2007

Cedar Falls Civil War

Cynthia Rae Huffman Sweet

University of Northern Iowa

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Exhibit Catalog

2007

Cedar Falls Civil War

February - August 2007
Cynthia Sweet, Guest Curator

Cedar Falls Historical Society
Victorian Home & Carriage House Museum
308 West Third Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa  50613
(319) 266-5149
www.cedarfallshistorical.org
CEDAR FALLS CIVIL WAR

An Abstract of a Thesis Project

Submitted

in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

Cynthia Rae Huffman Sweet

University of Northern Iowa

May 2007
ABSTRACT

“Cedar Falls Civil War” is a museum exhibit which will be installed at the Cedar Falls Historical Society Carriage House Museum, 308 West Third Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa, and open to the public from February through August 2007. The goal of the exhibit is to contribute to the understanding of the Civil War and life in Cedar Falls during the Civil War years.

The exhibit will be divided between two rooms and multiple cases, each of which will address an aspect of the war. In the first room, “A Nation Divided: Prelude and Outbreak of War” will set the stage with a discussion of the causes leading up to the attack on Fort Sumter. “The Home Front” will examine the situation in Cedar Falls. The cases on Abraham Lincoln and Lincoln Elementary School will address his presidency, assassination, and how he has been remembered. “Music of the War” will showcase three Civil War era instruments and remind the viewer of the significance of music in building morale in times of crisis. “Memory of War” will look at the many ways in which the war and the soldiers were remembered, including the Soldiers’ Orphans’ Home, Grand Army of the Republic, Woman’s Relief Corps, presentation pieces, monuments, and through the imagination of writers such as Bess Streeter Aldrich. Ulysses S. Grant will be memorialized with a small exhibit in the first room, as well as in the “Military Affairs” case in the second room. An “open air” camping scene will complete the first room, and provide an opportunity for the soldiers to speak through quotation and biography.

Cases in the second room will include “Military Training” and “Military Affairs” which will follow the soldiers from training through the major battles of the war. “Following the War” will examine the Reconstruction era. “Making Tracks: The Railroad” will provide information on the economic impact of the railroad on Cedar Falls. The children’s activity corner will include a Civil War computer game, coloring pages, and word games. The Victorian Home, built between 1861 and 1863, and the Historical Society’s largest artifact from the Civil War era, will provide information pertaining to families who lived in Cedar Falls during the war years.
There will be three interactive aspects to “Cedar Falls Civil War.” Individuals who attended or taught at Lincoln Elementary School may record their names and memories in the binder found in that area. Visitors may examine the replica quilt hanging in the stairwell to see if they recognize the names of either soldiers or the Cedar Falls ladies who made the quilt. A notebook will be provided in which information concerning the soldiers and quilters may be written down. Finally, over 500 Civil War soldiers with ties to Cedar Falls will be listed in a binder. The public will invited to browse the alphabetized listing of soldiers and provide any additional information.

Outreach activities will be offered to the public monthly during the exhibit. On February 1, 2007 the exhibit’s Opening Reception will be free and open to the public. Kenneth Lyftogt, author of From Blue Mills to Columbia and editor of the Diary of John Rath, will lecture on March 13. In April, the Cedar Valley Civil War Roundtable will hold a discussion and question and answer session. On May 19 a horse-drawn Trolley Tour will be available, during which participants will be guided past local Civil War landmarks. On June 12, Val Martin, author of Soldiers’ Orphans’ Home 1863-1876, will speak at the Victorian Home and Carriage House Museum. On July 3, a Civil War Homecoming Dinner and Concert will be hosted by the Cedar Falls Historical Society and Cedar Falls Woman’s Club. Following a dinner, program and musical entertainment, the Cedar Falls Municipal Band will present an open-air concert in Overman Park. There will be a film presentation of “The General” on August 13 at the Cedar Falls Woman’s Club. Finally, the 2007 Cemetery Walk on October 13 will focus on Civil War Veterans in Greenwood Cemetery.
This Exhibit by: Cynthia Rae Huffman Sweet

Entitled: Cedar Falls Civil War

has been approved as meeting the thesis requirement for the

Degree of Master of Arts in History

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Acknowledgements:
Jeffrey Kurtz, Executive Director, Cedar Falls Historical Society
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Kenneth Lyftogt, author

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Dr. Wallace Hettle, Mr. Jeffrey Kurtz
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Cedar Falls Public Library
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Artifact Photographic Record
Preface

This exhibit is the first thesis project completed in the History Department of the University of Northern Iowa and was undertaken at the suggestion of Dr. Robert Martin, Department Head. For a graduate student in History with a Public History emphasis, the idea of researching and installing an entire museum exhibit was exciting. Discussions with Jeffrey Kurtz, Executive Director of the Cedar Falls Historical Society and Carriage House Museum and Brandon Brockway, Director of Education and Collections with regard to both the concept and use of their facility for the exhibit were encouraging. Brandon suggested the Civil War as a possible topic and Jeff agreed to serve on my graduate committee. With additional encouragement from Jeanine Humbert Johnson, whose large collection of Civil War artifacts forms the nucleus of this exhibit, and Dr. Joanne Goldman, Director of Public History at UNI, I agreed to plan and implement the department’s first thesis project.

Ten months of reading, research, and potential artifact identification followed. Contacts with museum and historical society personnel around the state and nation were positive and productive. Press releases, both written and broadcast on the Cedar Falls Cablevision Bulletin Board, generated interest, artifacts and family stories. Conversations with the Cedar Valley Civil War Roundtable and Dr. Wallace Hettle (History, UNI) resulted in a lengthy reading list, more potential artifacts, and additional veteran’s stories. Reading and research turned into a story which was then transformed into exhibit labels. Artifacts were borrowed, cataloged, and photographed. Installation of “Cedar Falls Civil War” began on December 5 and was completed five weeks later with the help of Dr. Thomas Connors (History, UNI), Jeanine Humbert Johnson, Garel Johnson, Sheryl Johnson Brandhorst, Julie Huffman-klinkowitz, Stanton Sweet, Ashley Sweet, Devin Sweet, Tyler Sweet, Jeffrey Kurtz and Brandon Brockway.

