

MEMORIAL No. 3.

INCREASE OF PENSION.

To the Hon. the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled:

Your memorialists the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, would respectfully represent to your honorable body that one of our respectable and worthy citizens, Isaac W. Griffith, while in the service of his country, in Mexico, at the battle of Churubusco, lost his right arm, thereby rendering him incompetent of procuring a living for himself and family, his being in low circumstances in life, and without aid and assistance of the general government, he and his family must inevitably suffer.

We, your memorialists, would therefore ask your honorable body to pass a law raising his pension to such an amount as will give him and [200] his family a comfortable living. And your memorialists, will ever pray, etc.
Resolved,

That the Secretary of State be requested to forward a copy of the foregoing Memorial to the President of the Senate, also one copy to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, also one copy to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Approved, Dec. 23, 1848.

MEMORIAL No. 4.

MARINE HOSPITAL.

To the Hon. the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

Your memorialists, the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, represent that they regard the legislation of Congress as indicating an intention to establish Marine Hospitals for sick seamen, at such points on the Sea and Lake coasts, and along the principal rivers, as the wants of our commerce shall require, several of these have been already put in operation, others are in progress of preparation and locations have been made, and sites purchased for others at considerable expense to the nation, but no provision has yet been made for the upper valley of the Mississippi. The basin drained by that river and its tributaries above the Missouri is of Immense extent and of great fertility and salubrity, and is already occupied by one entire State and parts of two others, whilst still additional States are contemplated, and so rapid is the increase of population and commerce, that the want of such an institution is already felt and is becoming more necessary every day.

Your memorialists represent that Rock Island in the Mississippi river is believed to be the most eligible location for such institution. It is a central point in the upper valley, being about midway between St. Louis, the highest point on the river at which a hospital has been located and the head of navigation in that river, and will accommodate the commerce of the main stream, and all its navigable tributaries—it lies at the foot of the upper rapids and is the resort of boats and boatmen for purpose of lying by during the winter season. It is also on account of its salubrity and scenery the resort of invalids and others during the summer months—it is the terminus of the Railroad

[201] which is to connect the Lakes with the Mississippi, and the point from which the great western road will probably be continued, these causes will render it in future more than it is at present the focus and radiating point of the commerce of the north-west.

Your memorialists further represents that the Island which now belongs to the United States contains several hundred acres of exceedingly valuable land, from the sale of which it is confidently believed a sufficient sum can be realized to erect the necessary buildings, and put the institution in complete readiness for the reception of patients without any appropriation of money from the Treasury.

Your memorialists, therefore, pray the passage of an act directing the Secretary of War to select a suitable tract of land upon the Island for the site of the necessary buildings and for appurtenant ground, and appropriating the proceeds of the remaining lands to the establishment and support of such hospital.

Resolved by the General Assembly of Iowa:

That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives be requested to use their influence in obtaining the grant contemplated in the above Memorial for the purpose therein set forth.

Resolved,

That the Secretary of State be requested to forward forthwith to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and to the Governor of the State of Illinois a copy of this Memorial and these Resolutions.

Approved, Dec. 27, 1848.

MEMORIAL NO. 5.

INCREASE OF MAIL SERVICE.

MEMORIAL for an increase of mail facilities.

Whereas, the citizens of the southern and western portion of this state have long suffered great inconvenience for want of direct mail from the seat of government, which could be very materially alleviated by a slight alteration and addition in the mail service over the distance of but seventy miles, to wit: from Iowa City to Keosauqua, which would connect tri-weekly lines of mail coaches running north, south, east and west. Therefore,

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

That our senators and representatives in the congress of the United States be re- [202] quested to use their best exertions to procure the establishment of a direct tri-weekly mail route from Iowa City, via Washington, Brighton, and Fairfield, to Keosauqua, the mail to be carried in two horse coaches.

Resolved, that the secretary of state be instructed to forward one copy of this memorial and resolution to the Hon. the postmaster general and to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

Approved December 29, 1848.