

Sword of General Rice

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Sword of General Rice." *The Annals of Iowa* 13 (1921), 138-138.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4298>

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ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

SWORD OF GENERAL RICE

The Historical Department recently received from Mr. Emory C. Rice, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the sword of his father, General Samuel A. Rice, which the latter was wearing at the battle of Jenkins' Ferry, Arkansas, April 30, 1864, when he received the wound from which he died a few weeks later. Mr. Rice writes that the sword has been in his possession all these years, but that he now thinks it would be better for its preservation to be in care of this department. Later, at the request of the Curator, Mr. Rice also sent the department several documents and letters, among them being the commission of S. A. Rice as attorney-general of Iowa; letters from Senator James Harlan and from Hon. James F. Wilson to Samuel A. Rice, both written previous to the Civil War; two general orders relative to General Rice's death, one signed by General Steele and one by General Salomon; a letter of condolence from Elijah Sells to Mrs. Rice; and resolutions concerning General Rice's death from the Iowa Association at Washington, D. C.

We regard this sword and these letters as being of real historic interest. General Rice was a man of political consequence before he entered the war, and his career in the army added to his fame. If his life had been spared he, no doubt, would have had further and much more distinguished honors, if he had wanted them, for he had real ability and fine character. He was held in high regard by all who knew him. As it was, his untimely death placed his name for all time among our country's list of heroic dead.

We hope the time is not far distant when this department will have a commodious hall in its already beautiful building in which may be displayed such mementoes of the Civil War as these concerning General Rice. The Curator of the department has in contemplation a "Grand Army Corridor" to connect the present Historical Building with its proposed counterpart some day to be erected to the north.

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