

# The **P**ALIMPSEST

AUGUST 1943

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT IOWA CITY BY  
THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER JULY 28 1920 AT THE POST OFFICE AT IOWA CITY IOWA  
UNDER THE ACT OF AUGUST 24 1912



## 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

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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 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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PRICE — 10 cents per copy: \$1 per year: free to Members

ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa



# THE PALIMPSEST

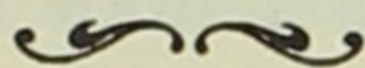
EDITED BY JOHN ELY BRIGGS

VOL. XXIV

ISSUED IN AUGUST 1943

NO. 8

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## The Orchards

Time was when people thought that apple trees bore fruit, or not, according to the grace of God and regardless of worms, pests, extreme heat and cold, and other hazards of nature. There were some, however, like the pioneer in Harrison County who conceived the idea of applying science to apple raising. This man, David Wesley Lotspeich, had purchased virgin land in Monona County, originally part of a railroad grant, and had turned that wilderness into a well-cultivated farm with a small home orchard. His original interest in an orchard had arisen out of the belief that apples and other fresh fruit were necessary to the health of his family. He had traveled as far as Magnolia to buy apples before his own orchard in Monona County was old enough to supply the needed fruit.

The three daughters of the family, Rose, Ruth, and Kathryn, attended the neighborhood school. Rose and Ruth wanted to be school teachers,



which meant that they must have more training than the rural school could provide. Their father did not consider for a moment the possibility of sending them away from home for their education. Instead, he decided to move the family closer to a good normal training school.

For this reason, backed by the conviction that his farm was much too hilly to be used for a commercial orchard, Mr. Lotspeich began to explore the surrounding territory for a more suitable acreage for a permanent home. North of the town of Woodbine he found an eighty-acre tract perfectly suited to his needs. There was a long gentle southern slope which seemed to creep gradually down into the Boyer Valley. Not more than a mile to the south was Woodbine, where one of the best normal schools in the State was located. There were no other orchards for miles in any direction, so he felt that there would be an adequate market for the fruit he intended to raise. Mr. Lotspeich bought this farm in 1893 and moved there with his family in the spring of 1894. The land he vacated was rented to Rasmus and Soren Rounsberg, who had formerly worked for him, and who purchased the place from him a few years later.

The condition of the land on the new farm could well be described as "corned out", and there was



much to be done to the soil before trees could be planted with any surety that they would survive. During the severe drought of 1894 and 1895, unbelievable numbers of loads of manure from the town's livery stables as well as from various nearby farms were added to the soil to enrich it.

During the period while the land was being reconditioned and before the apple trees became productive the family had a very meager living. For the first two years only the income from the Monona County farm saved them from real want. Then Mr. Lotspeich began to sell nursery stock for a company in southwestern Iowa, and carried on the regular farming activities of raising corn, hogs, and alfalfa. Strawberries were started on a commercial basis in 1898, followed by plantings of black raspberries and blackberries. Berries and grapes grew between the rows of fruit trees in the small home orchard north of the house.

This small orchard included a tree of everything from sweets to sour, and reds to yellows — peaches, cherries, mulberries, pears, apples, plums, grapes — and from early summer varieties to those ripening the next spring if properly stored. The family at "The Orchards", as they named their new home, had fruit twelve months of every year. The nursery stock was kept in an adjoining plot, but all of that was cleared out after the apple



orchard began to bear fruit in profitable quantities.

For apple stocks Virginia Crab and Sheriff were planted, and were used two years later for top-working to Grimes Golden and Jonathan. Some of the trees so grafted were producing from thirty to forty bushels per tree forty years later, which is adequate proof of the soundness of the top-working methods used.

In the big orchard there were equal numbers of Jonathan, Grimes Golden and Ben Davis, and half as many Sheriff. Then, in smaller numbers, Winesap, Gano, Geniton, York Imperial, and Northwestern Greening trees were set out. Mr. Lotspeich tried a unique plan in that part of the State when he planted his trees close together, with every other tree an early-to-bear and shorter-lived variety. These were thinned out as the better trees — Jonathan and Grimes Golden — grew in size. The experiment proved to be very profitable.