A logo, promotional strategies, outreach programs, and printed pieces including postcards, mailers, bookmarks, programs, and posters were developed. The logo, featuring Cedar Falls soldier Solomon Humbert was used in all printed pieces. The exhibit title “Cedar Falls Civil War” was designed without punctuation and on two lines of type to emphasize the two elements of the exhibit. Finally, the exhibit catalog was created, featuring photographs of most of the three-dimensional artifacts and some of the paper artifacts. Artifacts which were not photographed are included in the list at the end of the catalog. Although it was found that some artifacts could not be included in the exhibit due to space considerations, they remain in the catalog and are so noted.
The exhibit opening on February 1, 2007 kicked off seven months of special activities including lectures by authors of Civil War related books, a Civil War concert by the Cedar Falls Municipal Band, a trolley tour of local Civil War landmarks, a special showing of “The General,” a discussion hosted by the Cedar Valley Civil War Roundtable, and a cemetery tour of Civil War graves. Altogether, the process was interesting and exciting. I am happy I accepted the challenge and proud of the result.

C.S.
The goal of this exhibit is to contribute to the understanding of life in Cedar Falls during the Civil War years. Cedar Falls was a strongly Republican community in which the majority supported Abraham Lincoln’s desire to maintain the Union and Republican positions as championed by George and Henry Perkins, editors of the Cedar Falls Gazette. In an editorial published December 7, 1860, the Perkins brothers wrote that the North must not yield to demands to appease the South’s desire to allow slavery to spread. The Northwest Democrat, which did advocate appeasement, was short-lived in Cedar Falls—established in June 1862, the Democrat ceased publication early in 1863.

Two companies of men were raised here, the Pioneer Greys in 1861 and the Cedar Falls Reserves in 1862. The Greys became Company K, 3rd Iowa Volunteer Infantry, while the Reserves became Company B, 31st Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Both companies took part in fierce fighting, but had very different military experiences. The Greys marched off to war in homemade uniforms, were issued outdated weapons, and went into their first battle with twelve cartridges in their pockets. A year later, the Reserves were issued regulation uniforms and received Enfield rifles and accoutrements when mustered in. The Greys prepared for war under the tutelage of local retired military men such as William Sessions and Peter Melendy. The Reserves had little training and learned to march on their first expedition. The ranks of the Greys were decimated in battle until the remaining men had to join another company. Although the Reserves lost twenty-three men, they were able to stay together as a company until mustered out.

Both companies were supported and encouraged by Ladies Aid Societies, Soldiers’ Aid Societies, the County Board of Supervisors, and private citizens who supported the war effort by contributing funds and supplies for the benefit of the soldiers and their families. The Aid Society gatherings and fundraisers provided opportunities for socializing as they raised money through fairs, festivals, and dances. So many women participated in the Soldiers’ Aid Society that in April 1862 the young ladies decided to split from the original group and form their own society. The Gazette reported that the “pretext for the formation of a second Society is that so few of the residences in Cedar Falls have sufficient capacity to accommodate the patriotic females, both old and young, (and the escorts of the latter)...But who believes it?” The actual cause of the split, as reported by the Gazette, was that the older women “wish to do their work and go home by 10; the others wish to do their work and go home when they get ready.” The Gazette concluded by noting
that “Maids twenty-five years past the meridian of life are not considered young people by [the Young Ladies’] Society. Bachelors, provided they are unimpaired, are admitted up to the age of seventy-five.”

The completion of the railroad to Cedar Falls immediately prior to the outbreak of war facilitated both movement of troops and aid packages. The railroad enabled commerce to flourish and grow by opening new markets for local crops and goods and driving freight charges down through competition between rail, road, and water carriers. Rail transportation provided easy access to the Cedar Valley, facilitating population growth, land sales, and importation of previously difficult to obtain luxury goods. Overall the war years were a time of prosperity for Cedar Falls, leading the Ladies’ Aid Society to complain in a letter to the Gazette on May 1, 1863 that there had not been adequate interest in their work for several weeks. Society Secretary M.A. Mathews noted, “It is not strange, far removed as our homes are, from armies and battle fields, surrounded by unexampled business prosperity, with peace and plenty smiling upon us as the spring time advances, that we should have been lulled to temporary forgetfulness of the dark cloud overshadowing our land…. The next edition, on May 8, contained a notice of the next Soldiers’ Aid Society meeting, and no further reminder of the importance of aid work was needed.

The exhibit is divided between two rooms and multiple cases, each of which addresses an aspect of the war. In the first room, “A Nation Divided: Prelude and Outbreak of War” sets the stage with a discussion of the causes leading up to the attack on Fort Sumter. “The Home Front” takes a look at the situation in Cedar Falls. The cases on Abraham Lincoln and Lincoln Elementary School address his presidency, assassination, and how he has been remembered. “Music of the War” showcases three Civil War era instruments and reminds us of the significance of music in building morale in times of crisis. “Memory of War” looks at the many ways in which the war and the soldiers were remembered, including the Soldiers’ Orphans’ Home, Grand Army of the Republic, Woman’s Relief Corps, presentation pieces, monuments, and through the imagination of writers such as Bess Streeter Aldrich. Ulysses S. Grant is memorialized with a small exhibit in the first room, as well as in the “Military Affairs” case in the second room. An “open air” camping scene completes the first room, and provides an opportunity for the soldiers to speak through quotation and biography.

