served during 1872 and the summer of 1873 in Germany, Holland, England, and the eastern States received no compensation, with the exception of one who was given \$700 for two years' work, and less than \$1500 was allowed for their total expenses. They were evidently per-

sons who had other interests in the regions served and were motivated by unselfish devotion to the general welfare of the State. That such uncompensated service was carried on conscientiously and effectively was attested by Governor C. C. Carpenter who in his message in January, 1874, included Lorenzo S. Coffin among the agents whose service had been "conspicuously active and successful".

According to the official record, Coffin was commissioned on May 26, 1873, and hence his travels were conducted during that summer and his undated report, which follows this sketch, must have been hastily penned shortly before the Board's legal expiration. The outlook that season was especially gloomy as a major grasshopper visitation was added to the prevailing financial depression. The writer's confidence in the immediate security and future progress of the State's agriculture is consequently all the more striking. But in spite of many disillusioning experiences he was always a persistently hopeful individual.

Lorenzo S. Coffin was withal an interesting man and a man of many interests whose nonagrenarian career never lacked special causes for support and agitation. He was born in New Hampshire in 1823 and secured his education in a New England academy and in the preparatory department of

Oberlin College. As a teacher in an Ohio seminary he had had as pupils James A. Garfield and the future mistress of the White House.

A poor but aspiring pioneer he had come to Iowa in the winter of 1854-1855 and settled on a quarter section in Webster County which was later to be expanded and transformed into his celebrated Willowedge Stock Farm. The Yankee reformer was an enthusiastic participant in all the successive projects of his time to better and strengthen prairie farming and to improve rural conditions of living. He was a pioneer breeder of Shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs, Oxford Down sheep, and Morgan horses. As he tells in his report, he had made extensive ventures in dairying. According to a correspondent of the Burlington *Haw-Eye* in 1881 his farmstead was a model in arrangement and equipment.

As a true son of crusading Oberlin and an ex-schoolmaster, he was concerned with organized efforts for educational, material, and moral betterment. He was active in State and local agricultural societies, an organizer and official of the State Alliance, and a strong supporter of agricultural education. For several years he was agricultural editor of the Fort Dodge *Messenger*. He had shown the sincerity of his abolition zeal by service in the Union Army both in the ranks and

as a chaplain. Prohibition thereafter became his moral crusade and after serving for many years in State and regional temperance societies, he was the candidate of the Prohibition Party for the office of Governor in 1906. He was especially concerned about the reformation of former convicts and founded a home to promote the rehabilitation of some of them. Each Sunday for seventeen years he acted as a voluntary circuit-rider preacher, serving without compensation neighborhoods that had no regular church organization.

Next to his agricultural labors, undoubtedly, Coffin's most notable public service was as a State Railroad Commissioner (1883-1888 in succession to another agricultural leader, "Tama Jim" Wilson). In this position he became a persistent and effective champion of State and Federal laws for safety devices for railroad employees. The long and usefully varied career of this pioneer farmer and reformer came to a close on his farm near Fort Dodge in 1915.

EARLE D. ROSS

Agricultural Relief in 1873

Conditions were discouraging for the farmers of Iowa in 1873. In hope of alleviating the hard times, the agricultural advantages of Iowa were advertised and various suggestions were made for the utilization of farm products and the expansion of markets. The report of Lorenzo S. Coffin, an agent of the Iowa State Board of Immigration, was particularly significant. His letter to the Secretary of the Board, as here published, retains the eccentricities of form and diction in the original manuscript which was copied by Professor Earle D. Ross in 1928 in the Archives Division of the Historical Department of Iowa at Des Moines. — The Editor.

I, as agent of your Hon. Board commissioned by Gov. Carpenter to visit the Eastern States to induce immigration to our State, beg leave, to submit through you to the Board the following report — I rec'd. my commission & entered upon my work about the middle of the past summer. My ultimate field of labor was N.E., but being painfully conscious that as a state we were seriously lacking in the development of those cheaper & ruder manufactories, by which our farmers could realize a better return for their at present almost unrequiting toil, I stopped in Ill. & other intermediate states

to examine & learn what I could of the construction, mode of operating & profitableness of certain butter cheese & canning & pickleing factories — & if I found it feasible, to lay such information as I might gather before our farmers for their benefit. On visiting such factories I found nothing but what we could undertake with much profit and advantage. I accordingly in a few very imperfectly written letters to certain papers of the state, gave the results of my investigations.

