

## The Iowa Historical Building

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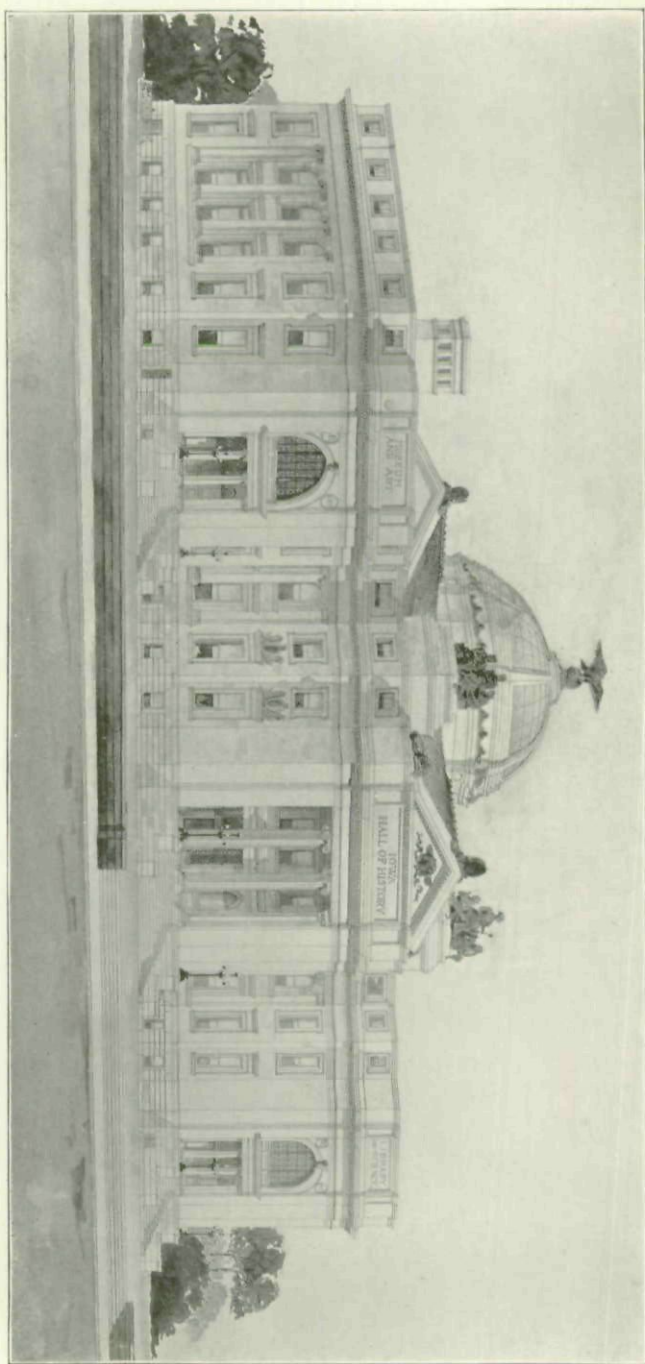
in the war with Mexico, and while gallantly leading the storming party and skillfully directing the attack on Pueblo-de-Taos, New Mexico, February 4, 1847, fell mortally wounded. He died on the 7th.

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### THE IOWA HISTORICAL BUILDING.

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It seems to be as fixed as fate that projects of this character shall "drag their slow length along" through many years before they crystalize into success. In one way or another difficulties almost always arise which require time and patience to surmount. As this is the usual course, situations must be accepted and no complaints made. The 26th General Assembly appropriated the sum of \$25,000 for the purchase of a site and the procurement of plans for this purpose, but as nothing farther could be done by the terms of the statute, it was decided to await the action of the extra session of the same body, when provision was made for the construction of a wing of the future great building. But by reason of an unlucky amendment which was thrown in at too late a moment to secure its proper consideration, the law limited the entire cost of the building to this inadequate sum. A site on the east front of the capitol, on the south corner of Capitol avenue and Eleventh street, was, however, purchased by the Executive Council for the sum of \$4,300, and plans for the building were also secured; but as the appropriation was so limited the matter was again referred to the legislature. Upon the earnest recommendations of Governors Drake and Shaw the matter was taken up in the regular session of the 27th General Assembly. The sum of \$30,000 was added to the appropriation, and at the same time it was decided to abandon the site which had been selected and secure a new one. Another law also authorized the sale for \$15,000 of the building and lots formerly occupied by the Adjutant General's office, on Locust street, on the west side of the river, which amount the Executive Council is authorized to use in the purchase of a new site.



THE PROPOSED IOWA HISTORICAL BUILDING.

This is the present status of the project. No further steps had been taken up to the time of writing this article (April 7, 1898) since the adjournment of the legislature. A cut of the proposed edifice is herewith presented, for which we are indebted to the courtesies of Mr. J. E. Clarey, editor of *Illustrated Iowa*. It is the expectation of the Executive Council to procure another site and proceed with the erection of the building at an early day.

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HON. THEODORE S. PARVIN of Cedar Rapids has spent the past winter in Mexico, where one of his sons has resided for several years. This distinguished gentleman—the Nestor of Iowa librarians and collectors—was born in Cedarville, New Jersey, January 15, 1817, and has, therefore, entered upon his 82d year. He came to Iowa in 1838 and began his active public life as private secretary to Gen. Robert Lucas, our first Territorial Governor. His labors as Territorial Librarian, as a leader in founding the State University, and as the originator of the great Masonic Library at Cedar Rapids, are too well known to require mention here. His life has been one of the highest usefulness. “He has done the State some service and they know it.” In his advanced age he is a worker still. That he may soon return to his active duties at Cedar Rapids in improved health, is the earnest hope of his troops of friends throughout the Union.

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#### A RARE IOWA BOOK.

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We find in *The Quarterly Bulletin of the Iowa Masonic Library* at Cedar Rapids, a most interesting account of what is fittingly characterized as “one of the rarest little volumes in existence.” We copy the title in full:

Notes on the Wisconsin Territory particularly with reference to the Iowa District, or Black Hawk Purchase. By Lieutenant Albert M. Lea, United States Dragoons. With the act for establishing the Territorial Government of Wisconsin, and an accurate map of the District. Philadelphia: H. S. Tanner—Shakespeare Building, 1836.

The author of this book graduated from West Point

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