

# IOWA and WAR

*The State University of  
Iowa and the Civil War*

Issued Monthly by the State  
Historical Society of Iowa  
Iowa City Iowa

ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER AT THE POST OFFICE AT IOWA CITY IOWA

EDITOR'S NOTE TO NUMBER EIGHT

The following account of *The State University of Iowa and the Civil War* was written nearly twenty years ago by Mrs. Rich, who as Miss Ellen A. Moore graduated from the University in the class of 1865. The account is reprinted from *The Iowa Historical Record* for January, 1899.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH  
*Editor*

---

EXPLANATION OF THE SERIES

UNDER THE GENERAL TITLE OF "IOWA AND WAR" THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA UNDERTAKES TO ISSUE A SERIES OF SMALL PAMPHLETS DEALING WITH A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS RELATING TO MILITARY MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE HISTORY OF IOWA.

SINCE THESE PAMPHLETS ARE IN NO SENSE A MONOGRAPHIC SERIES, BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND ACADEMIC CITATION OF AUTHORITIES ARE OMITTED. THEIR CONTENTS ARE NONE THE LESS BASED UPON CRITICAL STUDIES AND RELIABLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

---

PRICE—TEN CENTS PER COPY: ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR  
ADDRESS—STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, IOWA CITY, IOWA

# IOWA and WAR

Edited by BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

Published by THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

---

---

No. 8

FEBRUARY

1918

---

---

## THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA AND THE CIVIL WAR

By MRS. ELLEN M. RICH

Among the warp of that wondrous fabric, the history of the Civil War, may be found woven threads of varying hue and texture. Fragments of local history reveal tints and shades of color found nowhere else and the narration of events in one place is seldom a repetition of those in another. The part taken by University students is unique. It is little which school boys in their teens can do toward putting down a great rebellion, but the spirit of patriotism and the enthusiasm of loyalty which they can display are capable of inspiring warlike valor. The shot fired at Sumter was heard upon the University cam-

pus. Its reverberations resounded through the old stone building and wakened from silent meditation the students of Euclid and Horace.

The first demonstration was not a boy's hurrah, but an exhibition of intense interest. There was no telegraph station nearer than Davenport, fifty-six miles away, therefore news traveled less readily than now. Although the garrison lowered its flag and marched out of Fort Sumter on the 14th of April, there was no great public demonstration in Iowa City until the 18th. By that time excitement had become intense. The streets were thronged with people discussing the merits and demerits of the policy of the administration. The President had issued his call for seventy-five thousand men for three months. Little any one then knew of the terrible crisis impending, and great was the confidence that in a few months quiet would again be restored. Large union meetings were held upon the University campus and upon the corner of Clinton and Washington streets adjoining, the stile at that corner

being the platform from which many a stirring speech was made.

The University, like all similar institutions, was intensely loyal, while at the same time it contained a few whose sympathies were with the Southern States, and who at first found it difficult to suppress their confederate sentiments. Under the guidance of a wise and cautious faculty their ideas lost prominence, for the faculty at once forbade the wearing of badges of any character. The violation of this rule resulted in the suspension of only five or six students. This unpleasant incident was the only blot upon the escutcheon of the University. So great was the loyalty of all others that this fact is almost unworthy of mention, only that a truthful historian is compelled to state that copperhead pins and confederate flags were worn in the University chapel and class room, and one, at least, of Jefferson Davis's fast days was observed by a few students.

After the lapse of a third of a century memory fails to recall much which then seemed so vital, and it is now difficult to col-

lect even a few strands of this local history. Were it not for the newspapers, the files of which are generally preserved, the gleaning of many facts would be well nigh impossible. To the newspapers of Iowa City and the Adjutant General's reports we are largely indebted for the substance of this article. It is therefore difficult to separate the history of the University during the Civil War from the history of Iowa City during the same period.

On Thursday evening, April 18, 1861, the leading citizens and students met at the Court House. The presiding officer was Mayor Clark and the result of the meeting was that forty-three persons enrolled themselves, who, including the Washington Guards, made seventy-three, or within five of the number required for a company. About three thousand dollars were subscribed for the benefit of needy families of those enlisting. The Governor's proclamation was read by General Bowen. It, in brief, stated that the call upon this State was for one regiment, but the Governor urged the formation of companies to hold themselves in readiness

for further orders. At this meeting speeches were made by many distinguished persons, and the young men of the town and of the University were in a fever of excitement.

