Unveiling and Dedicating the Kinsman Monument

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use. This work has been identified with a Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0.

Recommended Citation
"Unveiling and Dedicating the Kinsman Monument." The Annals of Iowa 5 (1902), 475-476.
Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.2811

Hosted by Iowa Research Online
EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

Two chapters are given to fish and game, their original status and rapid disappearance, and the efforts put forth to preserve them. The history of fish and game in Iowa, and the attempts to propagate the food fishes, are really epitomized by Mr. Smith.

This work is illustrated with excellent portraits of several people who were prominent in the Spirit Lake expedition, and there are many half-tones of scenery about the various lakes. The book is a beautiful one, reflecting much credit upon the author and publishers. It deserves a wide sale in northwestern Iowa, of which it presents a very full history. The purpose of Mr. Smith has been to narrate facts and incidents, as he knew them to have transpired, and not to make it in any sense a vehicle of personal adulation, like too many of the so-called county histories.

UNVEILING AND DEDICATING THE KINSMAN MONUMENT.

This event, which was announced in The Annals for January last, took place at Council Bluffs, the home of Col. W. H. Kinsman before he entered the Union army, on the 17th of May last. It was one of the most important historical events that has taken place in recent years on the Missouri slope. Primarily it was the inspiration and work of Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, though he found hundreds of willing hands to assist him in the patriotic undertaking. It was paid for from contributions by Col. Kinsman’s old comrades of the 4th and 23d Iowa Infantry regiments, a labor of love on their part. The monument was made from a design drawn by Gen. Dodge. It is a most symmetrical and beautiful gray granite pillar, 20 feet in height. The base is 4 feet 6 inches square. The word “Kinsman” stands out in large letters on the second base, and a bronze medallion portrait of the soldier was placed upon the die. The monument also has several tasteful decorations engraved upon the granite. There was a great procession to the cemetery, in which old and young soldiers, children from the public schools, and citizens generally participated. Gen. Dodge called the assemblage surrounding the monument to order and spoke as follows:
My Comrades, Friends and Citizens: We meet here to honor and commemorate a comrade, whom I had known probably longer and better than any one here present, and one very dear to me. It is not, however, my intention to speak to you of him. I paid my tribute to him in official reports that are matter of record, and within the year, but before his body was found, I wrote my recollections of him that were published in the January number of The Annals of Iowa. There are others present who will pay eloquent tribute to his memory.

It is a great pleasure and satisfaction to me to see so many of his comrades, friends, citizens and school children present, and I wish to impress upon them the lesson which this day teaches. It is thirty-nine years ago today since the soldier fell in battle, and after long search his comrades have rescued his remains from that memorable field, buried them here, and erected this simple but appropriate monument to his memory, proving that no matter how humble the position of this patriot whose loyalty to his country determined him to defend it, his acts and his services have never been forgotten. Let me assure these young people who are here before me, that if ever their country calls it should be not only a duty but a pleasure for them to respond, as our comrade Kinsman did, and they like him will be remembered and honored; and if he could speak to you today he would say to you, that above all things, loyalty to one's country is the citizens' first duty; that it is the law of both God and man, and should never for one moment be forgotten.

I wish, on behalf of the comrades, of the citizens, of the friends and scholars, to thank most cordially Lieut. J. A. Straight, Jesse Truitt and Comrade Oldham of the 23d Iowa, for that labor of love which resulted in locating and sending the remains of Col. Kinsman to his home. Mr. Oldham died soon after his return from Vicksburg. I wish also to thank the firm of Sheely & Lean of this city, the manufacturers of the simple but beautiful monument we have erected in this appropriate spot.

This shaft has wound around it the Star Spangled Banner, the banner that was carried in the celebrated charge at Black River bayou, where the brave and gallant 23d Iowa, led by the intrepid Colonel Kinsman, won a great victory, Kinsman laying down his life upon the enemy's entrenchments.

Gen. Dodge then gave the signal and the large American flag with which the monument was draped fell to the ground. The band played "The Star Spangled Banner," and the audience rising joined in singing the national anthem. Further speaking followed, eulogies of Col. Kinsman being pronounced by Emmet Tinley, Lieut. J. A. Straight and J. W. Deweese.