Of course there were losses due to accidents beyond human control, as well as the constant struggle against fruit parasites. The extreme severity of the winter of 1898-99 caused the loss of some trees. Again, in 1910, there was a very early spring followed by a severe freeze late in March, which caught the trees just ready to bloom and ruined the whole crop. Various pests and dis-



eases were carefully studied and treated. Codling moths, red cedar rust, and Illinois canker needed much attention. Jonathan spot, caused by delay in picking and storing, and hard to avoid in a large orchard, spoiled the appearance of some fruit, but did not affect its edibility.

The owner of "The Orchards" was faced with a rather difficult problem in working out a system for spraying his apple trees. For the first two seasons after spraying became necessary, he used a huge wooden barrel fastened lengthwise in a horse-drawn conveyance, and equipped with a hand pump. Later this pump was replaced by one operated by an air-cooled gasoline motor. Fortunately Mr. Lotspeich was an expert mechanic, and so was able to keep in operation this temperamental engine which was always displaying new eccentricities that had to be eliminated. Both the sound of the motor and the sting of the spray were violently resented by the horses, Ben, Dick, and Dewey, hitched to the apparatus. Half-way up the long hill the "filling station" was established, where barrels of copper sulfate, lime, and lime sulphur were added to water to make the various sprays. By locating the supplies of spray materials as he did, Mr. Lotspeich saved half of the long haul to the hilltop and centralized the source of supplies for the whole orchard.



A great deal of help was needed at harvest time to pick, sort, and pack the apples, and to help with the alfalfa crop which grew between the rows of trees in the big orchard. The workmen all lived within the immediate vicinity, although some brought their tents and equipment and camped at "The Orchards" during the harvest seasons. Cultivation of the soil and the pruning of the trees were done without hiring any extra workers. Mr. Lotspeich built a huge, odd looking, wooden rake, pushed by the horses, which he called a "go-devil" and which he used to collect the prunings which he cut from the trees during the dormant season.

At first the market for the fruit from "The Orchards" was entirely local. The Lotspeich family used to marvel at the amounts of fruit the people in such a limited territory could use. Then, as automobiles became more numerous, the market widened and people came from adjoining counties to buy fruit. On one particular Sunday afternoon, Mr. Lotspeich's son-in-law counted cars from twenty-three different Iowa counties parked outside the sorting shed and in front of the house. There were also many small shipping orders and these apples were carefully and individually wrapped and packed in barrels.

In no two years were marketing conditions exactly duplicated. A commission firm in Council



Bluffs handled several car loads of apples one year. Several times the entire crop was sold to one man — once to be delivered at the packing table, another time for a flat price on the trees. In any case, Mr. Lotspeich always insisted that the buyer must supply the local trade, rather than ship all of the fruit out of the territory. Once a grower in Logan bought a car load of apples, and took over the workmen and apparatus and bossed the job until his packing was done.

When Mr. Lotspeich began his work as a horticulturist, his knowledge of fruits and grafting was based on his mother's teaching. After he definitely decided to start a commercial orchard, he visited the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, where he absorbed all the advice people were willing to give him. Some of this advice was most peculiar and was wisely ignored as being impractical of application to an Iowa orchard.

Iowa State College at Ames used "The Orchards" for various spraying and other experiments. Starting in 1908, Professor S. A. Beach did some work on types of sprays. In 1911, Professor T. J. Maney continued that work and also made records of the hardy apple stock grafting which Mr. Lotspeich had started in 1894. The information obtained in this orchard through records and observation, forms the basis of the only



recorded long-time experience in top grafting of apple trees on the hardy stocks like Virginia Crab and Sheriff. This record now covers a period of over forty years.

Both the Southwestern Iowa Horticultural Society and the State Horticultural Society found an active and interested member in Mr. Lotspeich. Both societies issued annual reports of their meetings. In this way members got permanent and detailed records of the proceedings plus reports on the various experiments and experiences of other members, much of which was valuable in their work.