Cases in the second room include “Military Training” and “Military Affairs,” which follow the soldiers from training through the major battles of the war; “Following the War,” which takes a look
at Reconstruction and beyond; and “Making Tracks: The Railroad” which provides information on the economic impact of the railroad on Cedar Falls. The children’s activity corner is complete with Civil War computer game, coloring pages, and word games. The Victorian Home, built between 1861 and 1863, is the Historical Society’s largest artifact from the Civil War era, and provides information pertaining to families who lived in Cedar Falls during the war years.

There are three interactive aspects to “Cedar Falls Civil War.” Individuals who attended or taught at Lincoln Elementary School may wish to note their names and memories in the binder found in that area. Visitors may wish to check the replica quilt hanging in the stairwell to see if they recognize the names of either soldiers or the Cedar Falls ladies who made the quilt. A notebook is provided in which information concerning the soldiers and quilters may be written down. Finally, over 500 Civil War soldiers have been identified who have some tie to Cedar Falls. The public is invited to browse the alphabetized listing of soldiers and provide any additional information.

As with any exhibit, space issues forced careful consideration of which artifacts could be included and the length of accompanying text. Many more stories of veterans and their families, as well as the community’s response to war, remain to be told. That is why history is such a fascinating field—there is always another story to tell.

Cynthia Sweet
January 2007
Ammunition

Gunpowder from a 17th Louisiana cartridge box.
CFHS collection

Minie ball
for use in rifle musket
CFHS collection

Canister shot
for use in cannon
J. Carney collection

Rifle musket bullets excavated at Shiloh
J. Carney collection

.58 caliber paper cartridge
containing black powder and lead bullet
for use in Springfield rifle musket
J. Carney collection

Cannon ball fragments
CFHS collection

Lead bullets, oxidized
collected at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville,
and Wilderness Battlefields.
CFHS collection
U.S. Model 1860 Light Cavalry saber
marked J. B. A. for maker J. B. Alliere, Chicago
Sweptback handguard, curved 34” blade and ridged grip.
Carried by Zenas Thomas Jr. Co. H, 4th Iowa Cavalry
E. Chesnut collection

Engraved Foot Officer’s sword and scabbard (made by Eisenhauer)
J. Carney collection

Straight slot socket
bayonet & scabbard
E. Chesnut collection

Straight slot quadrangular bayonet
CT 45 collection

Slant slot quadrangular bayonet & scabbard
E. Chesnut collection
Weapons

1860 Light Cavalry saber with accouterments
Made by Sheble and Fisher, Philadelphia
Owned by Carso Crane Co. D, 9th Iowa Infantry
F. Crane collection

Tactics

U.S. Infantry Tactics, for the Instruction, Exercise, and Maneuvres of the United States Infantry, prepared under the direction of the War Department, and authorized and adopted by The Secretary of War, May 1, 1861
Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1863
Willa Smith collection
Weapons

Colt Navy revolver
1851 model made in 1853
muzzle loading .36 caliber
J. Carney collection

U.S. Model 1863 Springfield rifle musket
J. Carney collection

U.S. Model 1863 Springfield rifle, modified
Forearm shortened and original barrel replaced with shotgun barrel
Carried by Monroe Wilder Co. F, 24th Iowa Infantry
E. Chesnut collection

U.S. Model 1863 Springfield rifle musket
J. Nelson collection

Spencer repeating carbine
marked Spencer Repeating Rifle Co.,
Boston, Massachusetts, Pat. March 6, 1860
Percussion, magazine fed, .52 caliber
J. Carney collection

Enfield rifle musket and leather strap
marked Jno Dickson and Son, Edinburgh
Volunteer model two-band barrel
J. Carney collection
Canteen carried throughout Civil War by Fitzroy Sessions, Co. K, 3rd Iowa Infantry
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Smelling Salts
Carried by Solomon Humbert, Co. B,
31st Iowa Infantry
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Knapsack, R. Valentine Insp. New York
Leather covered with tar and lampblack
CFHS collection

Collapsible cup and leather holder
Carried by Solomon Humbert, Co. B,
31st Iowa Infantry
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Saddlebag for blanket roll, army issue. Silver numerals designate 10th Regiment, New York Cavalry. This belonged to Captain Francis G. Wynkoop, Co. H, 10th New York Cavalry.
CFHS collection
Equipment

Musket Cap Box
CFHS collection

Pistol Cap Box
J. Carney collection

Cartridge Box
CFHS collection

Cartridge Box Tin Insert
Fits inside leather cartridge box
Used to keep rolled paper cartridges separate
CFHS collection

Pistol Cartridge Box
J. Carney collection

Metal box and tin cup
Carried throughout the war by
Solomon Humbert
Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry
J. Humbert Johnson collection
Uniforms and Insignia

Iowa Territorial buttons, for coat and shirt ca. 1847
Made by Scoville Mfg. Co., Waterbury, Connecticut
Worn by Solomon B. Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Iowa Territorial button ca. 1847
Made by Scoville Mfg. Co., Waterbury, Connecticut
Collected by Solomon B. Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Clipping announcing badge to be worn by Fifteenth Army Corps.
J. Humbert Johnson collection
[Not exhibited due to space considerations]

Shoulder Boards [above]
Captain Insignia
Worn by William C. Bryant
Capt., Co. E, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry and later
Captain, Companies C/D/K 19th U.S. Colored Infantry
UNI Museums collection

Shoulder Boards [right]
U.S. Generals and Staff 1850-71
Major Insignia
possibly worn by William C. Bryant, promoted to Brevet Major
13 March 1865
19th U.S. Colored Infantry
UNI Museums collection

Shoulder Boards
Cavalry 1850-1871
UNI Museums collection
Confederate Currency

Twenty-five cents issued by the Bank of Black River, Ludlow, Virginia
November 1862
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Twenty-five cents issued by the City of Richmond, Virginia
14 April 1862
J. Humbert Johnson collection

One Dollar issued by the Corporation of Richmond, Virginia
19 April 1861
J. Humbert Johnson collection