Although this was not the exact legitimate & direct design of my commission, yet I felt it to be so important to us as an agricultural state I took the responsibility to so do, & I am now more than satisfied that the end justified the means. For I found quite a large class of men & women around these establishments who are skilled in these departments of industries, who are looking to the west as their future homes, — & would like & are ready to come into our state & enter at once upon the work of such factories.

And if it would not be deemed impertinent, your agent would suggest that your Hon. Board most *earnestly* recommend to the coming Legislature that steps be taken, in whatever way their wisdom may direct, to encourage the building of such factories & the immigration of such skilled labor as will secure their successful operation.

Again your agent would further report, that on a more extended visit eastward he found a great number of families, living on rented farms, there who are *good* farmers & most have some little means ahead, & are desirous of coming west — but fearing the hardships & privations of a frontier life & having not enough means to buy an improved farm with the necessary stock & tools, think there is no way to accomplish what they desire —

Now I find by conversing with the many farmers I met at the State Grange recently held in your capitol that there is a great scarcity in the state of good farm labor & also that hundreds of well-to-do farmers want just such families as tenant, or as overseers to take charge — If their wants could be supplied the benefits arising are too obvious, for me to take time to mention — That this want can be met by putting these parties in the east, into communication with the parties here wanting such labor is to me evident. Such families I am confident would gladly start for a home on our better soil if they knew that a home & work were in waiting for them — I know of no better way to secure this good & industrious class of citizens for our state than to have an agent appointed by the state, as a medium between these two parties — Such an one, *known* as the state agent for immigration,

could be informed by those here wanting help & he could direct just *where & how* to come — Of course there are objections to this plan & difficulties would arise, yet in the hands of an earnest and faithful man such agency would result in much good to our state. We must — *there is no escaping the fact* — we *must* have more & better labor — The saving, close economical habits of the N.E. farmer is needed among us — We take *in* by the *large quantity* but the hundred & one *little wastes & losses* by lack of care — is what “beats us” every time —

There is still another field in which a state agent can work to almost infinite advantage to us as a people — & that is to induce men to come into our state & engage in manufactories other than those mentioned above — This I am convinced from my short experience can be done.

Bear in mind, I have been limited in my work. What I have done has all been at my own expense. Not a dollar have I received either as salary or for expenses, neither do I expect to receive any. Of course I could not do what I might have accomplished had I had means to defray the expenses of the work. Still from what little I have seen & done I am well convinced that a live man as agent can do much in this direction. The manufacture of wagons & carriages of all kinds, as well as our

farm machinery should be here at home. — It does seem to me that a judicious showing of the advantages & prospects for such industries would induce parties, in the over-crowded centers of such works east, that are already looking for other openings, to seek such openings with us — In this direction I should deem it of the utmost importance to have an agent employed.

Right here, if you will bear with a digression, I would, with all due deference, suggest as an inducement to parties looking for openings for establishing manufactures — that the Legislature pass an act exempting from taxation for a term of years all property brought into the state & employed in such manufactures, and further if the state will not pass such a law as a *state* law, that a law may be passed to allow Counties to do so as far as county taxes are concerned.

I cannot close this report without again calling your attention to the importance of the dairy interests of the state — and of the enormous wealth we are letting slip through our fingers, just because this interest is *simply neglected*.

I will place before you some figures based far below a proper estimate so that they will bear scrutiny: (Perhaps I might say here, that I have been, for over three years now, making cheese & hence I have reasons for saying my figures are

below an average —) Now for the figures — Suppose we had a cheese factory in each of the 100 counties of the state — & each factory only made up the milk from 300 cows & that each cow only made $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of cheese per day — & the factory run only 150 days in the year — We will sell our cheese say at $12\frac{1}{2}$ cts per lb — now, what have we in the sum total? — \$562,500 (over a half million of dollars) would flow *into* instead of *out* of the state — The estimate as said before is much too low in the amount of cheese per cow & the number of days the factory runs — I have said nothing of the butter & other products — neither have I of the other industries that would spring up with this such as the making of dairy fixtures & cheese boxes. Instead of only one factory in a county there should in some, be a doz. & in others, butter factories.

Aside from all this there is another view of this matter to a *true* farmer that is of far more importance. It is this — However rich our soil, this constant grain cropping & carrying away is sure to tell upon it by & by.

