

## Seal of the State of Iowa

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The seal is one inch and five-eighths in diameter, and the word "Great" is not upon the seal, notwithstanding the Hon. Secretary in his communication and the Council in their resolution have it prefixed.

The devices upon the seals for the Supreme Court, District Courts, Commissioner's Court and Probate Courts were all designed by the Hon. Secretary, and were all as appropriate in their several spheres as that of the "Great" seal of the Territory. This latter seal was never adopted by the Legislative Assembly, but by the Legislative Council, the higher branch thereof, which held its sessions in the lower story or basement of the old Zion Church in Burlington. There are some facts connected with the early history of this seal which I must omit, as well as the history of the seal of the State, which latter I will continue in another paper.

THEODORE S. PARVIN.

MUSCATINE, Feb. 24th, 1859.

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### SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA.

*Editor Intelligencer :*

I am unable to furnish much concerning the history of our great seal, but hope that this paper may lead the Hon. W. E. Leffingwell, or some other competent person, to supply my omissions.

I find from an examination of the Journal of the House of Representatives, that on the 9th of December, 1846, Mr. Leffingwell, in pursuance of previous notice, asked and obtained leave, and introduced H. R. file No. 2, joint resolution, authorizing the Secretary of State to procure a State seal. This joint resolution underwent various amendments in each branch of the General Assembly until the 25th of February, 1847, it was passed in the shape of a law.

The Journals are so meager that I can learn nothing of its original draught. The law reads as follows, viz :

"\* \* \* The Secretary of State is hereby authorized to procure a seal, which shall be the Great Seal of the State of

Iowa, two inches in diameter, upon which shall be engraved the following device, surrounded by the words, 'The Great Seal of the State of Iowa'—a sheaf and field of standing wheat, with a sickle and other farming utensils; on the left side near the bottom, a lead furnace and pile of pig lead; on the right side the citizen soldier with a plow in his rear, supporting the American flag and liberty cap with his right hand, and his gun with his left, in the centre and near the bottom; the Mississippi river in the rear of the whole, with the steamer Iowa under way; an eagle near the upper edge holding in his beak a scroll with the following inscription upon it: 'Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain.'"

Now, all this is encompassed within a radius of one inch, and if Solomon were to revisit this earth and see this great seal, he would recall his declaration that there is nothing new under the sun. I may justly apply to this great seal the remark made by an ex-Mayor of a certain sign on Second st.: "That no man would violate the second commandment were he to bow down to it and serve it, for it is not in the likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the water under the earth.'"

\* \* \* \* \*

The old territorial seal, so neat and chaste in its design, was lost in the removal to Des Moines (pity it had not been the other), and to preserve some of the old county seals from a similar fate, I would suggest to our County Judges the propriety of depositing them in the collection of the State Historical Society at Iowa City.

T. S. PARVIN.

MUSCATINE, Feb. 28th, 1859.

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