

Great Seal of Iowa [Letter from E. W. Eastman]

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

The Annals of Iowa, 1(7) (Jul. 1864): 331

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Then there is, propetic of *this very day*, standing in front, a bold and fearless son of Iowa,—a citizen soldier, *in the very dress* of an Iowa soldier, bearing onward and upward that blessed old flag of our country, crowned by the cap of liberty. See how manly and firm he stands, and then think of Pea Ridge and Springfield, and Donalson, and Shiloh, and Vicksburg, and Corinth, and Missionary Ridge, and every other hallowed spot where sleeps an Iowa soldier slain, and then say if it is not a fit emblem of Iowa.

And then away above all these, born on eagle's wings, that *is* an eagle, floats that glorious motto that the patriotic, brave sons of Iowa have already taught traitors must *continue* to float there, and must be respected while it waves.

No sir. No more of the great seal of the *Territory* of Iowa for me. It does well enough to represent Iowa as it *was* when Black Hawk, with his strings of beads and buckskin breeches on, sat chief in his wigwam and ruled the land. But the "Great Seal of the State of Iowa," with its device of civilization and liberty, and industry, and progress, and valor, is the natural and fit motto of *to-day*. It represents Iowa as it is and *is to be*, and not as it *was*. I wish there was a *meeting-house* "within this radius of one inch" in addition to what is there, the thing would then be *perfect*.

There, I have said three times as much as I intended to when I began, but it is *my opinion* nevertheless. I do not suppose it will agitate you very much, as you know my way of expressing my opinion about as well as I do yours.

I am Truly

Your Friend,

E. W. EASTMAN.

The Grand Lodge of Iowa at its recent session voted to the "Iowa Orphans Home" the sum of one hundred dollars a year for five years,—a generous contribution and worthily bestowed; this large class commend themselves warmly to our sympathies.

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