An inexpressible sadness fills the heart of a genuine agriculturist as he sees this suicidal work going on year after year & he knows too well of the coming sterility unless this vandalism of the soil is checked —

That man that lifts his voice & his life long action if need be against this system & brings about a plan for consuming on the farm the crop raised thereon will have done a good to his state that is past all estimate. I would then most earnestly urge upon your Hon. Board to take such steps as in your wisdom may seem best, to induce the Legislature to use every available means to so encourage such a system of farming as will enable us to keep up the amazing fertility of our soil & at the same time will remunerate the tillers of the same. To this end, I am confident that a judicious encouragement given to the building of cheese & butter factories, by hold[ing] out liberal inducements for the immigration of such persons skilled in such industries will meet the hearty approbation of the mass of the farmers of the state, as well as approval of every other citizen, who wishes its prosperity.

At the risk of being thought tedious, I venture to call the attention of the "Board" to another matter that seems to me of some moment — The misfortune that has befallen a few (comparatively) of our citizens in some of the North Western counties will give to the state a bad odor abroad & be likely to turn immigration away from our & into other states. And the agents of other states, always jealous of our superior soil & climate, will

seize upon this & magnify it to our injury — To those at a distance, there is but little discrimination & when some of their local papers speak of the "famine in Iowa" they, thinking our state to be their own little 7 by 9 affair, suppose our whole state is on the verge of starvation. This (simple as it may seem to us,) will unless counteracted work largely to our disadvantage for a year or two. The people east should be made to see that this matter is *merely local & temporary* & that in a few months these same localities will be teeming with abundance.

All of which is respectfully submitted —

L. S. COFFIN

Barlow Hall

About five miles southeast of Sioux City stands a vast brick mansion known as Barlow Hall. It is perched in desolate majesty upon the crest of a hill overlooking the busy highway. Standing back from the road and screened by a grove of stately trees, it is seldom noticed by passing motorists. To most of those who do notice the Hall, it seems but an incongruous note in the Iowa landscape and is soon forgotten. To those who know its story, however, it stands as the last tangible remnant of an ambitious attempt to transplant the culture of Victorian England to raw and vigorous frontier Iowa.

During the 1870's and 1880's a number of English settlers of noble birth and considerable wealth migrated to northwestern Iowa. Since many of these men were younger sons and had little hope of inheriting ancestral estates, they were intrigued by the prospect of creating vast new estates in this frontier land of promise. Most of these settlers concentrated in the area around Le Mars, but some located in other sections of the country. Captain Alexander K. Barlow, of Manchester, England, chose to live a few miles south-

east of the bustling frontier town of Sioux City. In 1879 he arrived in Iowa and purchased some 3000 acres of land for an average of six to eight dollars an acre. On a sloping hill commanding a magnificent view of the surrounding hills, valleys, and bottom lands, he planned to build a huge manor house. This was to be a virtual replica of a mansion which then stood in Northampton, England.

Captain Barlow was anxious to have the dwelling completed during 1880, hence haste was imperative. He selected William Sparkes, also an Englishman and an old friend of the Barlow family, as master builder. The crusty personalities of these two men never blended too well and many an acrimonious dispute resulted. The firm of George Hartley, Edward, and Albert Jenkinson, employed as contractors for the masonry, recruited a crew of some twenty-five men and began to set up the walls and fireplaces.

The actual construction of the mansion was a laborious and difficult process, for the dwelling was to be on an unprecedented scale for frontier Iowa. It was to contain a large number of rooms, an immense central hall, hand-carved woodwork, stained-glass windows, and fireplaces in nearly every room. It is scarcely surprising that construction of such a manor house in sprawling fron-

tier territory presented baffling problems. The fact that it was built so well that Barlow Hall still stands virtually intact in its lonely grandeur constitutes a monumental achievement.

Raw materials were hauled to the grounds and then transformed into building materials. The brick used throughout was made from native clay. Most of the supplies came from Sioux City, then numbering about 6000 inhabitants. Roads from the city were but glorified trails which were blocked by snow in winter and became bottomless streaks of mud during wet weather. Ox teams and horses had to ford Big and Little Whiskey creeks and to ascend the steep hill on the crest of which the great house was rising. During the construction of Barlow Hall, a blizzard struck with all its fury. Roads were blocked and the workers who were quartered in flimsy shanties near the Hall suffered real agonies. Construction was also impeded by a flood which inundated much of the bottom land between Sioux City and the new mansion. This flood interrupted the movement of raw materials and supplies and drowned many of the cattle that were on the estate. The well-digger, Pat Crow, toiled all summer without striking water. Yet Barlow Hall was finally completed and ensconced on its hill.