In 1893 Mr. Lotspeich sent an exhibit of DeSoto plums from his Monona County farm to the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. The plums were the subject of much comment because of their unusually deep coloring. This was the result of a very hot ripening season, however, rather than because the plums were any new development.

One of the first exhibits sent out from "The Orchards" was to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904 at St. Louis. Mr. Lotspeich received a "certificate of merit" and a three-inch square medal in recognition of the excellence of the box of Bessarabia cherries and the barrel of summer apples which he contributed.



A bushel of Grimes Golden, numbering 104 apples, received the award for the best box of apples in the State of Iowa in 1912. The gold disc which was presented to Mr. Lotspeich by Henry Wallace, editor of *Wallaces' Farmer* and grandfather of the present Vice President of the United States, was among his most cherished possessions. He wore this disc on his watch fob for many years.

At all the county fairs within reasonable distance — Harrison, Monona, Woodbury, Shelby — he regularly displayed fruit from "The Orchards". No exhibits were ever sent unless they were really above average.

Mr. Lotspeich had a wide reputation for his pioneering spirit, not only in his work with apples, but along other lines as well. He purchased his first automobile, a Great Western, on the last Wednesday in January of 1907 — just as the panic of 1907 broke. The banks would not pay out more than \$5.00 in cash to anyone, but were willing to transfer money on draft or check, so the car was paid for in spite of difficulties. Since it was one of very few automobiles in the community, the owner needed to be well informed concerning machinery. Things *would* go wrong with those early automobiles, and there were no garage mechanics available to right the wrongs.



Mrs. Lotspeich had acetylene lights — of which she was a little afraid — when most housewives were spending hours cleaning kerosene lamps. The first concrete that Woodbine saw was made and poured at "The Orchards" amid a shower of jibes and derogatory comments from a large group of bystanders. In spite of its purely experimental nature, that concrete was a success and a long-lived one.

At the time Mr. Lotspeich started raising alfalfa in quantities, very little was known about curing it. Most farmers had discarded it as an undependable crop and therefore not satisfactory. However, as a result of the orchardist's experiments with curing the alfalfa, the crop became widely grown in that area.

Another hobby was that of trying to produce successful crops of peaches in spite of the rigorous winters in that section of Iowa. Due to a succession of mild winters, Mr. Lotspeich was able to pick excellent peaches from his trees for two consecutive seasons. Then the usual cold winters returned and, in spite of repeated trials, this experiment was a dismal failure.

In connection with the necessity for storing large quantities of fruit, the owner of "The Orchards" devised a ventilating system for fruit storage cellars which kept fruit and vegetables in



good condition for seven or eight months without any refrigeration. His system became widely used before refrigeration became common.

"The Orchards" was sold to Mr. W. P. Campbell in 1917, but in many minds there lingers the early memory of the air of bustle and excitement during harvest time. All over the orchard the pickers would be singing, whistling, and calling back and forth to each other, as their picking bags hung heavier and heavier with the scarlet and golden fruit. At the sorting tables a colored avalanche rolled down the gentle inclines to be separated into lots of uniform size. There a visitor might find Kathryn, youngest daughter of the family, deftly separating exceptional fruit from the average of the crop, to be used as exhibits for various county and State fairs. There was a spicy tang in the air, and people came to sniff, watch, and munch, with the apples cracking pleasantly as teeth sank through the crisp skins.

It was harvest time — and all was well with the world.

LOIS MARIE OLLIVIER



## Baseball and Telephony

The time — two o'clock in the afternoon. The date — Thursday, June 27, 1867. The place — Waterloo. The occasion — the outstanding baseball game of the year between the Empire club of Waterloo and the Marshalltown club. The teams had met twice in the preceding fall, and in both games Marshalltown had triumphed, 28 to 25, and 40 to 22. Now, the Empires had the advantage of playing on their home field, and they were determined to avenge their earlier defeats. They also had a reputation to uphold, for they were acknowledged to be the best of the six teams in Waterloo.

