

"Squatters, " "Pioneers" and "Old Settlers. "

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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.”

Whatever the definition of the words "squatters," "pioneers" and "old settlers," the usage in Iowa of its first half century was definite.

The "pioneer" was from organized and settled social conditions of the east, or from Europe, come to our open regions where he contributed to the organization of settled society. He obtained a parcel of unused land on a bounty warrant or payment of money, and had both his title and right of possession direct from the government. He actually changed the surface of the ground from its pristine verdure to crops of corn and wheat. He deprived all others forever of the honor thus to have conquered his choice of land. He may soon have sold or relinquished title or possession, but if he did it was not to another pioneer of that precise location, but to one who, had he remained ever so long, was not a "pioneer" but an "old settler."

There were "pioneers" and "old settlers" in both the timbered and prairie locations. In the timber the "pioneer" may have succeeded a "claimant"—he may indeed have been one. If so he found a structure meant mainly to give notice to the world that the land was "claimed."

The structure may have been a "claim pen"—the log walls for a cabin, or merely the pen erected in semblance of such walls. But the "pioneer" put a roof over it and used its threshold as the line between the world and his own sovereign realm. It was his castle and its breach as serious a crime as the invasion of the King of England's close. On the prairie the claim "shanty" of boards, or "sod," was the structural symbol of "pioneer" possession and occupancy. Whoever came afterward on prairie as in wood lands was not a "pioneer" but at most, glorious as was his contribution, he was but an "old settler."

The unstable character who blew along ahead of the pioneer was called a "sooner," and the solid character rolling ahead of the "pioneer" among the "sooners," took up land during congressional jockeying, broke the soil and bid it in at the land sales in conspiracy with his neighbors and against the speculators, was a "squatter," and his status as compared with the "pioneer" was only different in that he took possession and then looked after his title, while the "pioneer" procured at least color of title before he took possession.

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