It emerged a three-story brick, slate-roofed

mansion, with barns, outbuildings, and landscaping to match. A number of trees were planted on the slope between the house and the flat lands below, and two winding trails through the grove converged near the Hall. These trees were small during Barlow's occupancy of the estate but have since grown to imposing size. The great doors were surmounted by a keystone with an armorial device, the initials AB, and the date 1880. They swung open to reveal a huge hall with a large fireplace at one end. This hall featured heavy, solid woodwork, richly carved and decorated. Opposite the doors were great stained-glass windows which filtered sunlight in intricate patterns upon the floors and walls. There were many large, high-ceilinged rooms on the first floor, most of these containing separate fireplaces. The kitchens were also on this floor. A wide, open stairway led to the second floor where a long hall was flanked on both sides by more big, high-ceilinged rooms. The partitions in Barlow Hall have been shifted on various occasions during its long history and it is now difficult to determine the number of rooms originally in the mansion. Estimates range from twenty-two to thirty-four, although an actual count of the number of rooms now extant reveals twenty-seven.

Barlow Hall was also lavishly furnished. The

dining room boasted monogrammed linen and solid silver. Treasures in armour, old swords, oil paintings, bronzes, and highly polished furniture were scattered throughout the manor house. About the only existing remnant of this departed splendor is a tall clock in a dark, charred oak case that now stands in the office of the Sioux City public library. Surely present-day Barlow Hall, with its silent, empty rooms and its tattered wall paper, gives no indication of its former opulence. Staffing the house was a retinue of servants catering to the Barlows and their numerous guests. Legends still persist concerning the dauntless but futile efforts of these servants to preserve old world protocol in this frontier region. The butler's inevitable query when a neighboring farmer appeared at the front door, "Tradesman or gentleman?", provoked mingled irritation and amusement.

This attitude of the servants merely reflected the views of Captain Barlow. While his neighbors looked with amused tolerance upon his efforts to re-create an English manor house, they found it more difficult to tolerate his arrogance. Intent upon hunting and his own purposes, Barlow had a sublime disregard of trails, bridges, roads, and other impediments created by his neighbors. This involved him in continual and protracted disputes, many of which culminated in litigation. On one

occasion he blocked a trail with new fencing. The sheriff and his deputy arrived and were confronted by Barlow, flourishing two small, pearl-handled pistols. Wisely turning to strategy, the two westerners so praised the dainty weapons that they persuaded Barlow to hand them over for further admiring inspection. When this ruse succeeded, Captain Barlow was taken to Sioux City.

At another time, he blocked the important upper Smithland road and removed a bridge over Little Whiskey Creek. Since this road was much-traveled and the bridge had cost Woodbury County over \$300, the board of supervisors acted promptly in seeking redress. Captain Barlow, however, stoutly defended his somewhat arbitrary actions. In reference to closing the road, he quoted the Iowa code, which granted him six months after notice in which to move fences. He also warned the township trustee that he would hold him "answerable in your private person" if the county opened the road. As for the removal of the bridge, Barlow regarded himself as a misunderstood public benefactor. He argued that the bridge had been wrongly located in the first place, and that the supervisors should do some grading and put the bridge in the right place instead of attacking honest men. Furthermore, countered the Captain, "I have put in four days hard work

with two men and a team each day removing that bridge and I think I have done my share." This dispute was taken through the district court, appealed to the State supreme court, and Barlow was eventually assessed \$500 damages and costs.

Barlow and his wife lived in the mansion for several years, although they traveled to England during some of the winters. While the fireplaces were huge and numerous, they did not prove to be a complete success in heating the cavernous halls. The great dwelling stood exposed to wintry blasts and was yet unscreened by the trees which had been planted. Hence, the Barlows often preferred ancestral England during the winter months. After a few years, he moved to an estate near London and returned to his Iowa manor only on occasion.

