A very unique department of these archives is the department of seals. Here every seal that is found in the course of the arrangement of the records, is scientifically described and then reproduced by means of casts. These casts are catalogued and the most interesting ones placed on exhibition in the museum.

EDWARD F. WINSLOW.

By WM. FORSE SCOTT.

Edward Francis Winslow was born in Augusta, Maine, September 28, 1837; he died at Canadaiqua, New York, October 22, 1914. He was a descendant of Kenelm Winslow, one of the Pilgrims on the first voyage of the Mayflower. His only school education was in the public schools of Augusta. When nineteen he sought his fortune in Iowa in the construction of railways, then just beginning in that state. He was engaged on the Burlington & Missouri River road, living chiefly at Mount Pleasant when the Civil War began; and had just then been married, his wife being Miss Laura Berry, daughter of Rev. Dr. Lucien H. Berry, a distinguished educator.

When troops were called for to maintain the Union, he stopped all other affairs and enlisted a company, which joined the Fourth Iowa Cavalry as Co. F, with him as captain. He led his company with the regiment in its long and arduous marches through Missouri and Arkansas as part of the army of the Southwest, and after several engagements was stationed at Helena, Arkansas, where he was provost-marshal of the army. Promoted to major in January, 1863, he obtained the assignment of his regiment to Grant's command in the campaign against Vicksburg, the only cavalry regiment in that army. He soon distinguished himself in action, and during the siege of Vicksburg made many marches in the interior, against Johnston's forces. He was severely wounded in an engagement at Mechanicsburg in May, was promoted to colonel of his regiment July 4, 1863, and appointed by Sherman chief of the cavalry forces of the Fifteenth Army Corps, several other cavalry regiments having been in the meantime added to the army. He
led the regiment in Sherman’s campaign against Jackson, in July, 1863, and in August made a raid, with a selected force of cavalry, through Mississippi from Vicksburg to Memphis, with splendid success. During the remainder of the year he was occupied in keeping the enemy in check between Big Black river and Pearl river, from Vernon to Natchez.

In February, 1864, in command of the cavalry, he led the advance of Sherman’s army in the campaign of Meridian, nearly every day for two weeks in active conflict with the retreating forces of Gen. Leonidas Polk. Meantime he had joined with the majority of his regiment in re-enlisting for three years as “Veterans.” In April he was ordered, with the regiment, to Memphis, and during the next four months was very actively employed in a succession of campaigns in west Tennessee and Mississippi, commanding sometimes a brigade, sometimes a division of cavalry. In this service he fought, with minor engagements, the battles of Guntown (Brice’s Cross-roads), Tupelo, and Old Town Creek. In the disastrous battle of Guntown his was the only brigade to come out unbroken and without the loss of a gun.

In September he led a brigade of cavalry from Memphis to the relief of General Steele at Little Rock. Thence he marched with it up into Missouri, which state had just been invaded by General Sterling Price with three divisions of cavalry. At Big Blue river, near Kansas City, with two brigades, he attacked and routed Price’s right wing, thus turning Price’s invasion into a hurried retreat to the Arkansas river. In this battle he was again severely wounded. In December following, while still disabled by this wound, he commanded a brigade making a raid from Memphis to Vicksburg for the destruction of railways and depots of supply.

Meantime, December 12, 1864, he was brevetted brigadier-general by a special order of the president, “for gallantry in the field.”

In January, 1865, he was assigned to the command of the First Brigade, Fourth Division, Cavalry Troops of the Military Division of the Mississippi, which brigade included
the Third Iowa, Fourth Iowa and Tenth Missouri Cavalry, and ordered to Eastport, Miss. From there, in March, he led this brigade on the great Selma campaign, made by 13,000 cavalry under Major-general James H. Wilson, in which General Winslow took an extremely active part, with great success. Selma and Columbus, Georgia, heavily fortified and strongly defended, were both captured by assault, by the cavalry dismounted, Columbus being taken by Winslow’s brigade alone, in a night attack. In recognition of his services he was placed in command of both cities in succession.

On the surrender of the eastern Confederate armies, in April, General Winslow was posted at Atlanta, in command of the Fourth Division of the Cavalry Corps, and had a conspicuous position in the control of the country by the army, while he pushed with great energy the reconstruction of the railroad to Chattanooga.

The war being over and these services completed, the Fourth Iowa and General Winslow, as its colonel, were mustered out at Atlanta, August 10, 1865, and discharged at Davenport August 24th, after four years of unceasing activity as volunteer soldiers.

General Winslow quickly engaged in the construction of railways, first on the Vandalia, then the Cairo & Vincennes, later on the St. Louis & Southeastern, the West Shore and the St. Louis & San Francisco. He was also inspector for the United States of the Union Pacific, receiver of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, superintendent of the elevated railways in New York, and president of the New York, Ontario & Western, the Atlantic & Pacific, and the St. Louis & San Francisco roads.

On retiring he traveled much in Europe with his wife and established a home in Paris, though making many visits to America.

While temporarily visiting at Canadaigua, New York, he passed away and his body was buried there.

He was a man of unexcelled purity of character and vigor of mind, of burning and unbounded patriotism at all times, a most loyal and helpful friend and a devoted husband. Iowa cannot set his name or fame too high.