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BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE  
SOLDIERS' HOME.  
AT  
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.  

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1889.



# REPORT.

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*To the General Assembly of Iowa:*

The Soldiers' Home has now been in use and occupation for about two years, and we are pleased to report that its practical results have been, under all the circumstances, quite satisfactory to the Commissioners, and, we believe, to the inmates of the Home.

The eagerness manifested by feeble, wounded and dependent soldiers to obtain admission to the Home; their general submission to its rules, and the contentment and comfort which it affords its inmates remove, in the opinion of the Commissioners, all doubt as to the desirability or practicability of State institutions of this character, for the support and comfort of those who offered their lives upon the battle-field in defense of their country, and who are, by disease, wounds or old age, made dependent upon the good offices of their fellow men for their physical support and comfort.

Very many of the inmates are suffering from wounds received upon the battle-field, or from rheumatism, or other diseases contracted while in the service. At the Home they are supplied with those aids to health and means of comfort which are so essential to men in their condition, and which it would be impracticable to furnish them by other methods.

They have regular meals of wholesome food, comfortable beds, warm and well ventilated rooms, opportunities for frequent bathing and continued medical attention. They also at all times have access to a large reading-room, supplied with papers, magazines, and works of biography, fiction, travel, and history.

In the main building is a chapel which will seat about three hundred, where services are held every Sabbath by some of the resident ministers of Marshalltown.

The men are permitted, during the day, to spend their time much as they may desire, but are required to answer to roll-call in the morning, and to be in their rooms at night.



Since our last report the grounds have been fenced and graded, and put into good condition. About seven hundred trees have been set out along the streets, and in parks about the grounds.

#### SEWERAGE.

At the time the Home was built the city of Marshalltown obtained its water supply from the Iowa river, at a point about one mile below the Home building. This prevented the use of the river as an outlet for the sewerage, and we adopted what is called the sub-surface sewerage system. The sewerage is carried in pipes under the ground some distance from the building, and distributed into common tile, which are laid in branches from the main pipe, about three feet below the surface.

However desirable such a system may be for small institutions, it was found inadequate for the needs of the Home, and from time to time large cess-pools have been made upon the grounds some distance from the buildings, into which the sewerage has been emptied. This, however, cannot continue as a permanent system. Other means must be provided, and we are now hoping to find a proper outlet, or to make arrangements to run the pipes to the river at a point which will in no way injure the water for the city.

It is essential that a reasonable appropriation be made and placed at the disposal of the Commission to provide for such additional sewerage as may be found necessary.

#### BARN AND QUARTERMASTER BUILDING.

The appropriation for a quartermaster building has been used, and a good brick building of two stories and basement has been erected adjoining the main building. It is heated by steam from the main building.

A substantial brick barn, forty by sixty feet, has also been erected.

Both of the buildings were erected within the appropriations made therefor.

#### HOSPITAL.

We have made the best use possible of the means at our disposal to provide proper hospital facilities, but they are inadequate to our needs.

Many of the inmates are well advanced in years, or are broken in health from exposures or wounds, and quite a large per cent of



them require medical treatment and attention which cannot be given them without additional hospital facilities. Surely the people of the State expect that these men whose wounds and broken constitutions bear witness to their fidelity to the cause of the Union will have reasonable provisions made for their care and treatment in sickness while inmates of this institution.

There should be an appropriation for a hospital building large enough to provide for any number who may require its conveniences, and without this it is simply impossible to provide those means of comfort which a grateful people desire given to the inmates of this Home.

With such additional building the room now occupied for hospital purposes could be used for the admission of more inmates, and it is now believed that we shall soon have to refuse applications for admission for want of accommodations.

A full statement of the number admitted into and discharged from the Home, with their nationality, will be found in the Commandant's report, together with other desirable information.

We fully indorse his suggestions in reference to the necessity for some provisions whereby the subordinate officers may live near the Home.

The funds shown by the Treasurer's report as in his hands on June 30, 1889, have been largely used in the payment of obligations created before that time.

We were singularly fortunate in securing the services of Colonel Milo Smith as Commandant. The management of the Home is very largely under his immediate care, and he has in all emergencies, by prudent counsel and wise conduct, given entire satisfaction to the Commission. Sympathetic and kind to the inmates, he is yet firm and unchangeable in his determination to have the rules and regulations of the Home respected and obeyed.

With very rare exceptions the inmates respect him, and find pleasure in obedience to his wishes. His subordinate officers are capable and well qualified for their respective duties.