On Saturday evening, April 20th, a meeting was held at Metropolitan Hall in order to raise another company of volunteers to hold themselves in readiness to be called into service. This was in a measure an adjourned meeting of the immense gathering upon the University Square during the afternoon of the same day. At the afternoon meeting the German Artillery and the Washington Guards were upon the ground in full uniform, and thirty-four rounds were fired in honor of the Union. Bryan Dennis, of Clear Creek, presided. Speeches were made by Governor Kirkwood, Mayor Clark, Reverend McLean, Reverend Powers, of Davenport, and many others. The prevailing sentiment was that party politics should be forgotten and the great cause of the Union should prevail. The urgent need was that the call of the Executive should meet with hearty response from every loyal citizen.

Sunday, April 28th, by special invitation of the Washington Guards (Captain Mahana's company), Reverend McLean preached a sermon to them from the steps of the University in the afternoon. Other pastors assisted in the service. It was the largest concourse of people ever gathered together in Iowa City on the Sabbath day. The "Guards" marched from their camp, the fair grounds, and returned in regular military style, with the exception of the drum and fife, which were omitted at the request of some of the church members.

The volunteers, who were to constitute Company B, First Iowa Regiment, went into camp at the fair grounds on Thursday, April 25, 1861, though they were not supplied with blankets until the Monday following. They had three drills per day and the afternoon drill was largely attended by ladies. The cloth for their uniforms was received on Saturday, April 27th, Honorable Ezekiel Clark having made a trip to Chicago in order to purchase it. Sunday the ladies of Iowa City began the work of making the cloth pur-



chased into pants for the volunteers. This cloth was gray satinet, half cotton, half wool, suitable only for summer wear. Those interested in the history of the sewing machine should have seen the three used by the ladies in this work. They were of the kind first invented and were crude affairs, being single thread machines, the kind which affords ample opportunity for ripping if only a thread is left unfastened. This fact some of the soldiers soon ascertained, much to their dismay. The Iowa City papers state that the work of making uniforms began upon Monday morning. This was probably stated that the fastidious might not impugn the morals of Iowa City ladies. Valor and loyalty brooked no delay, the cause was a holy one and the Sabbath was not broken even though Metropolitan Hall resounded to the noise of labor. Before the following Sunday the uniforms were complete; they consisted of a hat, jacket, pants, two flannel shirts, socks and shoes. Other companies of this regiment were differently arrayed, some wearing caps and blouses, some hats and frock coats. They

presented a motley appearance and, as their pants soon became ragged and their cheap shoes worn, General Lyon called them his "tatterdemalion gypsies". Afterward, when he perceived that they could out-march all his other troops, he re-christened them his "Iowa grey-hounds".

At the beginning of the war the Iowa troops were humiliated by their odd and unconventional outfit, but pride never stood in the way of patriotism. Although regiments from other states were better clad and equipped, none did more valiant service.

On Monday, May 6th, Company B, First Regiment Iowa Volunteers, under command of Captain Mahana, took its departure for Davenport, on its way to rendezvous at Keokuk. On Sunday previous, these troops attended the Methodist Church and were addressed by O. M. Spencer, D. D., President of the University. His remarks were inspiring and patriotic and helped to strengthen devotion to the cause in which they had enlisted. The day after their arrival at Davenport the "boys" were placed on a steamboat and tak-

en to Keokuk. After encamping the company sent a united message in the form of resolutions to the friends at home. The first of these resolutions reads:

*Resolved*, That the ladies of Iowa City and vicinity deserve our first consideration. Like true women the world over, they are ever foremost in all acts of benevolence, goodness and patriotism. In the many evidences of kindness received from them, both past and present, we recognize a devotion to the country, pure and steadfast, the same which actuated the women of '76. May God bless all such women! and in accordance with their undoubted wishes, may their sons, husbands, brothers, lovers, and friends return to them in due time with honor to themselves and their associates.

The ladies of Keokuk honored the Company with a public dinner, after which the Company tendered these ladies a vote of thanks in the form of a set of resolutions expressive of their gratitude. These resolutions were signed by W. H. H. Judson, Abe Len. McPherson, and B. E. Langdon, all University boys.

As far as can now be ascertained, those who went from the University in the First

Iowa Regiment, Company B, were the following: A. L. McPherson, McHenry Brooks, Wm. H. H. Judson, B. E. Langdon, George W. Smith, and Wm. P. Schell. McPherson was wounded at Wilson's Creek. Schell re-enlisted in the 22nd Iowa.

