

## War Relics

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(aside from serving in the territorial legislatures of both Wisconsin and Iowa) and performed a large amount of work for the U. S. Land Office in N. E. Iowa. The last nineteen years of his life were spent in Waterloo, where he died at the residence of his son-in-law, Hon. H. B. Allen, Oct. 7, 1892.

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### WAR RELICS.

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It required considerable time and effort to secure any of these desirable objects for the Historical Department. Private individuals who are in possession of such articles—received, in most cases, from some father, brother, or son, who fought for his nation's life—are at first shocked at the idea of "giving them away." A father may wish that his sword, pistols or musket, shall descend to his son, and so remain in the family. But it is seldom that the third generation regards these objects as very precious—though there are, of course, exceptions. Too many of them are consigned to the garret or other lumber room, to be eaten up by rust, or destroyed by fire. But to us it seems far better that these objects should be presented or loaned to the State, for preservation in our beautiful Capitol—a fire proof edifice. Few can ever see such relics when retained by private persons, to say nothing of the constant risk of loss. It dignifies and ennobles the sword of a hero, when it can be said that his State guards it as one of her sacred treasures. So far as the question of safety is concerned, we believe there can be no better custodian than the State of Iowa. And then, the interest with which war-worn relics are regarded by the people ought of itself to be a sufficient reward for all such loans and gifts. Gradually, we believe, the owners of such articles throughout the State are coming to the same conclusion. The Department has received the sword and pistols—"the sword of Donelson"—of Gen. J. M. Tuttle; the swords of the two Belknaps, with the old-fashioned pistols belonging to the father; the

swords of Generals J. A. Williamson and Ed Wright; Col. Wm. T. Shaw; Col. (Gov.) W. M. Stone, and Lieut. Geo. Wilson of the Blackhawk war. Quite a number of others have been promised to the Department and will doubtless come in ere long. Among the commissions, letters and papers, thus far secured are those of Generals G. M. Dodge, William W. Belknap, James A. Williamson and James M. Tuttle.

The Department has also obtained a small collection of rifles, muskets, carbines, pistols, sabers, projectiles, an ancient Mexican swivel gun, etc., by purchase from the Rock Island Arsenal; and by act of Congress, (the passage of which was secured by U. S. Senator W. B. Allison and Representative J. A. T. Hull), two 100-pounder Parrott rifles and a 13-inch mortar. This last item with its carriage weighs 22,000 lbs. Its "record" is about as good as one could be made, for it was used in the bombardment of Forts St. Philip and Jackson below New Orleans, in the siege of Vicksburg, and in several minor engagements. The Parrott rifles were mounted on vessels of war and in use during the rebellion.

When the Confederate arsenal at Selma, Alabama, was broken up after the rebellion, some of the war material was brought to the Arsenal, at Rock Island, Ills., where it has remained until very recently. Among this was a lot of cannon primers, some of which were imported from England, as the manufacturer's name in London attests. They doubtless "ran the blockade." One parcel of these primers was put up "in Dixie," and shows the straits to which the confederates were reduced for wrapping paper. The outer covering is a leaf from the New Testament—being portions of the 9th and 10th chapters of Romans. A few of these items have reached the Historical Department, through the courtesy of Col. A. R. Buffington, who is in command at Rock Island.

These are all interesting souvenirs of the great Civil War.

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