It is rare that any complaint is made to the Commission of any unjust treatment, or want of attention. The government of the Home, so far as it rests with the Commandant and officers subject to him, is admirable, and we think the State may safely challenge comparison with any and all similar institutions.

It affords us pleasure, in this connection, to quote the words of General Averill, Assistant Inspector General of National Homes for Disabled Soldiers. Speaking of the Iowa Home, he says: "The



Home, with all of its equipments and surroundings, exhibits strength, energy and frugality. All its furnishings, like the Home itself, seemed of the best quality, comparatively new, and scrupulously clean. An inspection of the members in their quarters, and at dinner, revealed the good order and discipline which prevailed."

The salary allowed the Commandant by law is \$1,200 per year. In our judgment this is insufficient for the services of such a man as is required at the head of an institution of this character. We feel justified in expressing a hope that the General Assembly will provide for a more liberal compensation for the Commandant.

We are allowed \$500 per month for salaries and wages of officers and employes. It is impossible to furnish proper help within this appropriation. The amount for this purpose should be increased to \$1,000 per month.

Under the present law the general government allows each State one half of the total cost of the actual running expenses of State homes for disabled or dependent soldiers.

We most earnestly recommend appropriations as follows:

For hospital building, furniture and fixtures.....	\$ 25,000
For new boiler-room and heating apparatus for main building and hospital.....	6,000
For three cottages and furniture for employes.....	7,500
For additional sewerage.....	1,250
For salaries for officers and employes, per month.....	1,000

We attach hereto the reports of the Commandant and the Treasurer. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. M. TUTTLE,  
S. L. DOWS,  
J. J. RUSSELL,  
C. W. BURDICK,  
N. A. MERRILL,  
G. A. MADSON,  
*Commissioners.*



## COMMANDANT'S REPORT.

GENERAL J. M. TUTTLE, *President of Board of Commissioners of Iowa Soldiers' Home:*

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to present the following report of the operations and conditions of the Iowa Soldiers' Home for the term extending from January 1, 1888, to June 30, 1889.

There was received into the Home prior to January 1st, fifty-three members; from January 1, 1888, to June 30, 1889, 342, making total received 295. Of the number received, twenty-nine died, seventy-four were discharged, and eighteen dropped from the rolls for being absent without leave, leaving 274 belonging June 30, 1889.

Of the whole number received, 292 were single and 103 married, and a very large proportion of married men had either been divorced or had lived apart from their families for many years.

Coming to the Soldiers' Home separates very few families. Of the whole number admitted 256 were born in America, forty-nine in Ireland, forty-one in Germany, eighteen in England, eleven in Canada, and twenty in the various European countries and Mexico.

One hundred and twenty nine are registered as farmers, 124 as laborers, twenty carpenters, sixteen blacksmiths, thirteen shoemakers, nine painters and eighty-four divided up among all the trades and professions known to civilization.

There has been expended during eighteen months, from January 1, 1888, to June 30, 1889, \$49,932.61.

Of the amount expended \$15,857.44 was expended for subsistence. The average number for the time was 199, and the cost of subsistence 14½ cents per man per day, including tobacco, and not including the value of the products received from the farm. There was expended for clothing, including the amount on hand January 1, 1888, and deducting the amount on hand June 30, 1889, \$6,589.61, being an average of \$12.84 per man per year. There was paid for farm machinery, farm labor, seeds, etc., \$514.97, and received in the products of the farm at regular market prices, \$636.54. There was paid for horses, harness, wagons, sleighs and sleds \$1,350; for improvement of grounds, \$5,620.40; for salaries



and wages, \$9,741.27, and for all other purposes, \$10,258.92, being \$9.85 $\frac{2}{3}$  per month per man.

There was received from the Treasurer \$49,750, and from other sources \$285.36.

Total receipts, \$50,035.36; total expenditures, \$49,932.61, leaving balance unexpended \$102.75.

The construction of the Quartermaster's building and barn during the season of 1888 added very much to the convenience and comfort of running the Home. Both have fully answered the purpose for which they were built.

All the stumps which made the ground so unsightly when the Home was dedicated have been removed by the members of the Home, and the farm lands put under a good state of cultivation, the soil of which is peculiarly adapted to the growth of vegetables, and on which a full supply of all kinds can be produced for the use of the Home when filled to its full capacity. About 700 shade trees were set out on the grounds during the spring, sufficient, when fully grown, to fully shade the grounds. The Home cemetery has been fitted up ready for use, and properly fenced, and marble headstones properly marked are set at all graves. Owing to the porous condition of the soil surrounding the lake constructed on the grounds it has not proven a success thus far, but with a proper lining of clay it can be made a success.