Company B, First Iowa, contained the first few of a long list of students, who saw service during the war; and its career during the three months of its service may be summarized as follows: left Iowa City, May 6, 1861, mustered into service May 14th, at Keokuk. Left Keokuk, June 13th, arrived at Macon City, Missouri, via Hannibal, June 14th. Next day was detached to guard a bridge on the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad near Carbon. Remained here two days. Rejoined the regiment and was ordered to unite with General Lyon's command at Booneville. Arrived at Booneville, June 21st, where they encamped until July 3rd. Went to Springfield, Missouri, to join General Sweeney's command. Assisted in the capture of Forsyth, was present at the action of Dug Springs, and, although their term of enlistment had

expired, they participated in the battle of Wilson's Creek, with the main body under General Lyon, and were in the hottest part of the action, when the enemy attempted to turn the left flank, which was the station of Company B. The men of this company, University men, Iowa City men, all displayed unflinching firmness and bravery. This company was in the retreat to Rolla, and was mustered out at St. Louis. After their return home, a formal reception was given them in which the people from the country united with those of the city. This was on September 3, 1861. The company formed on College street, under escort of the Turner Rifles and Hohman's band, and marched through several streets to the University Square, where dinner was served, closing with toasts and responses. Another noteworthy demonstration by this company was on Washington's birthday, February 22, 1862, when the members, still residents of Iowa City, forty-two in all, marched through the mud and snow followed by a long procession of people from town and country, and as-

sembled at the southeast corner of the campus to listen to the reading of Washington's Farewell Address and to conduct other appropriate exercises.

Much labor would be required to perfect even a brief history of the service rendered by University men, students and professors, during the four years of the war. Recruits were constantly called for and lists were kept at various places in town. Those who enlisted were usually quartered at the old Hutchinson House, formerly the old State House. There were few, if any, Iowa regiments, except the Greybeards, which did not contain some representatives from the University or men who later became connected with the University. Doubtless the Twenty-second Regiment drew more heavily upon the University than any other except the Forty-fourth.

The professors and teachers of the University were active in many good works; though not the originators of philanthropic measures they were ever ready to follow where others led. When the Johnson County Sol-

diers' Relief Association was perfected, in May, 1862, Professor T. S. Parvin, of the University, was made president.

The Ladies Soldiers' Aid Society enrolled only the names of those who paid regular dues, but it called into its service many University girls, who attended the gatherings in order to scrape lint, prepare bandages, tie comforters, assist in soliciting donations and in conducting public entertainments for the purpose of raising funds.

In April, 1864, a number of patriotic citizens of the State associated themselves together for the purpose of providing a home and education for the orphans of soldiers. The committee consisted of Samuel J. Kirkwood, Wm. M. Stone, C. C. Cole, Annie Wittenmyer, Mary Kibben and N. H. Brainerd. An appeal for subscriptions was made throughout the State. The original subscription list, which was circulated among the University faculty, has been preserved and is as follows:

The undersigned hereby agree to give the amounts set opposite their names respectively, to

constitute the Faculty and Teachers of the State University of Iowa life members of the *State Orphans' Home*.

Iowa City, May 4th, 1864.

O. M. Spencer.....	\$3.50	Paid.
Jos. T. Robert.....	3.50	Paid.
T. S. Parvin.....	3.50	Paid.
D. Franklin Wells ...	3.50	Paid.
N. R. Leonard.....	3.50	Paid.
Gustavus Hinrichs ...	2.00	Paid.
O. C. Isbell .....	2.00	Paid.
Chas. E. Borland ....	2.00	Paid.
Thomas Calver .....	2.00	Paid.
Amelia R. Traer.....	1.00	Paid.
Louise Brainerd .....	.75	Paid.
Lavinia Davis .....	1.00	Paid.

Subscription to constitute the Faculty and Teachers of the State University life members of the State Orphans' Home.

The Board of Regents made what provision lay within their power to aid the good cause. They admitted to the University, free of tuition, all returned soldiers and all soldiers' widows.

The University campus was the scene of many gatherings for furthering the interests of the Union. One of the grand affairs was a



dinner given on April 25, 1864, to the war veterans. The soldiers were received in the University Square, from there escorted to Metropolitan Hall and welcomed to a sumptuous feast spread by Iowa City ladies, the wives of the professors and the University girls assisting. It is said that to this menu the soldiers did credit, "charging upon the works before them in repeated attacks". Professor D. F. Wells and Professor T. S. Parvin, of the University, took prominent part in this banquet.

We find the following advertisement in the Iowa City papers:

MILITARY BALL. Company H, Second Iowa Cavalry, will give a Military Ball in full dress at Metropolitan Hall next Monday evening (May 2nd, 1864). They invite all our citizens to unite with them in this entertainment. If they can dance themselves as well as they make the rebels dance, it will be worth witnessing. Tickets to the Hall only 50 cents.