One Dollar Virginia Treasury Note
21 October 1862
R. Hardman collection

Five Dollars issued by the Confederate States of America
17 February 1864
T. Connors collection

Ten Dollars issued by the Confederate States of America
17 February 1864
R. Hardman collection
Confederate-related Artifacts

Confederate Buckle
UNI Museums collection

Hiram David Tiller in sleigh
Confederate veteran, Cedar Falls resident
S. Tiller Kirkle collection

Carved cane
which belonged to Hiram David Tiller
S. Tiller Kirkle collection

Paper cartridge ammunition from Confederate cartridge box.
Collected at Shiloh
by S. B. Humbert, Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry.
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Northern Caricature depicting Jefferson Davis
captured wearing women’s clothing.
T. Connors collection
“Common Soil from Mission Ridge Tenn”
Collected by S. B. Humbert, Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Wood from various types of trees on Lookout Mountain, with carved species identification.
Collected by S. B. Humbert, Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Wood from stockade at Andersonville Prison.
Collected by S. B. Humbert, Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry
CFHS collection

Battle damaged canteen collected at Shiloh by S. B. Humbert, Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Minie ball in tree trunk
CFHS collection
Relics of Slavery

Slave Shackles ca. 1860s
D. Kolpek collection

Slave-made Brick
M. Zischke collection
Relics of Slavery

The Liberator, Saturday, 3 May 1834
T. Connors collection

Uncle Tom’s Cabin
by Harriet Beecher Stowe
New York: J.H. Sears & Company, ca. 1910-20
B. Brockway collection
Lantern from first train to go through Cedar Falls after the War (when the track was extended further west) CFHS collection

Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper
21 October 1865
“Breaking Ground for the Iowa Central Railroad at Cedar Falls, Iowa, Sept. 19” CFHS collection
G. A. R. coat buttons and commander insignia
Made by Scoville Mfg. Co., Waterbury, Connecticut ca. 1866
Worn by Solomon B. Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Department of Iowa G. A. R.
Encampment souvenir shot glass
June 4-5-6, 1901
J. Humbert Johnson collection

G. A. R. flask (undated)
CFHS collection

Pottery canteen, 26th Annual Encampment
Department of Iowa G. A. R. June 12-13-14, 1900
Made by Hinrichs Crockery Co.
CFHS collection
Last G. A. R. flag used in Cedar Falls
CFHS collection

G. A. R. Belt Buckle
Inscription on star:
Grand Army of the Republic 1861 Veteran 1866
donated by Fred Stevens
CFHS collection

1899 G. A. R. Transfer Certificate
Jeremiah Riker
Co. H, 55th Ohio Infantry
CFHS collection
(Not exhibited due to space considerations)
G. A. R.

4-pane postage stamps
Final Encampment of the G. A. R.
Indianapolis
August 28 - September 1, 1949
J. Humbert Johnson collection

1915 G. A. R. Anniversary Postcard
J. Humbert Johnson collection

G. A. R. Convention
Chautauqua Park, Waterloo, 1909
J. Humbert Johnson collection
Droop Wing Eagle
G. A. R. medal
F. Crane collection

G. A. R. Encampment medal
Jacksonville
33rd Grand Division O. R. C.
F. Crane collection

James Brownell G. A. R.
Post #222 Ribbon
CFH5 collection

33rd Encampment June 11-14, 1907
Dubuque, Iowa
Front and reverse
CFH5 collection
Collection of thirteen stereoviews
Produced by Underwood & Underwood Publishers
"Hancock Avenue, Bloody Angle and 'High Water Mark' clump of trees,
S. to Round Top, Gettysburg"
CFHS collection

Sixth Annual Reunion of Battery F, First Ill. Light Artillery
Dixon, Illinois 16-17 August 1892
Sterling Illinois Gem Printing House, 1892
Belonged to Jacob Hoffman
Battery F, First Illinois Light Artillery
CFHS collection

Jacob Hoffman cabin
Black Hawk County, Iowa
A replica stands in Overman Park
CFHS collection
Presentation Pieces

Presentation pitcher and chalice
Presented to S. F. Bicknell
by his friends 25 July 1865
CFHS collection

G. A. R. Walking Stick
Top engraved:
CFHS collection

Sword presented to John and George Boehmler
Side One inscribed with eagle, E Pluribus Unum, 1865
and portrait of Abraham Lincoln
Side Two inscribed with saluting soldier, G. A. R. badge
and G. A. R. inscription 1861
CFHS collection
Flag Stand
Woman’s Relief Corps 1883
Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic
Belonged to Mrs. Solomon [Addie] Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection

In Memoriam ~ Addie Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Photo of quilt made by
James Brownell Woman’s Relief Corps #26
1891
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Woman’s Relief Corps #26 booklet
In Memoriam ~ Addie Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection
Woman’s Relief and Support

Ladies’ G. A. R. Badges - 1888
“F. C. L.” Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
CFHS collection

Rownd family canning jars
ca. 1880s
CFHS collection

Woman’s Relief Corps Delegate Ribbon
18th Annual Encampment, Dept. of Iowa
Dubuque, Iowa June 4-5-6, 1901
UNI Museums collection
Cedar Falls Reserves' Silk Flag

Letter regarding missing Cedar Falls Reserves flag
The flag was subsequently retrieved and donated to the Cedar Falls Public Library
J. Humbert Johnson collection

This historic flag was presented on August 15, 1902 by the ladies of Cedar Falls, to an organization of an hundred stalwart young men who went to the front from their midst, and was later known as Company "B", 31st Regt. Iowa Inf. Vols., and participated with Sherman in many notable battles of the War for the Union, among which were Vicksburg, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta, Savannah, Columbia, S. C., Raleigh and Bentonville, N. C. and on May 23, 1903, took part in the final "Grand Review" of the Union Army at Washington, D. C.

