

Native Iowa Governors

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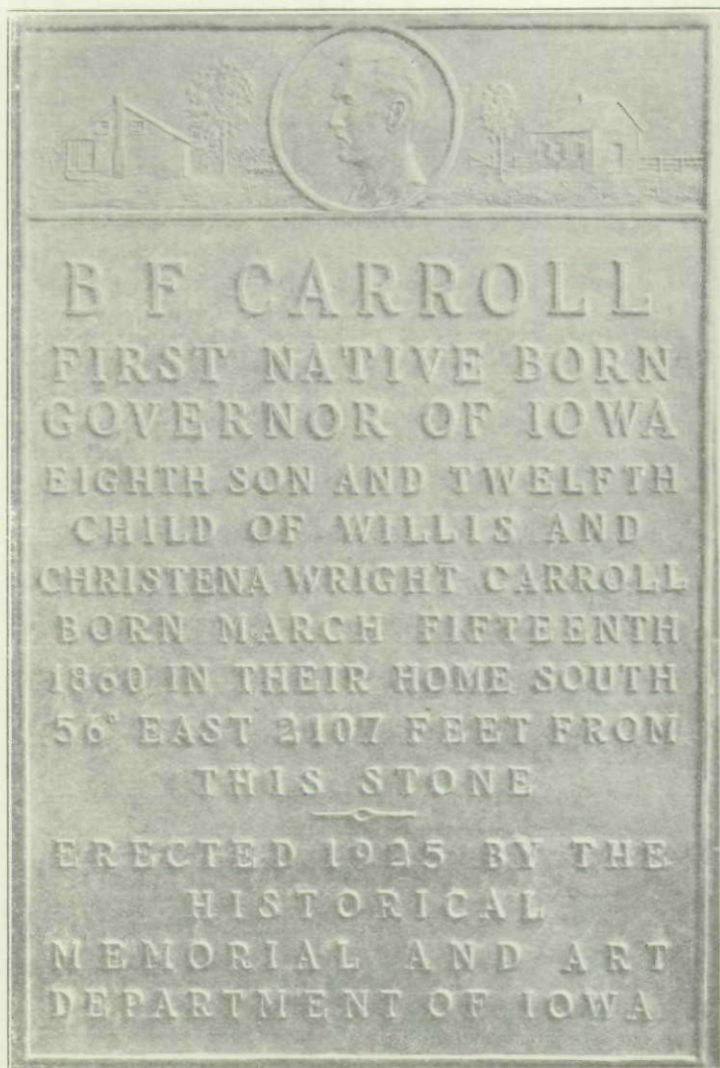
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Tablet erected at the birthplace of Governor B. F. Carroll.

ANNALS OF IOWA

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

NATIVE IOWA GOVERNORS

In its effort to stimulate in the minds of the Iowa public a respect for civil leadership, the Historical, Memorial and Art Department has for some years exerted its strength and laid out small amounts of money toward fixing by monument and tablet the importance of conspicuous personages, places and events. In our community of two and one-half million people families seldom feel rooted to the soil. The soil itself, through its inherent alterations in value beyond any precedent in rural history is not congenial to traditions. Little is possible to do as yet to permanently fix the attention of one generation upon subjects of admiration of preceding peoples.

In eighty years Iowa has had in the chief executive office, twenty-four persons of whom three only were born in Iowa—Carroll in Davis County, Harding in Osceola County, and Kendall in Lucas County. All of them had removed from their native counties when they were advanced to our most exalted station. Each was born in a country habitation erected on virgin soil. Each attended country school, and attributes to that influence a great part of his success.

Of our twenty-one United States Senators, only three were born in Iowa, Lafayette Young in Monroe County, Charles E. Rawson in Polk County, and Daniel F. Steck in Wapello County. Only Steck and Rawson were advanced from the counties of their birth. Rawson yet lives under the very roof where his birth occurred.

Fifty years ago in the country schools of Iowa the pupil, teacher, and parent felt there was a wide gulf between him and the governor of Iowa. The office seemed a holy place and the incumbent an exalted character. The years seem to have brought a tendency toward public disregard of the dignity of the office.

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