

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.

April 19, 2012

THIS WEEK: FISCAL SIDE OF BUILDING THE IOWA STATE CAPITOL

BACKGROUND: BUILDING THE IOWA STATE CAPITOL

The Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines, signifies the prodigious spirit of Iowa. Built between 1871 and 1886, this magnificent building represents, both inside and out, one of the nation's finest examples of 19th century architecture.

Fiscal Side of Building the Iowa State Capitol

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE.

To the Board of Capitol Commissioners:

I herewith present my report and exhibits of expenditures in detail, for the year 1876, of \$275,000.00, and in 1877 of \$225,000.00, and in the aggregate, from the commencement of the work to November 30, 1877, showing the disbursement of \$1,250,000.00, being the full amount thus far appropriated, also

of the receipts for sales of refuse material and old machinery for the year 1876, of \$290.97, Exhibit "C," and for the year 1877, of \$365.54, Exhibit "F."

GENERAL STATEMENT

Of Cash Received in 1876, and to what Class Credited.

ARTICLES SOLD.	TO WHAT CLASS CREDITED.	Amount.
Spawls and stone sold.....	Carroll County sandstone.....	\$ 110.97
Spawls and stone sold.....	Ste. Genevieve sandstone.....	55.61
Stone sold.....	Iowa City quarry.....	13.20
Limestone sold.....	Limestone.....	103.10
Brick-bats sold.....	Brick.....	7.10
Old railroad ties sold.....	Railroad.....	.97
		<hr/> \$ 290.97
Amount previously reported.....		339.30
On hand.....		<hr/> \$ 630.37

Exhibit "C"

(Note: the original scanned file used had been clipped at the right.)

(1876)

General Statement of Cash received in 1877, and to what Class credited.

ARTICLES SOLD.	TO WHAT CLASS CREDITED.	AMOUNT.
Stone and spawls sold.....	Carroll County sandstone.....	\$ 158.03
Stone and spawls sold.....	Ste. Genevieve sandstone.....	64.72
Stone and spawls sold.....	Limestone.....	61.86
Overcharge, frieght on rope.....	Machinery and tools.....	\$ 2.10
Granite tools, and old castings sold....		15.50
Tools sharpened in shop.....		75
Tree tops sold.....	Expenses.....	7.25
Overcharge on repairs refunded.....	Railroad.....	8.25
Use of Derrick labor.....	Stone-setting.....	4.50
Sand sold.....	Sand.....	1.00
Lumber cuttings sold.....	Lumber.....	75
Packing boxes sold.....	Terra cotta.....	5.00
Cement barrels sold.....	Cement.....	75
Bricks and bats sold.....	Brick.....	35.08
	Total.....	<hr/> 365.54
	Amount previously reported.....	630.31
	On hand.....	<hr/> \$ 995.85

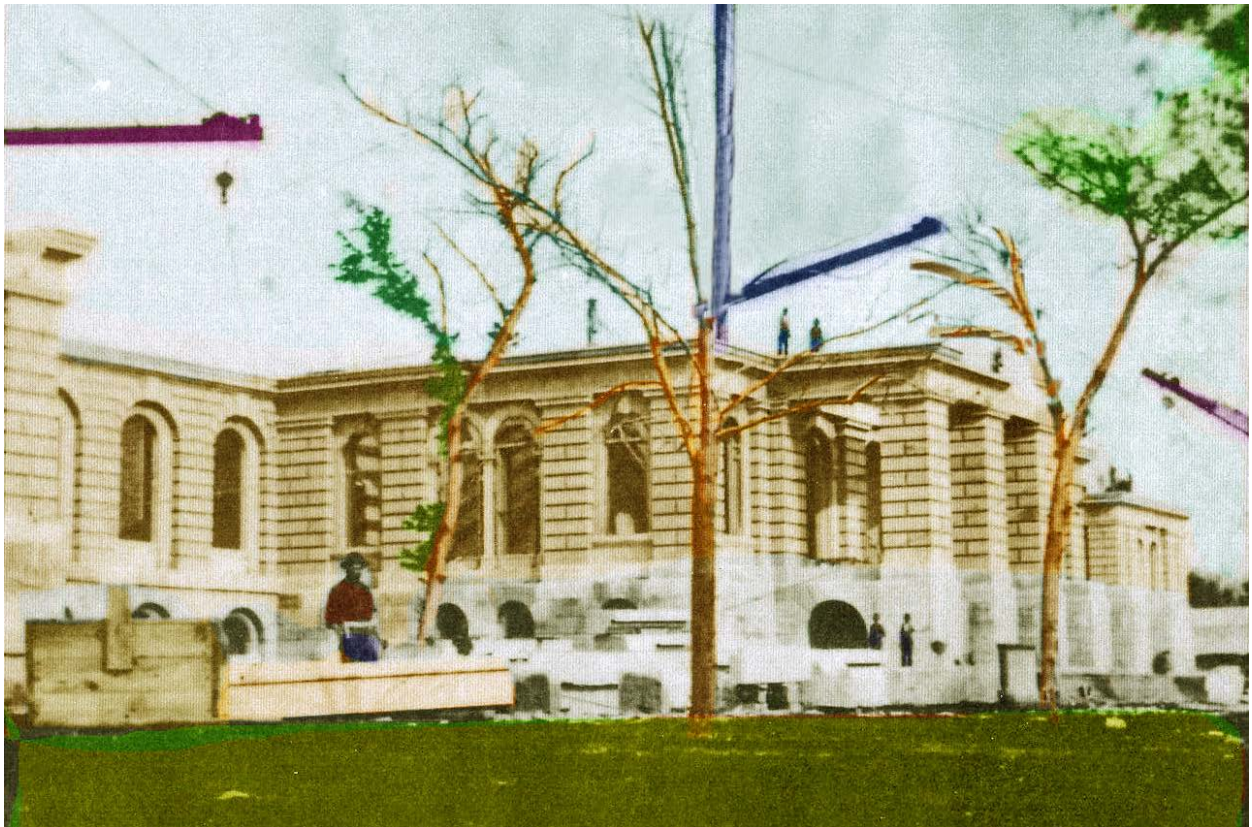
Exhibit "F"