The Marshalltown boys had left home two days before, traveling by horse and wagon. After stopping for the night at Fifteen Mile Grove they had arrived in Waterloo on Wednesday at noon. For the remainder of the day they had been entertained by the courteous citizenry of the neighbor city, but they retired early in order to be in good condition for the next day's struggle.

Early Thursday afternoon the teams met downtown and, headed by the umpire, T. H. Ball of Chicago, marched out to the baseball field where



some three thousand spectators eagerly awaited whatever was then the equivalent of the modern "Play ball!" The home team was dressed in white uniforms trimmed with scarlet cord, and their white regulation caps were perched jauntily on their heads. The visitors wore blue caps, blue shirts, and red pants. The contrast in colors was a fitting symbol of the fierce but friendly rivalry between the two teams.

The Marshalls, being the visitors, were first at bat. Their star center fielder, "Cap" Anson, led off against the opposing pitcher, "Doe" Vail. The accounts of the game do not record what Anson did his first time at bat. Perhaps he hit a home run, for he did have one in this game; perhaps he reached base safely and scored one of the eight runs he made during the afternoon; or maybe he was put out, for only two runs were scored that inning.

Whatever Anson did on his first trip to the plate had little effect on the outcome of the game. The Marshalltown lads were powerful sluggers: they scored in every inning. In the fourth, fourteen runs crossed the plate; in the fifth, twenty-two batters scored in the melee when Marshalltown lacked only two men of batting around three times. Despite "splendid playing on both sides", the Empires were soundly trounced, 76 to 29.



Obviously "Doe" Vail was off form, but in his own behalf it should be said that his regular position was catcher or shortstop. The simple box score as published in the Marshalltown *Times* is not accurate, which is not surprising considering the size of the score and the fact that the game was played in two hours and fifty minutes. It does, however, list the players, give their positions, and indicate something of the performance of each.

<i>Marshalltown</i>		<i>Runs</i>	<i>Outs</i>	<i>Empires</i>		<i>Runs</i>	<i>Outs</i>
[A. C.] Anson	cf	8	4	F. E. Cutler	cf	5	2
A. B. Cooper	1b	10	2	O. C. Miller	rf	5	2
D. Ankeny	rf	10	2	F. Chapman	lf	4	4
J. L. Green	c	10	3	L. A. Cobb	3b	5	2
J. M. Parker	lf	9	2	J. W. Crooker	ss	1	5
M. K. Williams	p	9	2	S. Raymond	1b	1	5
P. Woodruff	ss	9	3	F. Switzer	c	3	4
J. L. Williams	3b	6	3	G. Ordway	2b	3	2
M. Ellis	2b	6	5	T. N. Vail	p	3	2

The score by innings was:

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Total</i>
Marshalls	2	9	3	14	22	5	9	3	9	76
Empires	4	3	1	4	5	1	7	0	4	29

The Marshalls knocked thirteen home runs, the Empires none; but the Empires caught eight fly balls while the Marshalls caught only six.



Despite the humiliating defeat, the Empire players were good sportsmen. When the game ended they gave three rousing cheers for the triumphant Marshalls, who reciprocated in kind. Then both teams joined in a cheer for the umpire, out of respect for the impartiality of his decisions.

The baseball game was only a part of the day's festivities. In the evening, a reception was held at Lincoln Hall, and the players were made to feel at home by "many of the fair ladies and gallant young men of Waterloo". Then the athletes sat down to a bountiful supper at the Central House. Among the decorations was a sign, hung over crossed and battle-scarred baseball bats, reading "Marshalls, the Victors". The visitors were just as magnanimous. They voted unanimously to award to "Doe" Vail the belt honoring him as the champion baseball player of Iowa. After the banquet, toasts, and awards, there was dancing until three o'clock in the morning. Then the Marshall-town boys climbed in their wagons, gave three cheers for their hosts, and left for home, tired, happy, and triumphant.