This Flag, after being carried thru several engagements with the Rebels in the Delta and Tallahatchie River campaigns in the State of Mississippi, was returned from Helena, Ark., to Cedar Falls as a souvenir for safe keeping.

On behalf of the old Boys, both living and dead, the undersigned, latest custodian of the flag, now places this sacred emblem with the Trustees of the Cedar Falls Public Library to be preserved as a sacred momento to the self-sacrificing patriotism of the women of Cedar Falls in the strenuous days of 1861-5.

November 10, 1906.

S. B. HUMBERT,
(Late) Co. B., 31st Regt.

SETTLED SUPPLIED BY JAMES BROWNELL WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS, NO. 26.
FLORENCE ANDERSON, President,
FREDERICA PHIPLOT, Secretary.
Cedar Falls Reserves’ Silk Flag

J. Humbert Johnson collection

(Not exhibited due to space considerations)

CIVIL WAR VETERAN
OF 93 TELLS STORY
OF HISTORIC FLAG

Days when patriotism ran high
and Cedar Falls’ pioneer families
sent their sons forth into battle
to save the Union in the 1860’s,
days when young men drilled in
the local streets to prepare themselves
for service at the front,
are recalled vividly by S. B. Humbert,
923 West First, who when he
visits the public library and views
the handsome silk American flag
on display there—a battle scarred
historic relic of the Civil War
that had its origin in the city.

The Civil War flag’s history
is an interesting one as told by Mr. Humbert’s 93-year-old Civil War
veteran, and is closely linked
to historic events of early days
in Cedar Falls. Mr. Humbert,
mentally alert and physically active
deep into his years, related how
patriotic women of the town piled
their shoes and needles to make
this fine silk flag for a company
of local volunteers to carry into
battle; how it was brought home
as a cherished souvenir of the
great Civil War, twice mysterious-
ly disappeared and was eventually
recovered and placed in the public
library for safe keeping and dis-
play as an historic relic of the
great struggle to preserve the
Union.

Mr. Humbert, who saw
three years of service in the Union
army, campaigned in every southern
state except Texas and Florida,
marched with Sherman to the sea
and saw action in many battles,
said that as soon as civil war
broke out in the South and Presi-
dent Lincoln called for volunteers,
a company was promptly assembled
here which was known during its
service as Company K, Third Iowa
Infantry. But the story of the
flag has to do with another com-
pany.

“Shortly after the first company’s
departure,” he said, “another
company was organized
for a company known as ‘The Cedar Falls
Reserves.’ It was composed of
men as George D. Perkins,
who after the war became a prominent
newspaper editor.

“Following the end of the war,
Mr. Seehold at Lake Park, Min-
nesota, wrote her asking that
the flag be returned to Cedar Falls,
but I received no reply. Some
time later, Mr. Seehold came to
Cedar Falls and called on me to
talk the matter over. When he
left for home, the bag would try
and persuade his wife to return
the flag. His success was attested
by a letter from Mrs. Seehold on May 22, 1863, in which
by the way, she mentioned the
name of the person who gave him
the flag. She concluded her letter
with the following statement:

‘I will send the dear old flag
by express today. I assure you I
prize it very highly and it is with
regret that I see it go.

‘Old Glory was again destined
for a hard rub when J. Ross-
baum, Chicago millionaire and
former local resident, returned
to Cedar Falls determined to get
possession of the flag. He said that
he planned to give it the finest
kind of a setting by placing it in
the Chicago Fine Arts Museum, of
which he was a trustee. But when
he was told that it was planned with
the James Brownell Women’s
Auxiliary Corps to give it a fine set-
ing and permanent place in the
Cedar Falls public library, he
agreed to the idea, and
it returned to Chicago empty-handed.

On Nov. 10, 1866, with a patri-
tic program carried out by the
Women’s Relief corps, this histori-
souvenir of the early days of Cedar Falls,
as well as of the great drama of
the Civil War, was placed in the
Cedar Falls public library, where
it is hoped it will continue to
impress its patriotic lesson on
Cedar Falls Reserves’ Silk Flag

Partial clipping
The story of the
Cedar Falls Reserves’ Silk Flag
J. Humbert Johnson collection
(Not exhibited due to space considerations)
Elections 1860 & 1864

1860 Presidential Election Ribbon
Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin
J. Jackson collection

1864 Black Hawk County
Union Ticket
Abraham Lincoln - President
Andrew Johnson - Vice President
CFHS collection
“The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation before the Cabinet”
by F. B. Carpenter
l-r: Edward Stanton, Samuel Chase, President Lincoln, Gideon Wells, Caleb Smith, William Seward, Montgomery Boyer, and Edward Bates.
Engraved by A. H. Ritchie
Print from the Waterloo East High School collection
Courtesy of Alyce Ham

Carte de viste
Abraham Lincoln and son Tad (1833-1871)
Photo by Matthew Brady
Originally published 6 May 1865 in
Harper’s Weekly
CFHS collection
Lincoln Memorial Dedication

Invitation from Iowa Governor Kendall to Solomon B. Humbert dated 16 May 1922 to attend the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Ticket for the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial on 30 May 1922
Attended by Solomon B. Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Lincoln Ribbon from Dedication Ceremony for Lincoln Memorial
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Invitation to the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial on 30 May 1922
J. Humbert Johnson collection
Lincoln Memorial Pieces

Abraham Lincoln based on the statue at the Lincoln Memorial by D. C. French, June 1915
Plaster, painted to simulate a bronze metal patina made by C. Alva Studios, Long Island, NY
B. Brockway collection

Collectible Plates
Mary Todd Lincoln plate ca. 1890
Abraham Lincoln plate (Wedgwood) ca. 1901
B. Brockway collection

Lincoln creamer ca. 1920
Lincoln teacup ca. 1920
Lincoln mustache cup ca. 1920
B. Brockway collection