(1877)

In my last biennial report, I purposed to permanently disburse the money received from sales, as it came in hand, but exigencies have arisen that made it advisable, in the prosecution of the work, to retain the money as a reserve fund.

The State Treasury has been embarrassed, during the past season, for the want of money, and the warrants of the board on the new capitol building appropriation could not be paid promptly and have had to abide their regular order of payment as the money came into the Treasury.

The purchase of some special material or machinery has often required prompt payment in cash, which we have been enabled to do by cashing the warrant for such purpose and holding it as cash till paid, thus having the means to meet some pecuniary emergencies that frequently occurred.



Iowa State Capitol Early Stage of Construction
(Circa 1878)

When the State Treasurer was unable to pay the warrants drawn for the monthly pay roll, the workmen on the new capitol building experienced some difficulty in negotiating them, and many had to suffer exorbitant discounts. Payments by the board are restricted by law, to State Auditor's warrants on the State Treasury and whatever may be, their depreciation, it must be borne by the holder of them. Therefore, to avoid the difficulties and heavy discounts in negotiations that would naturally arise from so many warrants of small amounts being thrown monthly upon the Des Moines market, the workmen that required money proposed to dispose of their warrants at ninety-eight cents on the dollar. Accordingly, for those that desired it, I have had a warrant for their aggregate amount on the pay roll negotiated at that rate, and the money paid them; all others have had their warrants for the full amount due them.

This arrangement of negotiation I consider very favorable to the parties in interest, as it enabled the workmen in the capitol building to have their monthly wages promptly, and also it establishes a market price for state warrants, not only in Des Moines but throughout the state where the state institutions are located, and which require the negotiation of state warrants.

The pay roll for November and December are payable January 1, 1878, at which time the annual appropriation of \$125,000.00 is due.

STATEMENT

Showing the Number of Days' labor performed on the Capitol Building by men and teams, working by the day, including Foremen, and the wages paid per day from November 29, 1875, to October 27, 1877. Also the Aggregate Number of days including days at the Iowa City quarry, from May 18, 1872, to October 27, 1877. Excluding stone cutting done by the foot.

HOW EMPLOYED.

	Wages per day.	Days in 1876.	Days in 1877.
Foremen of stone cutters.....	\$6.00	308.50	272.50
Foremen of iron work, carpentering, pattern making, assistant foremen of stone cutters, and modelers	5.00	627	748.40
Foremen of iron work, carpentering, and pattern making.. ..	1.50	131	.....
Foremen of laborers, derricks, and stone setting, stone setters and stone cutters.....	4.00	555.75	620.95
Stone setters and stone cutters.....	3.75	220.45	48.20
Stone cutters and brick masons.....	3.50	2,074.35	407.55
Blacksmiths and stone cutters.....	3.25	456.75	642.50
Engineers, stone cutters and blacksmiths.....	3.00	414.15	929.90
Engineers, riggers, stone cutters and brick masons.....	2.75	153.25	1,309.10
Engineers, riggers, stone cutters, carpenters, derrick foremen and brick masons.....	2.50	2,217.10	941.05
Engineers, riggers, carpenters, blacksmiths, derrick foremen, stone cutters and riveters.....	2.25	1,548.45	2,152.70
Carpenters, blacksmiths, riveters and stone cutters.....	2.00	1,028.45	1,212.55
Laborers.....	1.75	5,499.95	858.95
Laborers.....	1.65	2,620.35	74.55
Laborers.....	1.60	335.50	7.90
Laborers.....	1.50	8,971.35	11,933.30
Laborers.....	1.40	.....	125.
Laborers.....	1.35	15.50	72.50
Laborers.....	1.30	15.25	.....
Laborers.....	1.25	636.25	1,567.70
Laborers.....	1.20	8	.....
Laborers.....	1.00	399	270.95
Water boys.....	.75	715.75	480.50
Water boys.....	.65	9.50	.....
Water boys.....	3.00	7.75	.....
Two horse team and driver.....	2.75	.....	2.50
Two horse team and driver.....	2.50	435.50	26.75
Cart, horse and driver.....	2.25	.....	430.75
Cart, horse and driver.....	2.00	141.25	12.60
Horse and driver for hoisting brick.....	1.75	.....	75.25
Horse and driver for hoisting brick.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals.....	.....	29,546.10	25,224.60
Total days, from November 29, 1875, to October 27, 1877.....	.....	.....	54,770.70
Total days, from January 1, 1874, to November 29, 1875.....	.....	.....	40,001.45
Total days, at Iowa City quarry in 1873-4-5.....	.....	.....	23,225.75
Total days, from May 18, 1872, to December 30, 1873.....	.....	.....	22,843.72
Total days, from May 18, 1872, to October 27, 1877.....	.....	.....	140,841.62