More important than this game is the story of the subsequent careers of the leading player on each team. Adrian C. Anson, better known as "Cap" or "Pop" Anson, was born in Marshall-town. As a boy he liked games. Apparently his



baseball career began in 1867. Two years later, when he went to the State University to prepare for the "important duty" of teaching in the public schools, he helped establish the earliest form of organized athletics among the students. He began his professional baseball activities at Rockford, Illinois, in 1871, and he ultimately reached the top of the baseball world. He joined A. G. Spalding's Chicago White Stockings in 1876. In the following year he became captain and manager, and before his retirement in 1897 his team had won the pennant five times. As the star first baseman of the Chicago National League team, he was one of the most polished fielders in the game, and his lifetime batting average of .348 is a mark which would be a worthy boast of a modern player.

The pitcher whom he faced on that June day in 1867 was a newcomer to Waterloo. Theodore N. Vail was born in Ohio in 1845, and when he was two years old, his family moved to Morristown, New Jersey, where Vail later clerked in a drug store. There he became interested in the telegraph, and worked for two years in New York City as a telegraph operator. When his family moved to a farm near Waterloo in 1866, Theodore came with them. Almost on the day of his arrival he had an opportunity to prove his skill at bil-



liards by defeating one of the local experts. It was not long before he became a member of the Empire baseball club. He played during 1866 and 1867, but in the following year he took a position as a telegraph operator with the Union Pacific Railroad. From this he soon went into the railway mail service and, after demonstrating his administrative abilities in this work, he was called into the telephone business where he achieved his greatest success. He was the first president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, which he helped to organize in 1885. He retired two years later to engage in farming and to take a leading part in the industrial development of Argentina. In 1907 he returned as president of the reorganized American Telephone and Telegraph Company. It was under his aegis that this enterprise became one of the world's greatest corporations, with a phenomenal expansion in the number of telephones in use and with a remarkable improvement in the quality of service. Vail died in 1920 after establishing a reputation as one of the country's outstanding corporation executives.

Although Theodore N. Vail reached the pinnacle of success in the business world, he always remembered with pleasure and a tinge of nostalgia the happy days of his youth when baseball held



his interest. In a letter written in 1917 he recalled the game with Marshalltown when "Anson afterwards the famous baseball player was Captain of the team (Marshalltown)". And then he continued, with a hint of wistfulness, "I have often wondered if I would have become famous as he if I had stuck to baseball."

None of the spectators who witnessed that game between Marshalltown and Waterloo could have realized they were watching two young men who would later become known throughout the nation — one as a popular sports hero, the other as a powerful business leader. Each must have enjoyed a full measure of satisfaction in the knowledge that he had reached the top in his calling.

CARL B. CONE



## A Year of Victory

"Keep pegging away" was the advice of President Abraham Lincoln when questioned about a vital war problem early in the year of 1863 — the year that was to mark the turning point in the great struggle between the North and South.

Probably no State adhered to Lincoln's slogan more faithfully than Iowa. Throughout the gloomy war year of 1862 the Hawkeye State reacted to the southern victories by sending large numbers of volunteers into the Union army. Twenty-two infantry regiments plunged into the conflict to stem the tide of Southern victory. The Second Iowa Infantry led Grant's forces into Fort Donelson in one of the few Northern victories of that dark year. The battle of Shiloh a few weeks later was particularly painful to the Northern cause, but it was a tragic shock to Iowans who learned that one-fourth of the ten thousand casualties befell their own regiments. Undaunted by this blow, many men came in from the fields to join the ranks and fight side by side with their fathers, brothers, and sons.

The thought of being drafted was extremely distasteful to most Iowans and as a result the



measures for compulsory military service were not applied in the State during the first three years of the war. By the close of 1862 almost one-half of the total male population of Iowa had volunteered.

Gloom hung heavily over Iowa in December of 1862 when the Federal Army of the Potomac was defeated in the battle of Fredericksburg. The North learned that 25,620 soldiers had been killed in checking the north-bound Confederates at South Mountain and Antietam. In addition to this bad news, there were persistent reports that European powers were preparing to recognize the Confederacy. Nevertheless, Iowa steadfastly observed Lincoln's admonition to "keep pegging away".

