

*Pieces of Iowa's Past*, published by the Iowa State Capitol Tour Guides weekly during the legislative session, features historical facts about Iowa, the Capitol, and the early workings of state government. All historical publications are reproduced here with the actual spelling, punctuation, and grammar retained.

**March 12, 2014**

**THIS WEEK:**

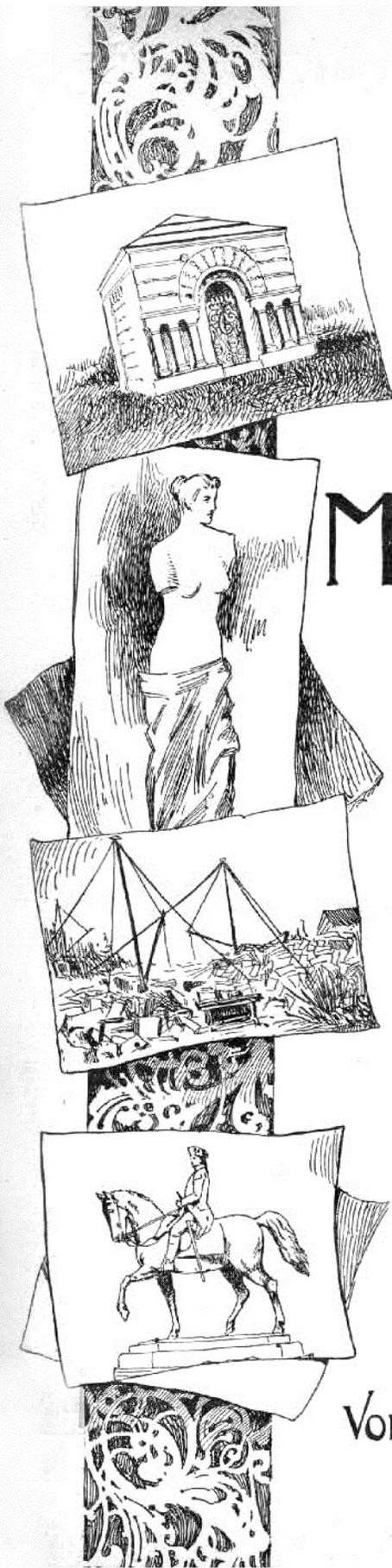
**The Iowa Soldiers' Monument  
*The Monumental News*, January 1894**

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the Aldrich Public Library "Guide to the Manuscript Holdings," *The Monumental News-Review* magazine was founded in 1889 as *The Monumental News* magazine. The publishers of *The Monumental News-Review* magazine bought out the *Granite, Marble & Bronze* magazine and later the *Monument and Cemetery Review* magazine during 1939. In 1961, the "magazine changed publishers and became the 'official' magazine for the American Monument Association. The magazine is still published under the name *Stone in America*."



**Victory**



# THE MONUMENTAL

JANUARY, 1894.

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NO. I.

CHICAGO.

### The Iowa Soldiers' Monument.

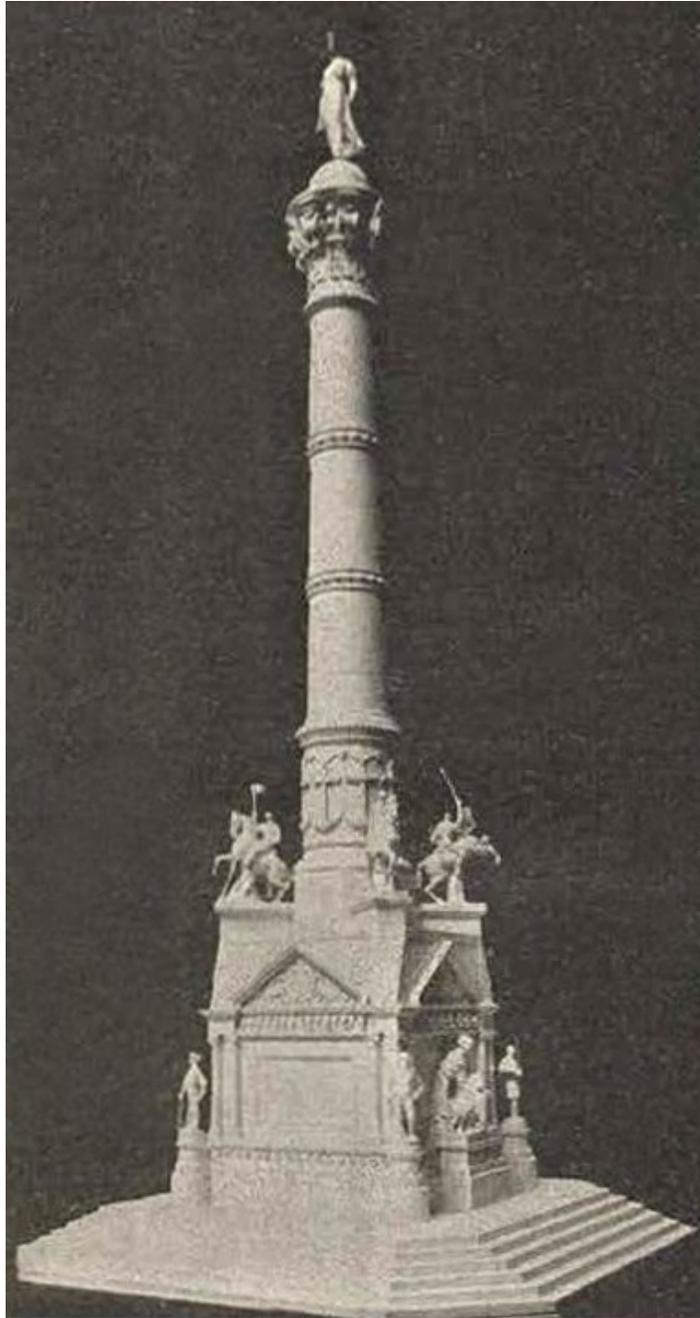
Our illustration, made from a photograph of the model, gives a fairly good idea of the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument which is to be erected on the grounds of the State Capitol, at Des Moines. This is one of the most important monumental contracts of the past year, both as to the expense involved and the character of the sculptural and other work, and has excited lively interest both among contractors and sculptors, the latter being attracted by the large amount of sculptural work in the design.

