

## Grand Army of The Republic

The Grand Army of the Republic is a patriotic and fraternal organization of the survivors of the military and naval forces of the Civil War who served between April 12, 1861, and April 9, 1865.

Iowa was one of the first states of the Union to attempt organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, receiving as a Department its first charter on July 12, 1866. Its permanent reorganization dates from January 23, 1879.

Of Grand Army Posts in Iowa, in its provisional period there were some 135 posts with over 500 members; under reorganization there were over 520 posts chartered. Membership stood at its peak in 1890, when 20,324 veterans belonged to 435 posts.

Six veterans of the Civil War served as Governors of Iowa: Colonel William M. Stone of Knoxville, 1864-1868; Colonel Samuel Merrill of McGregor, 1868-1872; Colonel Cyrus C. Carpenter of Fort Dodge, 1872-1875; Captain Joshua G. Newbold, of Mount Pleasant, 1877-1878; Captain Buren R. Sherman of Vinton, 1882-1886; Lieutenant Colonel Francis M. Drake of Centerville and Des Moines, 1896-1898.

To the Grand Army of the Republic goes the credit for having instituted Memorial Day, with all the tender and reverent patriotism which that occasion always reveals, and for having kept alive, in history and story, the brave deeds performed upon many a battlefield by many a gallant soldier. To them goes the credit for having preserved the Union at a critical period in its history. Their average age when they fought the war was nineteen.

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## State Historical Society of Iowa--Iowa City

### Officers

Marvin H. Dey, President

W. J. Parizek, Treasurer

### Board of Curators

ELECTED BY THE SOCIETY—Marvin H. Dey, Thomas Farrell, R. H. Volland, Merritt C. Speidel, R. G. Popham, William R. Hart, R. A. Fenton, Burton V. Bridenstine, and Harry R. Jenkinson, all of Iowa City.

APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR—H. O. Bernbrock, Waterloo; T. Henry Foster, Ottumwa; Mrs. Norma Haugen Johnson, Northwood; Granger P. Mitchell, Fort Dodge; Mrs. H. E. Narey, Spirit Lake; Henry K. Peterson, Council Bluffs; Clifford Powell, Red Oak; and W. W. Waymack, Des Moines.

Superintendent, Ethyl E. Martin, Iowa City.

Organized in January, 1857, its purposes are to preserve the history of Iowa and further its dissemination among the people of the state. In fulfillment of these purposes a permanent program of activities has been gradually developed and put into execution. This includes (1) the discovery, collection and preservation of materials of Iowa history; (2) researches in the field of Iowa history; (3) publication of the materials of Iowa history; (4) dissemination of the materials of Iowa history through public depositories and members. The library of the society now includes about 93,000 titles. There are twelve hundred active members and thirty-five auxiliary members. The official depositories within the state number two hundred and twenty-eight.