With the first day of January, 1863, came a wave of optimism. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The announcement was received enthusiastically in the first free State west of the Mississippi. Rallies were held in Des Moines, Burlington, Muscatine, and Mount Pleasant. Freedom of the slaves clarified the purpose of the war and renewed the determination to win the conflict. It seemed, early in January, that Vicksburg would soon be captured, thereby opening the Mississippi River and cutting the Confederacy in twain.

The wave of optimism soon subsided, however.



Vicksburg did not fall, and emancipation had little practical effect. The chief aim of loyal Iowa editors during the winter lull in the fighting was to buoy up the spirits of their readers who were listening, all too often, to faint-hearted folks and Copperheads who were creating dissension in the North. "Were we asked what is the greatest evil of the day," warned the *Iowa City Republican*, "we should answer not the rebellion as it now exists — not the prospect of foreign intervention in our affairs — not the loss of our brave soldiery, these are evils, unmixed evils, but a greater than any one of these lies in the Tory heads and hearts of Editors (and other people) who rise early and sit up late to sow schism and discord among the loyal people of the north . . . who leave no stone unturned to create disaffection in the army and disunion in the councils of the nation. They seek with devilish invention to distract and divide the people, thus hoping and expecting to paralyze the great loyal arm of the nation".

There were, of course, some Iowans, patriotic but tired after two years of bloodshed, who were saying, "What's the use? I guess it won't pay. Hadn't we better back down, and let the rebels have their own way?" A few newspapers were denouncing Lincoln and asking for the cessation of hostilities. But loyal editors constantly empha-



sized the duty of every individual to stand behind the President and to aid "the brave soldiers who have buckled on their armor in defence of the Government and the country!" Leaders with faith in the Union urged the discouraged people to "hold on — the end will come and amply compensate the sacrifice."

While victory-starved Iowans were awaiting good news of their "boys" locked in battle at Vicksburg and on other southern battlefields it became popular to hold mass meetings for the purpose of uniting people of different party affiliations in support of the Union cause. One of the largest of these was held at Iowa City on March 12th. Chief speakers for the afternoon and evening affair were Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood, Hiram Price, C. C. Cole, and W. H. T. Gurley. These men helped to revive the lagging spirits of their listeners. They denounced the Copperheads and forecast victories for Union armies after a year of despair and defeat.

When false news came on April 8th that the important Rebel stronghold of Charleston had been captured, all Iowa temporarily forgot the battles of Bull Run, Shiloh, and Fredericksburg. "It is evident from all accounts that the Rebellion is fast dying out", declared the *Dubuque Times*. "The telegraph informs us that a peace party is



organizing in the Rebel Congress. No doubt Peace Rebels will soon be more plenty in the South than are the Peace Tories in the North. The Southern journals talk very dolefully of the situation", admitting that, "if the various movements of forces now imminent are successful, the Confederacy is as good as doomed."

But this good news was soon cancelled by the disaster at Chancellorsville on May 4th. After this defeat it appeared to most Iowans that 1863 was becoming darker than '62.

While the spring months passed, loyal Iowans at home exerted all their energies toward winning the war of the rebellion. At nearly every public gathering, lecture, or concert, collections were taken for the benefit of Iowa regiments on the battlefronts. Women gave much of their time in making bandages and sanitary supplies which were sent to ease the suffering of the soldiers. Pleas were often sent out by the soldiers in letters printed in Iowa newspapers that Northern regiments were in dire need of fresh vegetables and fruits. As a result of these requests Iowa housewives in that eventful year collected many boxes of "cranberries, apples, ginger snaps, carrots, plums and other essentials from their well-stocked larders."

The gloom that so long had hung over the



North suddenly lifted on the Fourth of July. Vicksburg had surrendered! To Iowans the news was especially welcome, for several Hawkeye regiments had played a prominent part in the great victory. "Once more the Mississippi flowed unvexed to the sea". Coupled with Grant's decisive success came reports that Lee had been repulsed at Gettysburg. In the East as well as the West the Rebels were in retreat. The tide of battle had turned at last.