The reasons for his departure are not entirely clear. It may have been the coldness and dampness of the Hall, it may have been nostalgia for England, or it may have been a rumored stipulation in a will bequeathing him another fortune. It is dubious that the disputes with neighbors or the county authorities particularly disturbed Captain Barlow, who apparently thrived on these wrangles. In any event, Captain Barlow lived for less than a decade in his new home. When he did return on his visits it was for only a few days at a time, dur-

ing which he inspected Barlow Hall and his Sioux City property. Each visit of the Hon. Alexander K. Barlow was duly recorded in the Sioux City papers, causing a stir in local society and derisive comments by his neighbors.

Barlow Hall has had a rather lonely and anticlimactic existence since its original owner departed. The land around it has been farmed continuously, but the house itself has often stood silent and idle. The spacious hall has been used to store grain or protect farm machinery from the weather. For a brief interval during the early 1930's the Hall was operated as a tavern, but this experiment did not prove financially profitable. At present, three rooms of the vast building are occupied by the tenants who operate the adjacent land for the owner. While properly appreciative of the woodwork and the remnants of the stained-glass windows, the present occupants rather wistfully deplore the fact that the electric light lines are not connected. There are twenty-seven rooms, but that is slight compensation for an electric washing machine that must collect dust in the corner. The present tenants also make heroic but often fruitless efforts to keep the two winding roads through the grove open to their automobile.

While rich in historic interest, the huge dwelling is now cold, barren, and dark. Most of the exte-

rior remains intact, except for partially crumbled foundations and a few bricks that have fallen from the walls. The interior is littered by tattered wall paper hanging from the walls and piled on the floor. The woodwork is split and mutilated, the hand-carving defiled, and the stained glass windows largely broken or chipped away. Yet the mansion itself still stands, for Barlow Hall was built to last. That is its tragedy. The manor house has remained to watch its glamour fade, its story forgotten, and its halls once bright with candles and alive with laughter now shrouded in clammy darkness.

C. ADDISON HICKMAN

Camp Life in Other Days

In these stirring and rigorous days of war and preparation for war, at a time when millions of men are experiencing some form of military discipline, when thousands of Iowa boys are surrendering the comforts of home to endure the comparative privations of camp life, in order that democracy may continue to flourish, it may be well to turn back the pages of history and review the experiences incident to army life in previous wars. If the days are dreary and the nights are long in camp to-day, has it always been so? Modern war probably more nearly approximates Sherman's description of it. But, perhaps, camp life has improved.

During the Civil War thousands of Iowa boys were called into military camps. But in those days there were no large, central, well-equipped, and well-organized military camps. Instead, there were numerous small, ill-equipped, local camps where the volunteers were mustered into service and trained for a short time. Such camps were located at Burlington, Clinton, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Iowa City, Keokuk, Mount Pleasant, Muscatine, and Oska-

loosa. At these centers the companies of the various Iowa regiments gathered, learned the rudiments of military discipline, and were presently sent to reinforce the Union armies on the battlefields of the South.

Being conveniently situated, Davenport at various times during the Civil War was the site of five military camps. Of these Camp McClellan was the first and the most important. Established on August 8, 1861, it was the rendezvous of the Eighth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Sixteenth Iowa Infantry regiments, and the recruiting station for other miscellaneous troops.

Some of the more interesting features of life in Camp McClellan may be gleaned from the diary of Alexander G. Downing, a Cedar County farm youth who enlisted at the little town of Inland on Tuesday, August 19, 1861, and was transported with forty-four others by wagon to Davenport. His first meal in the army consisted of "boiled potatoes, fried bacon and baked beans." At night he had plenty of "straw to sleep on". During the first week in September the government issued to each man "a good, double, woolen blanket" to use at night in the "bunks of wheat straw". Rations consisting of "bread, beans, potatoes, bacon, rice, sugar, coffee, salt and pepper, also soap and candles" were drawn every morning.

In this diary for October 3, 1861, there is a comment regarding the weather and the condition of the camp. "It rained all day, and although our camp is on high ground, on the bluff just east of town, yet it is a jelly of mud. It couldn't be otherwise with three or four thousand men tramping over it."

Two weeks later Downing wrote: "Our daily routine in camp is as follows: Reveille at 4 a. m., breakfast call at 5, drill at 9 and dinner call at noon; drill call at 2 p. m., dress parade at 5, supper at 5:30, tattoo at 8 and taps at 9, when every man not on duty must be in his bunk and all lights out."

The men of the Eleventh Infantry had been in camp more than two months before arms were issued. "Our guns are the old-fashioned muskets made by working over the old flintlock gun, so as to use a cap in place of the flint", recorded Downing. "The musket is loaded with a cartridge containing powder, ball, and three buckshot in front of the ball. Each man is to carry forty rounds or more of ammunition all the time."

