

## The Palmetto Flag

ISSN 0003-4827

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### Recommended Citation

"The Palmetto Flag." *The Annals of Iowa* 15 (1925), 68-70.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4932>

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tion and is silent throughout the remainder of his record, which may be gleaned in the January, 1925, ANNALS, will be common regret with all who love our state.

We close this remarkable life in the ANNALS with his *au revoir*. We acknowledge his unerring guidance through the documents and the unwritten and the traditional in Iowa affairs, and we commit with some emotion his last written utterances to the printed page.

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### THE PALMETTO FLAG

In the ANNALS for July, 1911, we published a photograph of our great Palmetto flag with editorial suggestions as to compliance with a request that it be returned to citizens of South Carolina.

We now reprint elsewhere that illustration opposite a letter of the late Major S. S. Farwell, written to the *Anamosa Eureka* from the front soon after the capture of Columbia, South Carolina. Although that letter does not mention the flag, the dramatic background of its capture is placed. It was seized from the portico of the unfinished State Capitol of South Carolina. The Stars and Stripes replaced it. Major Farwell's Company H of the Thirty-first Iowa Infantry made the exchange.

We have only public considerations in mind in setting out the correspondence. The principles set out ought to be by our institution and by all concerned regarded as settled. The disposition of all emblems of public valor and of public honor should be dealt with in their light.

Although it is a public and not a private subject, we can illustrate private relations to the Palmetto flag of other than Carolina individuals through setting out our personal relation to it.

The opening to settlement of new and inviting regions, into which flowed successively the populations of older communities, scattered the Harlan family, which was of the Irish contingent of Penn's Colony.<sup>1</sup> Earlier than the Revolution scores of these families scattered through South Carolina. Under the Palmetto

<sup>1</sup>[Lincoln's] "genealogy does not account for this rare personality. The first American of this ancestry appeared in Connecticut about 1637. Downward this line proceeds through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Kentucky into the nineteenth century."—A. B. Funk in "Abraham Lincoln, a Character Sketch," page 2.

flag in Union District, South Carolina, was born Elihu Harlan, March 16, 1789, the year the Federal Constitution was adopted. On April 19, 1810, he married there Anna Gist, born in that district March 12, 1791. Of Quaker connection they were born and bred, married and became parents under the Palmetto flag. From them and their brothers and sisters are traced literally thousands of the present inhabitants of the states bordering the Mississippi and its affluents and those upon the Pacific coast. A first cousin of Elihu Harlan, Joshua Harlan by name, born in Chatham County, North Carolina, February 12, 1781, removed to Laurens District, South Carolina, where on June 12, 1782, was born Sarah Word. These two were married there in 1804 and their descendants are now more numerous than those of the other couple, and are scattered throughout the South and West. Their daughter, Anna Harlan, was born in Laurens District, July 14, 1808. Her daughter, Marinda Ellen Ruby, married Samuel Alexander Harlan, a grandson of Elihu and Anna. These were our parents.

Descendants of Elihu and Joshua have fought in every war for the Union. Some of them fought against the Union in the Confederacy. They have served in conspicuous places of private trust and public honor and have been on all sides of every public question. There is probably not one Harlan descendant of Elihu or Joshua residing in the state of South Carolina for every hundred residing elsewhere, none anywhere discounts his South Carolina ancestry, disdains the honor of that state, nor disrespects at all what the Palmetto flag symbolized to them. If one of them so violates propriety he is without malice or in ignorance.

Judging from the Harlan family, then, the only question of respect for the Palmetto flag lies in its untoward use in opposition to the Stars and Stripes. The intelligent Harlan counts the question of supremacy settled at Appomatox. He withholds no praise or admiration for his ancestry, for any contribution of South Carolina to our national well-being, under the Stars and Stripes and Palmetto flag, in war or peace, on land or sea. He is a thoroughly nationalized citizen of the United States. And so it is with all descendants of colonial South Carolina,

not living in that state—a greater throng than the present population of that noble state.

As the long, valiant, and patriotic record of Iowa men and women who served their country in and out of the ranks of the Union Army in the Civil War nears its end the public knowledge and appreciation seem to diminish. There are and never were in Iowa—there never can be—better, truer, juster souls than those whose words are set out in the correspondence. Of those now living Mrs. Carpenter, daughter of Major Farwell, is an exemplary woman, the wife of one of the good bankers of Iowa. Her brother is shown to be all that his sister is and their parents were. Colonel Dave Palmer has been a power for good in business, politics, and patriotism and remains a national figure in the Grand Army of the Republic. Iowa has neither hatred nor acrimony for any other state. This institution has no conscious prejudice. Evidence of the past reposes here in a million documents that few of us have time and taste to consult. Colonel Palmer's voice is the voice of an army Iowa loved and will soon have lost. His with others' words of then and now are pertinent.

Our Palmetto flag in symbol, and in fact, then, is the common heritage of South Carolina stock and other stocks, in Iowa. It is the common fruits of valiant Iowa soldier sons of all our stocks. It is no less happily circumstanced today than when it came into our soldiers' hands. It is with friends and is making friendships, as it tells its silent and dramatic tale from walls which speak, in reverence alone of the valor of Iowa and South Carolina.

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#### “SQUATTERS,” “PIONEERS” AND “OLD SETTLERS”

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In recent years the current newspapers of Iowa have fallen into a habit of referring to citizens of age or long residence in Iowa as “pioneers.” This is especially conspicuous in headlines and death notices. It is not unusual to observe in the columns of our oldest journals that a “pioneer” has passed from life. Details that follow may show the life began in or out of Iowa in 1870 or later. If the life of a citizen began elsewhere than in the extreme northwest portion of our state it is not accurate to say of him that he was a “pioneer.”

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