Lincoln bronzed iron bookends ca. 1920-30
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Abraham Lincoln Martyr’s Mug ca. 1880s
B. Brockway collection
Reproduction of “Lincoln from Life” by L. W. Volk
Plaster, painted to simulate a bronze patina
made by Henneck Studios
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Waterloo East High School collection
Courtesy of Alyce Ham

"Council of War" by John Rogers (1829-1904)
Cedar Falls Public Library collection
pat. 31 March 1868; cast ca. 1868-1878
Lincoln, Stanton and Grant
during a War Council

4’ statue of Abraham Lincoln
T. Connors collection

Life mask of President Lincoln
reproduction of mask by Leonard Volk
T. Connors collection
Rosters

Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry

Roster of Field and Staff
Handwritten by
Solomon B. Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Casualties, 31st Iowa Infantry, handwritten by Solomon B. Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection
Rosters

Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry

Abstract of Facts and Additional Enlistments
Handwritten by Solomon B. Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Line Officers
Handwritten by Solomon B. Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection
1927 letter from Bess Streeter Aldrich to Solomon B. Humbert

Humbert was the basis for the character “Will Deal” in *A Lantern in Her Hand*.

J. Humbert Johnson collection
Waterloo, Iowa Companies

Badge
Co. C
32nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry
This badge belonged to S. Haney of Waterloo, Iowa
CFHS collection

Soldiers’ Record
Company C, 32nd Regiment Iowa Vols.
Mustered in 6 October 1862
CFHS collection

Soldiers’ Memorial “Prairie Rangers”
Company C, 2nd Regiment Iowa Volunteer Cavalry
Mustered in 30 August 1861 Davenport, Iowa
CFHS collection

G. A. R. Ribbon
Robert Anderson Post #68
Waterloo, Iowa
CFHS collection
Small square of black cloth and dried flowers from General Grant’s funeral which belonged to Solomon B. Humbert, Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry
J. Humbert Johnson collection

The Hero Boy or The Life and Deeds of Lieut.-Gen. Grant
by Rev. P. C. Headley
New York: William H. Appleton, 1864
M. Zischke collection

General U. S. Grant
carte de visite
J. Humbert Johnson collection
Music

Civil War era fife
CFHS collection

Civil War era over-the-shoulder horn (approximately 4’ in length)
J. Nelson/Cedar Falls Municipal Band Museum collection

Civil War era drum, purchased in Southeast Iowa
B. Walters collection
Lieut. Thomas G. Salisbury  
Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry  
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Solomon B. Humbert  
Louisville, Kentucky  
20 June 1865  
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Fitzroy Sessions, Co. K, 3rd Iowa Infantry ca. 1894  
First Commander, James Brownell G. A. R. Post #222,  
Cedar Falls, Iowa  
CFHS collection

John J. Fry  
Co. K, 3rd Iowa Infantry  
CFHS collection
James Brownell

Inscribed “Cedar Falls Co. K 3rd Iowa
Killed in Battle of [Blue] Mills
September 17 [1861]”
J. Humbert Johnson collection

James Brownell Monument
J. Humbert Johnson collection

(Not exhibited due to space considerations)

1937 Dedication of Brownell Monument
center - Solomon Humbert and Mrs. Nace
J. Humbert Johnson collection

A granite marker commemorating James Brownell who on Sept. 17, 1861, was killed on the battleground in Blue Mills, Mo, the first soldier from Black Hawk county to give his life in the Civil war, has been placed on the site of his former home, now the farm of Louis D. Brown, west of Cedar Falls on highway 20.

The formal dedication will be on Memorial day, 1937, when national officers of both Woman’s Relief corps and Grand Army of the Republic will be present.

James Brownell, First County Union Soldier
Killed, Honored.

DIEDAN 1861

James Brownell, Charcoal portrait
CFHS collection

Partial clippings, 1937
James Brownell Monument
J. Humbert Johnson collection

cemetery there. As in all cases, the women were needed and the wives, mothers, sisters, and sweethearts of those men organized the James Brownell W.R.C. No. 26. Through these fifty years they have stood shoulder to shoulder with the men of the post, always willing to assist them in their noble work of caring for union veterans and their dependents.

Commander R. B. Humbert, only living charter member of James Brownell post No. 222, O. R. R. also spoke. He said: “I have been deeply interested in the erection of this memorial. I want to say briefly that when I came to Cedar Falls in 1859 I learned to know James Brownell very well as we lived with our parents on adjoining farms. James joined the union army from his home, located where the memorial stands in his honor. As I am the only remaining charter member of the James Brownell post I want to voice sincere thanks both for the living and dead to our wonderful Woman’s Relief corps, who has provided this beautiful granite memorial that is now being dedicated and for the many other worthwhile benefits. Words fail to fully express our appreciation to James Brownell, W. R. C. No. 26.”

I. M. Lichty, another Civil War veteran, was then introduced. The third veteran, Eridge Wilson, was unable to attend.

Concluding the dedicatory services, Dr. Earle A. Baker pastor of the First Methodist church read the benediction.

2/28/20
Soldiers

John Rath Sr.
Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry
1861
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Elias Overman
Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry
Early settler in Cedar Falls
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Joseph Rosenbaum
Co. B, 31st Iowa Infantry
1865
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Carso Crane
Co. D, 9th Iowa Infantry
F. Crane collection
Rossville Gap Monument

Dedication Rossville Gap Monument

ADMIT ONE
TO THE SPEAKERS STAND

JOHN A. YOUNG
Chairman Iowa Commission

Rossville Gap Monument Ticket
J. Humbert Johnson collection
(Not exhibited due to space considerations)

Program (cover)

Inscriptions for the three Iowa State Monuments Erected in 1903-4...near Chattanooga, Tennesee
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Base
Iowa Monument at Rossville Gap
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Inscriptions for the three Iowa State Monuments
Erected in 1903-4,
In Memory of Iowa Soldiers in the Battles on Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Ringgold, Near Chattanooga, Tenn.,
November 24, 25, and 27, 1863.