Whether this ball was a grand affair we cannot say, for those were days when dancing by students was not approved by the faculty

or by parents at home. It is important, however, historically, because it was coincident with another noteworthy event. It was at the close of the day which marks the beginning of Company D, Forty-fourth Iowa Infantry, the last and greatest demand made upon the University during the entire war. The formation of Company D was the result of a stirring proclamation issued by Governor Stone on April 25, 1864, calling for volunteers to serve for a period of one hundred days.

The students of the University, with Professor Calver at their head, commenced immediately to form a company. At their first meeting, Monday, May 2nd, they enrolled thirty-eight names of those ready to go if permitted by their parents. Professor Calver had charge of the military instruction at this time, and tutor Charles E. Borland, agreed to go with him. This first meeting was held upon the University steps (steps of the old capitol building). The company was expected to man posts and forts and do guard duty. In eighteen days from the time

of the first meeting the company left Iowa City for Davenport. It was composed of eighty-three men, several more to join before being mustered in. Of this number forty were from the University, twenty-five from Western College, and eighteen from Cornell College at Mt. Vernon. There were but two married men in the company. Those from Cornell and Western arrived on Thursday and were treated to a splendid picnic by the ladies of the University. They were entertained by householders of Iowa City during their stay. On Friday forenoon the company organized by the election of the following officers: Captain, Charles E. Borland; First Lieutenant, James L. Perry, of Western; Second Lieutenant, T. L. Stephens, of Mt. Vernon. Professor Calver was assigned to the office of Sergeant-major in the regiment.

At three o'clock Friday afternoon a beautiful flag of the finest silk, costing seventy dollars, was presented to the company by Miss May Parvin in behalf of the young ladies of the University. Miss Parvin was eloquent in her presentation address, and

Captain Borland responded with equal eloquence. President Spencer than made the parting address, after which the company marched to the railway station, followed by a much larger company of ladies. On their way, near the station, they partook of a bountiful supper, furnished by the Soldiers' Aid Society and served upon the lawn of Mrs. J. C. McConnell. At six o'clock they started for Davenport, waving hats and handkerchiefs until the train was out of sight. The members of this company were nearly all engaged in literary pursuits and were well prepared for the most fraternal relations. They were soldier students who went forth like a band of brothers. The following is a complete list of those from the University who enlisted at Iowa City:

Ira John Alder	Levi F. Bowsby
James P. Arnold	Samuel M. Bowman
Joseph P. Bushnell	Jeremiah V. Boone
Charles E. Borland	Ross Calhoun
Arthur A. Blumer	Edwin J. Clark
Oscar E. Deeds	Andrew L. Clyde
Samuel E. Allen	Elisha D. Ely
W. W. Baldwin	Henry P. Farnsworth

Benj. F. Fenstermaker	Hugh R. McClelland
James O. Hawkins	Henry J. Minthorn
Benj. M. Hemingway	Theodore Russell
Charles M. Howe	James P. Schell
Louis Knoll	Albert A. Stine
Eugene A. Lee	Marcus H. White
James T. Marsh	James R. Wylie

Some others enlisted at Davenport, where all were mustered in at Camp Kinsman, by Captain Alex. Chambers, U. S. A.

We find this note in the Iowa City *Republican* of that time:

The State University has become almost a female institution since the young men left for their campaign south. The few remaining look lonesome and disconsolate. Some of them were very anxious to go along, but Pa said "no." Some are in such a stage of their studies that they can not leave without great detriment. We hope the young ladies will treat them kindly and console them all they can.

The captain, Charles E. Borland, was presented with an elegant sword by the members of the faculty. The presentation was made at Davenport by Professor T. S. Parvin. It was much the finest sword in the

regiment and is preserved in the historical rooms at Iowa City. The flag was nearly consumed by the great fire which destroyed so many valuable things in the University library on June 19, 1897, little except the spear head and ferrule remaining.

Company D was occupied during most of its term of enlistment in guarding Sherman's rear lines, which extended from Louisville to near Atlanta, Georgia. Those who did not re-enlist were mustered out at Davenport.

There is probably no memento of their service which is so dearly prized as the following:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
WASHINGTON CITY, October 1st, 1864.

