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In This Issue

TONY KLEIN, a high school social studies teacher at Estherville-Lincoln Central High School, compares and contrasts Civil War commemorations—Memorial Day observances, GAR encampments, and monuments—in Keokuk and Sioux City. He argues that Keokuk’s commemorations, based on the significant role that community played in the Civil War, followed national patterns of Civil War commemoration as its citizens remembered and mourned the dead, honored surviving veterans, and celebrated the city’s Civil War history. Sioux City, with little direct experience of the Civil War, commemorated the war as a means to celebrate westward expansion; it enabled liberty-seeking and patriotic people to move west to places like Sioux City and prosper.

BRIAN EDWARD DONOVAN, a Ph.D. candidate in American history at the University of Iowa, describes how the Iowa Soldiers’ home secured the political support from the Iowa legislature that it needed to survive financially by requiring the veterans it cared for to display themselves as wounded warriors—that is, to perform their disability by marching in uniform and living under military discipline.

Front Cover

The National Cemetery in Keokuk (established in 1862 but pictured here in about 1940) is Iowa’s only National Cemetery. It is an important part of Keokuk’s Civil War legacy. For the impact of Keokuk’s Civil War legacy on the ways it commemorated the Civil War—and for the ways its commemorations contrasted with those in Sioux City—see Tony Klein’s article in this issue. Photo from State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

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