Memorial at Rossville Gap, Ga.
BASE—Octagon 30 x 30 ft. SHAFT—4 x 4 x 30 ft. Total height, 72 ft.
With four granite statues of private soldiers on corners of base.

Left Panel—Four panels with arms left 64 x 41 min inch.

Front Panel—May this shaft register alike
The memory of our fallen brothers,
And our purpose to perpetuate their memory
By elevating worthy to the heritage they left us,
A memorial and glorious salon.

Right Panel—Coat of Arms of Iowa, with the words
"Our Shelter we prize,
And our rights we will maintain."

Reel Panel.
In the last contest for Missionary Ridge,
Four Iowa regiments were engaged on the Confederate right flank.
Six others with history on the Confederate left and rear.
The movement from Rossville brought the latter part. His position,
Ending later in the assault upon the Ridge,
And two days afterwards in the battle of Ringgold, Ga.
Vicksburg Monument

Dedication of Iowa Monuments
Vicksburg, Mississippi
November 15, 1906
Ribbon belonged to Solomon Humbert
UNI Museums collection

Program
Circuit Tour of National Military Parks
to Attend the Dedication of Iowa Monuments
November 1906
J. Humbert Johnson collection
Inscriptions for the three Iowa State Monuments
Erected in 1903-4...near Chattanooga, Tennessee
J. Humbert Johnson collection

Photo
Iowa Monument on Lookout Mountain
J. Humbert Johnson collection

(Not exhibited due to space considerations)
Monument Commission

Iowa Members of the Commission to Erect Monuments in Memory of Iowa Soldiers on the Battle Fields of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge.

J. Humbert Johnson collection

Letter from

L. T. Dickinson, Adjutant
N. B. Forrest Camp No. 4
United Confederate Veterans
2 October 1906
to Col. [sic] S. B. Humbert
J. Humbert Johnson collection
(Not exhibited due to space considerations)
The railroads have agreed upon a rate of ONE CENT per mile each way from Iowa points to Chattanooga and return, tickets on sale November 16 and 17, and good for return passage within fifteen days from date or purchase. For exact railway rates, time of trains and sleeping car facilities, apply direct to local ticket agents. Parties leaving Iowa on the afternoon or evening trains of Friday, November 16, either via Chicago or St. Louis, will reach Chattanooga Sunday morning, November 18, allowing a day for sight-seeing before the dedication of the first of the Chattanooga monuments, which begins Monday morning, at 10 A.M., on the Lookout Mountain battlefield.

The Iowa Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge Monument Commission Dedication Services
Chattanooga, Tenn. November 19 and 20, 1906

J. Humbert Johnson collection
Greenwood Cemetery Monument

Dedication Ceremony Soldiers’ Memorial
Greenwood Cemetery, Cedar Falls, Iowa
14 June 1914
CFHS collection

Soldiers’ Memorial
Greenwood Cemetery
Cedar Falls, Iowa
CFHS collection

(Photos not exhibited due to space considerations)
Memorial Day Postcards

J. Humbert Johnson collection
Memorial Day Postcards

J. Humbert Johnson collection
Soldiers' Orphans' Home

Site of first Soldiers' Orphans' Home in Cedar Falls. Originally named the American House, by 1874 it was called the Monitor House.

Cover and Portion of Construction Specifications for Cedar Falls Soldiers' Orphans' Home written by Azel D. Barnum Special Collections University of Northern Iowa collection

Soldiers' Orphans' Home, Cedar Falls CFHS collection
Soldiers' Orphans' Home

Bell from Soldiers' Orphans' Home
cast by Blymyer Norton & Co., Cincinnati
The bell is on exhibit at the Maucker Union, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls near the site of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home
UNI Museums collection

Dishes, Soldiers' Orphans' Home
Stone china J.W. Pankhost & Co., Hanley
Royal Maddock & Co., Burslem, England
Royal Ironstone China, Charles Meakin, England
These dishes belonged to Anna Hammerand who worked as a baker at the Orphans' Home
CFHS collection

Button
Soldiers' Orphans' Home, Davenport, Iowa
T. Connors collection

27 June 1890 Soldiers' Orphans' Home Reunion
Annie Wittenmyer in center
CFHS collection

Soldiers' Orphans' Home Reunion Ribbon
25-26 June 1890
UNI Museums collection
Additional Exhibit Items

1851-70
Coins, two 1852 silver 3-cent; one silver 1853 3-cent with 6 pointed star; one silver 1855 half dollar; one silver 1862 half dime; one copper 1865 1-cent; one copper 1868 2-cent. (private collection)

Cedar Falls Gazette, 15 November 1861. (CFHS collection)

Solomon B. Humbert diary 1862-1865. (J. Humbert Johnson collection)

George Rownd letter dated 16 April 1862 (CFHS collection)

Austin Leversee letters dated 27 May 1862 and 21 November 1862. (R. & A. Eades collection)

Clark Dix letter (1862) (M. Willoughby collection)

1862 Harper's Weekly issues dated: 27 September, 4 October, 11 October, 18 October, 25 October, 1 November, 8 November, 15 November, and 22 November. (R. Hardman collection)

United States fractional currency ca. 1863. (private collection)

Partial Clipping, 30 May 1865, “Gen. Sherman’s Farewell Address to his Army.” (J. Humbert Johnson collection)

Discharge Papers, June 1865, Solomon B. Humbert. (J. Humbert Johnson collection)

1871-90
Thomas W. Higginson letter dated 27 March 1883. (T. Connors collection)

Clipping, no date, no title, poem written upon the occasion of General John Logan’s death (26 December 1886). (J. Humbert Johnson collection)


1891-1910
George W. Jones letter dated 15 February 1892. (T. Connors collection)

1892 Postcard featuring U.S. Grant addressed to Mrs. Addie Humbert. (J. Humbert Johnson collection)
Additional Exhibit Items

