

The Roster of Iowa Soldiers and Sailors

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"The Roster of Iowa Soldiers and Sailors." *The Annals of Iowa* 8 (1907), 226-227.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3404>

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ANNALS OF IOWA.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

THE ROSTER OF IOWA SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Observing readers have been aware for many years that a demand was springing into existence for the publication of a roster of our men who served the Territorial, State or Federal Governments, in their wars either on land or sea. This agitation continued until it culminated in an act by the last legislature providing for the work. This act was approved April 10, 1907. It provides for the creation of a Board, to consist of the following persons: The Governor, Attorney General, Adjutant General, Curator of the Historical Department, and a soldier of the Civil War, to be appointed by the Commander of the Iowa Grand Army of the Republic. Col. George W. Crosley of Webster City was appointed the soldier member of the Board by Col. Charles A. Clark, Commander of the Iowa Department, G. A. R., the other members holding their places ex-officio. This Board assembled in the office of the Governor, May 25, 1907. Upon the organization of the Board Colonel Crosley was selected for the performance of this work, under the authority of the Adjutant General. He entered upon its performance at once and it is now in progress.

The roster, when complete, will fill many volumes, depending, of course, upon their size. It is to contain the record of each officer and soldier serving as above stated. The act provides that the compilation shall contain the main items in the record of each officer and soldier, and of each organization, so far as the same is obtainable from the Adjutant General's office, in the War Department at Washington, and other reliable sources. It is also to include brief historical sketches of the Iowa organizations, with summaries of casualties, lists of soldiers confined in Confederate prisons, and lists of those buried in the National Cemeteries.

The sum of \$7,500, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the payment of the necessary expenses arising from its performance. When the manuscript is com-

pleted it is provided that 10,000 copies shall be printed and bound by the State Printer and Binder, and provision is made for their fair distribution and proper preservation.

Aside from their great measure of usefulness these publications are very necessary as an act of justice to the soldiers who sustained the credit of the State and Government on so many bloody fields. So far as we are aware this act has met with very general approval throughout the State, though we are of the opinion that the funds provided for it will prove insufficient. This, however, should cause no further delay. The work is universally demanded, and its completion will be hailed as a proud event in the history of Iowa.

SCARCITY OF HELP.

Newspapers in Iowa and throughout the country indicate a scarcity of help along all lines. The condition is measurably the same in Europe. This can not be held to be from an extraordinary season of the year, nor is there any considerable disturbance in trade or labor circles. History records many crises from both lack and overplus of labor, but perhaps every instance can more nearly than the present be accounted for from local or temporary causes. The "want ad" departments of the newspapers denote calls from our Government for men to fill up its establishments. Municipalities ask for men on their public works. Calls appear for from one man to bodies of hundreds of men. The latter are desired to aid in fulfilling the great contracts in Alaska and elsewhere, and often come from the bureaus through which much labor is obtained. True, the "situations wanted" departments are strong along the Atlantic seaboard, but these are for individual places and often reflect a desire for changed or advanced employment. Help both indoors and out is needed. Domestic circles, the trades and professions as well as the industrial fields appear in need of help. The farm, streets, carrying lines, mines and structural enterprises predominate in calls for male help, while households, hotels, shops, stores, offices and the trades call for female help or for both. In Iowa the situation has existed for several years and has been a factor in

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