The term of 100 days, for which volunteers, from the States of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, volunteered under the last call of their respective Governors in the months of May and June, to aid in the recent campaign of General Sherman, having expired, the President directs an official acknowledgment of their patriotic services. It was their good fortune to render efficient service in the brilliant operations in the southwest and to contribute to the victories of the National arms over the rebel

forces in Georgia under command of Johnston and Hood. On all occasions and in every service to which they were assigned, their duty as patriotic volunteers was performed with alacrity and courage, for which they are entitled to, and are hereby tendered the National thanks through the Governors of their respective States.

The Secretary of War is directed to transmit a copy of this order to the Governors of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, and to cause a certificate of their honorable services to be delivered to the officers and soldiers of the States above mentioned, who recently served in the military force of the United States as volunteers for one hundred days.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

This order of the President was executed by the Secretary of War, and doubtless every soldier of Company D, Forty-fourth Iowa, has treasured his certificate as a priceless relic.

The following names are given in addition to those given above as enlisting directly from the University. These had been students and enlisted in other companies in this or other States:

Bailey, T. S.  
Bane, C. H.

Billings, J. L.  
Bivins, B. F.

Bonsall, Emmor	Hanna, J. T.
Bowen, W. J.	Harman, C. R.
Brownson, E. W.	Harrison, William E.
Carleton, R. A.	Hawkins, J. E.
Casebolt, D. D.	Hawkins, W. H.
Clark, A. R.	Heizer, S. B.
Clark, J. K.	Hemperly, H. C.
Clark, F. M.	Howell, S. S.
Clark, W. A.	Hoxie, R. L.
Clearman, Lewis	Hunter, George
Cochran, J. P.	James, Isaac
Crane, J. F. G.	James, Leicester
Craven, A. F.	Jepson, Isaiah
Davis, D. J.	Johnson, A. W.
Davis, J. N.	Keller, V. L.
Duncan, J. K.	King, E. H.
Ewing, J. S.	Lantz, W.
Fearing, William G.	LaTourette, G.
Ferguson, J.	Lewis, M. M.
Firth, E. A.	Lownd, W. H.
Free, A. J.	Lucas, J.
Free, T. S.	Macomber, H. R.
Fry, W. A.	Martin, S. B.
Fuhrmeister, F. N.	McClellan, J. A.
Geddes, William	McCormick, J. R.
Golding, G. H.	McDowell, Arthur
Hall, W. F.	Meredith, Edward
Hall, William E.	Messenger, Nicholas
Handy, G. W.	Overman, Charles



Porter, John W.	Sublet, Z. P.
Remley, George A.	Tolliver, G. S.
Rice, N. H.	Tolliver, J. M.
Ritter, I. M.	Trask, E. F.
Roberts, D. H.	Trine, D. K.
Roberts, James	Vandike, S. P.
Robinson, H. P.	Waldron, William O.
Rutan, J. C.	Warren, S. B.
Sanford, J. P.	Whittaker, C. W.
Sanford, C. C.	Williams, O. N.
Schee, O. M.	Wilson, Lemuel
Sedgwick, Cullen	Wood, Bingham
Smith, C. R.	Wright, Thomas S.
Smith, J. A.	Wyers, T. C.
Smock, D. D.	Zimmerman, S. B.
Stearns, LaMotte	

The number of enlisted men from Iowa was almost one-tenth of the entire population, which means that nearly all the young men of the State were at the front. Although the University suffered heavily, yet the time intervening between the last great demand and the close of the war was short and the following year marked the return of many. The acquisition of others, new to the University, was considerable. It could be truthfully said that now was "the winter of our discon-

tent made glorious summer'' by these sons of Mars. The enrollment, as students, of so many returned soldiers was the beginning of a new era in University annals. These were men, not boys; men who had learned the need of education, and had come to learn; men who out of the savings from their monthly pittance had accumulated enough to carry them through a collegiate course of study; men who had demonstrated over and over again the problem of small economies; men who could prepare their meals and their lessons without the aid of a cook or a pony. Some wore the scars of battle, some had a maimed hand or foot and some carried an empty sleeve—the writer had seven one-armed men in her classes during the winter of 1865-6. These soldier students were all noblemen of the highest rank and they gave to the University a force and a dignity which it had never before attained. They are to-day its most ardent friends and supporters.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF IOWA

ESTABLISHED IN 1857

LOCATED AT IOWA CITY IOWA

---

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF HISTORY

THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES SERIES

THE IOWA BIOGRAPHICAL SERIES

THE IOWA ECONOMIC HISTORY SERIES

THE IOWA SOCIAL HISTORY SERIES

THE IOWA APPLIED HISTORY SERIES

THE MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

THE BULLETINS OF INFORMATION

THE IOWA AND WAR SERIES