Uniforms were issued on November 2nd. Each man received "one dress coat, \$6.71; one overcoat, \$7.20; one pair of pants, \$3.03; one pair of shoes, \$1.96; two shirts, \$1.76; one double woolen blanket, \$2.96; one hat, \$1.55; two pair of drawers, \$1.00; two pair of socks, 52c; one cap, 60c; one

leather collar, 14c. The total cost for each man was \$27.43." The part of the uniform which caused the most comment was the collar. It was "a piece of stiff leather about two inches wide in the middle, tapering to one inch at the ends" which were fastened with a buckle. The soldiers were required to wear these about the neck "with the wide part under the chin" to hold the head erect. Brass epaulets on the shoulders made much extra work, as they had to be kept polished. Mr. Downing, in a note, commented that when the troops went into active service, "these epaulets were discarded and the 'dog collars' went with them".

Camp Roberts, located in July, 1863, on Duck Creek near Oakdale Cemetery at Davenport, was named for General B. S. Roberts who was stationed there. This was the headquarters for the Eighth and Ninth Cavalry. It was later called Camp Kinsman, and eventually the buildings were used for a soldiers' orphans' home. A stone at the present location of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home in Davenport shows the site of old Camp Roberts.

Camp Joe Holt, Camp Herron, and Camp Hendershott, also located at Davenport in 1861 and 1862, were used temporarily. The Second Cavalry rendezvoused at Camp Holt, and the Sixth

and Seventh Cavalry at Camp Hendershott. Camp Herron accommodated the Thirty-first and Thirty-second Infantry.

The first Civil War camp in Iowa was Camp Ellsworth established near Keokuk in May, 1861. This camp, located a little north of the city and not far from the Mississippi River, contained more than two hundred acres of land "free from timber and broken by several ravines". It was described as "a beautiful spot — high, airy, and affording a magnificent parade ground, large enough for the maneuvering of a dozen regiments." Members of the First Iowa Infantry were mustered into service there on May 14, 1861. A few days later the citizens of Keokuk arranged "a grand picnic" for the soldiers. The "tables" were lavishly supplied with food, and speeches and music "enlivened the occasion".

Franc B. Wilkie, writing from camp on June 2, 1861, said: "The details, both regular and irregular of camp life are varied, and to most of us, amusing and full of interest, all of which will probably wear off after a week's familiarity with its duties. Incessant drilling, guard mounting, either beneath a boiling sun or in a drenching rain storm, sleeping seven in a tent, washing greasy dishes, scouring rusty knives and forks, the almost State's-prison-like confinement of the soldiers;

all these, and a hundred other circumstances incident to camp life, will very speedily take the romance out of the whole matter".

Wilkie wrote of the white tents arranged so as to form streets at the camp. The Governor's Greys were stationed along "Dubuque Street", the Jackson Guards on "Jackson Street", and Captain Mason's company on "Bates Street". The daily routine, from the sound of reveille to tattoo and taps, was one of the rigid regulations. As something of an innovation, the men in one of the tents adopted the rule that "whoever swears shall read aloud a chapter in the Bible", the book being constantly open for that purpose. One could scarcely pass by the tent, day or night, it was said, without hearing some one reading the Scriptures. One youth had already read all of Genesis and Exodus and was getting "well into Leviticus". At this rate it was estimated that he would finish the entire Old Testament within three months.

On June 13th preparations were made for the First Iowa to leave Camp Ellsworth. "Five minutes ago the prairie was flecked with snowy tents", wrote Wilkie at three o'clock, "now there is not a tent to be seen — our late beautiful encampment is simply several acres of wood-piles, straw-heaps, old fireplaces, and wooden kitchens." The next day the troops were at Hannibal, Missouri.

There were three other military camps at Keokuk. In the fall of 1861 members of the Third Iowa Cavalry rendezvoused on a bluff near the city, which they called Camp Rankin in honor of Colonel J. W. Rankin of Keokuk. For this regiment 1100 horses were purchased at an average price of \$100 per head. On the 11th of November the Third Cavalry left Camp Rankin, and a few days later troops of the Fifteenth Iowa Infantry occupied it. These men remained for only a short time, however, for on November 25th it was reported that Camp Rankin had been abandoned, that the "sheds" would be sold by the United States, and that a new camp would be established at Fifth and Johnson streets.