The plan by the late Mrs. Harriet Ketcham, contemplates a monument with a base 60 feet square, and rising to a height of about 135 ft. Mrs. Ketcham's design was adopted some time ago, but the appropriation was not approved by the legislature until 1892, and various circumstances since then have combined to prevent the final letting of the contracts, until the closing months of 1893, when the commission in charge met and awarded the contract for the architectural work to Schrickler & Rodler, of Davenport, Iowa, for \$94,500, the work to be done in Barre granite. The specifications called for bids on the architectural and sculptural work and on the monument complete. A large number of estimates were received and for the complete work were found to vary from \$143,000 to \$300,000. On the architectural work alone, the bids varied from \$90,000 to \$155,000, various granites being specified in the bids. Bids on the art work ranged from \$38,000 to \$112,000.

The bronze work on this monument is of especial interest. Four horses with riders, life-size, stand at the foot of the column. Below at the corners stand four eight-foot figures representing the four branches of the service, infantry, marine, cavalry and artillery. On either side of the die are two other figures, one a nine-

foot seated figure of "Iowa," the other a group representing History, with a boy reclining in front of her, to whom she is relating the story of the war.

On the die are two bas-reliefs, each eleven feet four inches by six feet, depicting scenes from the war. Portrait medallions of thirty-two prominent Iowans also appear on the die. In the pediments are four coats of arms. Crowning the entire work is a statue of "Victory,"



**THE IOWA SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.**

16 feet high standing on a hemisphere. In all, eleven figures or groups and not less than thirty-eight bas-reliefs and medallions will adorn the monument.

That the appropriation for this work is clearly inadequate was evident when the bids were opened. The lowest bid for the completed work was \$143,000, and the lowest bid for the art work was \$52,000, which added to the accepted bid for the architectural work of \$94,500 and the cost of supervising, etc., \$10,000, would bring the cost up to a sum considerably in excess of the \$150,000 appropriated. It is therefore necessary for the commission to appeal to the next legislature for an additional appropriation and to await the action of that body before any action can be taken in reference to awarding a contract for the bronze work.

Interest in the project is very general in Iowa, and the desire is to provide a monument which from an artistic as well as architectural point of view, shall be a credit to the State. The original appropriation represents a sum refunded to

the State a few years ago by the general government, and, inasmuch as no part of it comes directly from the pockets of the present generation of taxpayers, it is fair to assume that they will not oppose a still further appropriation, commensurate with the dignity and worth of this work.

Economic reasons should not be allowed to mar the artistic features of so fine a memorial.



Famed cartoonist Hank Ketcham, the great nephew of Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument designer Harriet Ketcham, drew this cartoon exclusively for raising funds for the restoration of the monument in the mid-1990s. The restoration was completed in 1999.

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Earlier in 2014, the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) assembled a reproduction booklet of the original *Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument* compiled and arranged in 1898 by Cora Chaplin Weed. The LSA added a few extra pages including the information in this report to the booklet. The booklet can be purchased for \$4.00 in the Iowa Capitol Gift Shop on the Capitol's ground floor.