1893 Invitation to dedication of Lee Memorial. [T. Connors collection]


Letter, 10 June 1902, from Solomon B. Humbert to Iowa Governor Albert B. Cummins, accepting his appointment to Lookout Mountain Monument Commission. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Letter, 6 October 1902, from Captain Robert Speer to General Anson G. McCook regarding the Battle on Lookout Mountain. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Letter, 16 October 1902, from General Anson G. McCook to Captain Robert Speer regarding the Battle on Lookout Mountain. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Announcement by the Iowa Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge Monument Commission inviting bids on construction of monuments. Bids to be submitted before noon on 19 February 1903 at Burr’s Hotel, Cedar Falls, Iowa. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Contracts and Specifications, 20 February 1903, between the Van Amringe Granite Company and the Iowa Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge Commission, for the building of three granite shaft memorials at Rossville Gap, Sherman Heights and Lookout Mountain. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Letter, March 1906, from Solomon B. Humbert to John Young and Alonzo Abernathy confirming that the Lookout Mountain Monuments were completed according to contracts and the Van Amringe Granite Company should be paid in full. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Letter, 25 September 1906, from A. J. Gahagan to Solomon B. Humbert with reference to the Confederate Veteran’s speaker for the Iowa Monument Dedication Ceremony to be held November 19-20. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Letter, 2 October 1906, from L. T. Dickinson, Adjutant, N. B. Forrest Camp No. 4, United Confederate Veterans, to Solomon B. Humbert with reference to speakers designated for Iowa Monument Dedication Ceremony. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Monument Dedication Program, 15-23 November 1906. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Paper, read by Rev. Birney at the Funeral of Captain Robert Speer, “to show the outstanding honor that came to Cedar Falls by quick action by the Captain.” [J. Humbert Johnson collection]
Additional Exhibit Items


1911-1930

Commemorative Program, 1911 Joint Session of 47th General Assembly of Illinois in honor of the 102nd anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. [J. Jackson collection]


1931-1950

Newspaper clipping 30 May 1936 with photo of last four Civil War veterans living in Cedar Falls: C. M. Lichty, D. A. Finley, Eldredge Wilson, and S. B. Humbert. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Gone With the Wind: Motion Picture Edition by Margaret Mitchell. New York: Macmillan Company, 1940. [S. Bond Huffman collection]

KKK Robe and hood ca. 1940s, Butler Co., Iowa. [J. Baskerville collection]

Undated Items

Newspaper clipping, no date, “Lincoln Once Ordered Iowan to be Spanked.” [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Newspaper clipping, no date, “A Tribute to Lincoln by President Coolidge.” [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Newspaper clipping, no date, “Lincoln A Dictator.” [J. Humbert Johnson collection]


List of Commanders, no date, James Brownell G. A. R. Post #222 from August 1883 through 1927. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]

Print, Abraham Lincoln family. [CFHS collection]

Napkin ring, engraved “Fitzroy” [Fitzroy Sessions]. [J. Humbert Johnson collection]
Additional Exhibit Items

James Grimes signature (1816-1872). (T. Connors collection)

William L. Garrison signature (1805-1879). (T. Connors collection)

Samuel Kirkwood signature (1813-1894). (T. Connors collection)

Thomas Dixon Jr. (1864-1946) two letters. (T. Connors collection)

Portion of Dred manuscript by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896). (T. Connors collection)

United Daughters of the Confederacy Petition to amend their constitution
(T. Connors collection)

Southern Battlefields on or near the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis RR and
Western & Atlantic Railroad. (J. Humbert Johnson collection)

Lincoln Elementary School photos and family stories. (R. Congdon collection)

Porcelain dolls, “Gone With the Wind” collectible series. (S. Bond Huffman collection)
Exhibit Illustrations

The following photos and illustrations from Margaret E. Wagner’s *The American Civil War From the Library of Congress: 365 Days* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2006), were used in the exhibit.

John Brown. Photograph by Levin C. Handy from an earlier Daguerreotype, date unknown. no photo credit. (January 4)

For President, Abram Lincoln. Woodcut or lithograph on cotton by H. C. Howard as poster/campaign banner, 1860. (January 16)

Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, 12th & 13th of April 1861. Hand-colored lithograph, Currier & Ives, 1861? (January 26)

“The Capitol a barrack” Captain Tate and militia troops. May 1861. no photo credit. (February 6)

Jefferson Davis ca. 1855. no photo credit. (March 3)

Robert E. Lee. Photograph by Julian Vannerson, 1863. (March 3)

President Abraham Lincoln with General George B. McClellan and other officers, Antietam, Maryland. Photograph by Alexander Gardner, October 3, 1862. (April 14)

Federal army wagons at the Atlanta, Georgia, railroad depot. Photograph by George N. Barnard, 1864. (July 27)

Sherman’s men tearing up railroad track, before leaving Atlanta, Georgia. Photograph by George N. Barnard, 1864. (July 27)

Burial party on the battlefield of Cold Harbor, April 1865. (July 31)

Officers of the 114th Pennsylvania Infantry playing cards, Petersburg, Virginia. August 1864. (August 24)

Levee and steamboats, Vicksburg, Mississippi. Photograph by William Redish Pywell, February 1864. (September 15)


Battle Flag Day August 10, 1894: Ceremonials Attending the Transfer of the Battle Flags of Iowa Regiments from the Arsenal to the Capitol. Des Moines: F. R. Conaway, 1896.


*Cedar Falls Daily Record.* Clippings from 2 June 1905; 21 February 1907; 31 May 1913; and 9 April 1915.

*Cedar Falls Gazette.* Vols. 1-6 (1860-1865); 23 May 1879; 2 September 1902. Microfilm. Cedar Falls Public Library, Cedar Falls, Iowa.


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History of Black Hawk County, Iowa. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1878.


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