The barracks at the new camp, named Camp Halleck, were supposed to be "comfortable and economical". The "cooking sheds" in the rear were provided with "improvised furnace ranges". On the upper floor of the main building "sleeping bunks" were set up. The commissariat was located "just across the street in a room of the Estes House". Guards were placed all around the vicinity of the barracks, but citizens were not hindered in passing. Stringent rules were enforced against drunkenness and card playing. The ladies of Keokuk gave the soldiers a "fine Christmas dinner" and on New Year's Day the ladies of Dan-

ville and vicinity, in Des Moines County, sent a "sumptuous" meal. Dress parade preparatory to leaving camp was held on March 16th and on the following day the regiment embarked on the *Jeannie Deans* for new quarters at Benton Barracks.

Adjutant General Baker announced the establishment of several new camps on August 11, 1862. Among these was Camp Lincoln at Keokuk. The Nineteenth Iowa Infantry, first stationed there, was soon moved south and the camp was occupied by the Thirtieth and Thirty-sixth Iowa Infantry in turn. In the fall of 1862 a smallpox epidemic at Camp Lincoln took the lives of about one hundred members of the Thirty-sixth Iowa.

In August, 1861, Colonel Addison H. Sanders selected a site for a camp at Dubuque "at the upper end of the bottom land adjoining Lake Peosta" — the area just south of Eagle Point. This camp was first called Camp Union, but was later known as Camp Franklin. The buildings constructed were twenty by sixty feet in dimensions and were arranged to accommodate one hundred men each. By August 25th, seven of the ten barracks were completed, and three companies were at the camp. Colonel William B. Allison, who was then in command at the camp, asked citizens of Dubuque to lend blankets for use of the

soldiers until a supply could be purchased. The report of the hospital at Camp Franklin from September 18th to November 30, 1862, showed that the whole number of persons admitted was 193; returned to duty, 163; furloughed convalescent, 7; discharged, 1; died, 8; remained in the hospital, 24. Early in 1863, the camp was vacated and the buildings were sold at public auction for \$1564.

On July 15, 1861, the *Des Moines Valley Whig* reported that, for some reason unknown to the writer, troops of the First Iowa Cavalry were to be transferred from Keokuk to Burlington. Upon their arrival at Camp Warren the men were formed in line in front of an extended board pile from which troughs and tables were to be made. At 11:30 o'clock the commissary sent out "rations of bread, raw meat, beans, unbrowned coffee, and sugar, together with camp kettles and deep pans". Out of these, the soldiers were required to "improvise a dinner, without knife, fork, spoon, pan, cup or tin". A little later the troops were engaged in building barracks for themselves, making shoes for the horses, and otherwise preparing for the life of a soldier. But with all the hardships, the boys found camp life to be "not wholly devoid of sunshine and merriment". In September, 1861, the editor of the *Des Moines Valley Whig* visited Camp Warren and reported that the troops were

comfortably quartered, in good health, and had plenty to eat.

In the fall of 1862 troops from Warren, Lucas, Decatur, and Wayne counties were organized into the Thirty-fourth Iowa Infantry, and placed in camp near Burlington at a place called Camp Lauman, where they remained until October 15th. During a period of two months' encampment at least 600 men had measles. This kept many of them unfit for duty during their entire stay at Burlington, and made camp life unusually monotonous.

Iowa City was the site of two military camps. In August, 1861, Governor Kirkwood ordered the Tenth Iowa Infantry to be quartered in the fair grounds, a twenty-five-acre area just south of town on the west bank of the Iowa River. For a while it was feared that their occupancy of the fair grounds would prevent the holding of the State Fair, but on September 24th the troops were suddenly moved to more active scenes of warfare, and Camp Fremont was again transformed into the State Fair Grounds. The site of Camp Fremont lies just north of the present Iowa City Municipal Airport.

In the summer of 1862 Camp Pope was established southeast of Iowa City and members of the famous Twenty-second Iowa Infantry under the

command of Colonel William M. Stone rendezvoused there. The Twenty-eighth and Fortieth regiments were also stationed there in the fall of 1862. The site of Camp Pope is now within the limits of Iowa City. A boulder and bronze tablet in the yard at the Longfellow School mark the location.