Iowa towns to which the telegraph brought the glorious tidings, celebrated Independence Day in 1863 as never before. Fireworks, bonfires, and speeches expressed the popular jubilation. The full extent of the Union victories was not realized at once. Within four or five days, however, loyal citizens could rejoice without restraint. At Cedar Falls "Main Street was ablaze with excitement" on the evening of July 8th. Flags were brought out and the cannon's "iron throat peeled victory's loud anthem", while "martial music with its stirring notes fanned the excitement to a fever heat." Everybody seemed to be "overflowing with joy" which was expressed in "loud and continuous huzzas."

Typical reaction to the news of victory was expressed in the *Independence Guardian* on July 7th. "The glorious news from Pennsylvania, re-



ceived by extra last night, created the wildest enthusiasm among our people, who, without fully crediting all the details, could see no reason to doubt that the army of the Potomac had achieved a signal victory over Lee and his traitor hordes. Cheer after cheer greeted the reading of the news, and soon the cannon was thundering forth a deep boom of triumph. Directly a big keg of lager was on public tap, at the Post Office, and not a man was suffered in sight without being made to drink to Gen. Meade and his brave soldiers. Our Copperhead friends, particularly, were the subjects of these peremptory invitations. They generally, however, seemed to relish the good feeling, and shook hands and shouted with the rest."

Prophetic of the popular attitude under similar conditions eighty years later, the editor of the Butler Center *Stars and Stripes* on July 22, 1863, indicated the rising hopes of the war-weary people. "Patriotic hearts are made glad by the recent successes of the Union at Gettysburg and Vicksburg", declared M. Bailey. "The mighty cloud that has veiled our future is breaking and the golden morning tints betoken a happy day for our Republic. We believe the time is approaching, when the authority of the government is to be re-established, and our lawful rulers may determine in what manner the traitor chiefs shall atone for



their crimes." A week later Editor Bailey wrote optimistically, "We know that the work is not yet ended but like a weary toiling boy who watches the sun decline and feels that the time of repast and rest approaches, we feel that the rebellion is far past its meridian, and our hard day's work is much more than half accomplished."

The *Cedar Valley Times* of Cedar Rapids was more specific. "The capture of Vicksburg is the doom of the rebellion in the southwest", declared the editor. "Grant, Rosecrans, and Banks will make short work of Johnston, Bragg and Port Hudson. Bragg and Johnston are both on the retreat and Port Hudson is closely invested, and must fall, as Vicksburg has fallen. The southwest cleaned out, and Meade again successful on the Potomac ensures the complete suppression of the rebellion at no distant day." A month later the same editor felt "confident that the war will be virtually ended by the first of January."

But then as now there was need for caution. Much hard fighting remained before enduring peace could be established. In some quarters the turn of events served to rouse the fifth columnists of those times to desperate efforts. Governor Kirkwood was convinced that the disloyal Knights of the Golden Circle, estimated to number approximately 42,000, were plotting insurrection. "It



would be a terrible thing", reflected the Governor, "to have civil war with all its horrors in our state, and if it comes I intend it shall be terribly atoned for by those who bring it upon us." Because of his fear of an uprising he encouraged the organization of more Home Guard companies to preserve order.

Perhaps the danger was exaggerated, but a few disturbances marred the internal harmony of Iowa. In South English a Baptist preacher named Cyphart Tally, who defiantly expressed his Copperhead views, was shot by a mob. Soldiers returning from the front on furlough were intolerant of any opposition to the conduct of the war. On several occasions force was used to "correct" the attitude of outspoken Southern sympathizers. The type and press of the Keokuk *Constitution-Democrat* were tossed into the Mississippi River. In Dubuque quick action by Federal government agents in arresting Editor D. A. Mahoney saved his newspaper from a similar fate. Henry Clay Dean, a preacher, and George W. Jones, a former United States Senator who was in correspondence with Jefferson Davis, were arrested.