Soon after the receipt of President Lincoln's proclamation of July 2, 1862, calling for additional troops, Governor Kirkwood commissioned Eber C. Byam, of Linn County, to raise the "Iowa Temperance Regiment". Circulars were distributed and soon there were twice as many volunteers as were needed — "men who touch not, taste not, handle not spirituous or malt liquor, wine or cider." They were mustered as the Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry and sent to Camp Strong on Muscatine Island, where the Thirty-fifth Iowa was also in rendezvous.

Camp Strong was described as "very nice" for drilling, dress parade, and guard mounting. But there was "too much swampy land near it," which made it unhealthy, and besides, "there were too many loads of melons brought into camp." Members of the temperance regiment remained at Camp Strong for a little more than a month. Meanwhile, they had "a great deal of fun, drill, parade, and bad weather, and a good deal of measles in camp."

The Thirty-fifth Iowa remained at Camp Strong until late in November.

On October 12, 1861, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton authorized the organization of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry to be rendezvoused at Mount Pleasant. Within a week the troops began to arrive at Camp Harlan, so named in honor of Senator James Harlan. The camp was at that time "only an open meadow, lying west of the town, where there were piles of lumber provided for building barracks." Construction work began at once. Indeed, there was nothing else for the men to do. They had no military supplies, no equipment, no clothing but their own — not even a sufficient supply of blankets. But the people of Mount Pleasant permitted no one to be uncomfortable.

The barracks, which were constructed of rough pine boards, were eighty by twenty feet in dimensions, "and high enough for three tiers of double berths, or 'bunks,' between the floor and eaves." There was a door in each end, a window in the middle of each side, and a floor of rough boards. Twelve of these buildings facing south, one for each company, stood side by side with intervals of about twenty feet. In front of the barracks and beyond the parade ground were small barracks for the officers. At the rear of the barracks were long, low sheds to be used for stables. Excellent water

was supplied from Swan's Spring. The Fourth Cavalry remained at Camp Harlan until February 22, 1862, when the regiment was moved to St. Louis.

In the fall of 1862 the Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry used the buildings at Mount Pleasant but the place was known as Camp McKean. Subsequently the barracks were burned. A boulder and bronze tablet now mark the site of the camp.

During the Civil War there were two military camps near Council Bluffs. In the summer of 1861 Colonel Grenville M. Dodge, commanding the Fourth Iowa Infantry, established Camp Kirkwood near the southern limits of the city, on the high ground north of Mosquito Creek. The Second Iowa Battery of Light Artillery also went into quarters at Camp Kirkwood on July 4, 1861, and was mustered into the service of the United States later in the same month.

During the summer of 1862, Colonel Thomas H. Benton, Jr., recruited the Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry, which rendezvoused a little south of Camp Kirkwood, "on the same beautiful table land". This regiment remained at Camp Dodge, named in honor of Grenville M. Dodge, until December, 1862, when it proceeded down the river to Helena, Arkansas.

Clinton, like Council Bluffs, had a recruiting

center which was known as Camp Kirkwood. In September, 1862, members of the Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry drilled there under the command of Colonel William M. Stone. The troops remained at Clinton only a short time before they were removed to St. Louis and thence to Helena.

The Thirty-third Iowa Infantry, containing a large enlistment of men from Mahaska County, was mustered into service at Oskaloosa on October 1, 1862, at Camp Tuttle, named in honor of Colonel J. M. Tuttle of the Second Iowa Infantry. The troops remained at Camp Tuttle until November 20th, when they were marched to Eddyville, and thence transported to Keokuk, St. Louis, and Helena.

Members of the Twenty-third Iowa Infantry, recruited chiefly from Polk, Story, and Dallas counties with scattering volunteers from Harrison, Wayne, Page, and Montgomery counties, were stationed at Camp Burnside near Des Moines in the fall of 1862. Their stay at that location was very brief, however, as they were soon transferred to southern camps and to active scenes of warfare.

Military camps in Civil War days were makeshift, and the equipment and rations were not the best. Sickness was prevalent, making the normal hardships yet more difficult to bear. Sometimes camp life had pleasant aspects, but then, as now,

the daily routine was inflexible, periodic guard duty was unavoidable, and drill became monotonous. Boys who volunteered in a spirit of adventure must have been disillusioned. In those days, however, the period of training was short and many an Iowa company went into battle with slight knowledge of military tactics and unprepared for the rigors of long marches. Yet the Iowa camps were much more comfortable than the bivouacs on southern battlefields.

J. A. SWISHER

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