Meanwhile, the political pot was boiling. Republicans favored the vigorous prosecution of the war. Democrats, however, including both Unionists and anti-abolitionists, were divided. The re-



sult was a sweeping Republican victory in the fall election, which caused the editor of the *Stars and Stripes* to conclude that the "question of whether the war shall be vigorously prosecuted against the Rebels, or peace shall be made at any price, has been, we think, pretty emphatically settled by the freemen of the North".

With the arrival of autumn, Iowa troops in the South were again on the move. Late in November Grant and his men redeemed the September failure of General Rosecrans by winning the battle of Chattanooga. Nine Iowa regiments participated in that victory and then went on to capture Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain.

"I think", wrote a correspondent on October 28th, "we may now safely conclude that the crisis in our national troubles is past. Many victories have been won in the field, rebel strongholds have been wrested from the traitors, large tracts of rebel territory have been reclaimed, and the old flag floats again over many of the towns and cities in Secessia." This statement epitomized the general opinion in Iowa. The Confederacy was crumbling at last.

Evidence of the suppression of the rebellion was becoming more and more apparent every day. "With a winter before them and two-thirds of their territory again subjected to Federal rule, can



it be possible that the Rebellion can last many months longer?" wondered an Iowa editor. "Let every effort be put forth by the North, and ere many months have passed, we may rejoice that the Rebellion is dead", he prophesied.

As the *Cedar Valley Times* pointed out, the "military strength of the Confederacy has been broken. What successes they have gained have been of no practical or permanent benefit to them. We, on the other hand, have been constantly going forward, taking and holding both the territory and the strongly fortified positions of the enemy."

Though the final victory was in sight, President Lincoln called for 300,000 more soldiers to complete the conquest. Iowa was required to furnish 8910 men. Though this quota was met, it involved great hardship for many Iowans who were more desperately needed on the farms. When the year ended, however, the records in the War Department showed a surplus of 1281 volunteers from Iowa.

In the first issue of 1864 the *Keokuk Gate City* carried an inspiring resumé of the previous year of victory. One significant paragraph was so suggestive of present war aims and the trend of events that in the near future it might be appropriately reprinted in the *Gate City*. "Today the power of the rebellion is broken, and the hopes of



traitors and of the enemies of free government throughout the world are crushed. The foundations of our Government and of the liberties which it secures are today firmly established, and we look forward with assured confidence that our children's children and remote posterity will live in the enjoyment of all the privileges and blessings of our glorious Republican Government."

REEVES HALL



## Comment by the Editor

### *THE LURE OF HOPE*

It began at El Alamein and Stalingrad. Since last winter a continent has been cleared of the enemy and the European Fortress itself is beginning to crack. Talk of peace and rumors of internal disorder are broadcast eagerly. After continual defeat comes at last a year of victory for the United Nations. Hope of ultimate triumph soars high.

In the midst of the Civil War the forces of the Union won some decisive battles. After repeated defeats and months of disappointing preparation, success perched on the banners of the North. Grant took Vicksburg to clear the Mississippi and Meade turned back the Confederates at Gettysburg. Those great military achievements early in July, 1863, marked the turning point of the war.

A wave of optimism swept over the country. The hope inspired by the trend of events prompted editors to predict an early conclusion of hostilities. Rumors of weakening morale in the South encouraged wishful thinking, while skeptics who recognized that the Confederacy was still powerful and defiant were suspected to disloyalty. Actually the



war lasted nearly two years longer. The terrible battles of the Wilderness, Petersburg, and Atlanta remained to be fought.

The analogy between 1863 and 1943 as years of victory proves nothing as to the duration of the present war, but it does illustrate the universal lure of hope. That the future prospect seems more attractive than the present is undoubtedly fortunate, yet the reality is seldom as satisfying as imagination pictures it. Skepticism is likely to be closer to the truth. The progress of this age of science is founded upon inquiring doubt of the validity of wishful supposition. Hope is wholesome, but uncertain as a basis for prediction.

J. E. B.



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