The Home is doing all that its friends could expect for the comfort of its members, except in the way of hospital accommodations. The present hospital is entirely inadequate. Accommodations should be provided for at least four times its present capacity. Its location is such that the labor of supplying the food for the sick is a heavy tax upon the help necessarily employed as nurses in the hospital involving the necessity of carrying the food a long distance and up a long flight of stairs by men that can with difficulty go up and down stairs without any load. The great need of the Home is suitable hospital accommodations in a separate building, built expressly for that purpose, with all the modern improvements. It is an absolute necessity, and the Home can never expect to be what its friends have a right to expect without it. All other improvements are of small consequence compared to it. There is also a necessity for places for the Quartermaster and Adjutant to live nearer the Home.

They are obliged now to live a mile and a half away, involving the use of a team night and morning to carry them back and forth, and they are obliged to leave the Home early at night and not



return before 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning, thus losing the very time when the Adjutant has the most to do, and in cold, stormy weather it is very unpleasant, especially for men not in robust health. Some arrangement should be made for providing residences for them nearer the Home. The indications are that the Home will be filled to its full capacity by the beginning of another winter.

Inclosed herewith I hand you a list of the States that the members of the Home are credited to, and the number from each State. All of which is respectfully submitted.

MILo SMITH, *Commander.*

ADMITTED PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 1889.

Iowa.....	211
Illinois.....	53
Wisconsin.....	19
Missouri.....	15
Ohio.....	16
Indiana.....	14
Pennsylvania.....	11
United States Service.....	10
New York.....	12
Minnesota.....	5
Michigan.....	4
Massachusetts.....	3
Kentucky.....	4
United States Navy.....	3
California.....	2
Colorado.....	2
Kansas.....	2
Virginia.....	2
Veteran Reserve Corps.....	2
Connecticut.....	1
Nebraska.....	1
New Jersey.....	1
New Hampshire.....	1
Vermont.....	1
Total.....	395

E. G. DURNAD, *Assistant Adjutant.*



## TREASURER'S REPORT.

DECORAH, IOWA, Sept. 30, 1889.

*To the Commissioners of the Iowa Soldiers' Home:*

GENTLEMEN—Herewith find my report as Treasurer from January 1, 1888, the date of my last report, to June 30, 1889:

### SUPPORT FUND.

1888.			
January	1.	Balance on hand January 1, 1888.....	\$ 7,535.67
May	17.	State order .....	5,000.00
May	17.	State order .....	4,530.00
September	14.	State order .....	4,870.00
October	19.	State order .....	6,000.00
December	15.	State order .....	5,120.00
1889.			
February	15.	State order .....	2,590.00
March	6.	State order .....	2,590.00
April	20.	State order .....	2,750.00
May	25.	State order .....	2,750.00
June	4.	State order .....	2,740.00

### DISBURSEMENTS.

1888.			
February	7.	Col. Smith, disbursements .....	\$ 1,500.00
February	13.	Col. Smith, disbursements .....	500.00
February	27.	Col. Smith, disbursements .....	2,000.00
March	27.	Col. Smith, disbursements .....	2,000.00
April	28.	Col. Smith, disbursements .....	1,500.00
May	23.	Troy Laundry Machine Co.....	847.54
June	22.	Col. Smith, May disbursements .....	1,497.77
July	12.	Col. Smith, June disbursements.....	1,419.05
August	11.	Col. Smith, July disbursements.....	1,494.03
September	18.	Col. Smith, August disbursements .....	1,573.27
October	10.	Col. Smith, September disbursements.....	1,655.05
October	24.	W. A. Fulkerson, architect .....	150.00
November	16.	Col. Smith, October disbursements .....	2,545.66
December	12.	Kreutzer & Wasun, furniture.....	255.00
December	12.	A. K. Bailey & Son, printing.....	3.50
December	12.	Col. Smith, November disbursements .....	2,231.36



1889.			
January	15.	Col. Smith, December disbursements.....	\$ 2,626.66
February	11.	Col. Smith, January disbursements.....	2,878.95
March	12.	Col. Smith, February disbursements.....	2,096.13
April	10.	Col. Smith, March disbursements.....	2,192.05
May	10.	Col. Smith, April disbursements .....	2,028.07
June	14.	Col. Smith, May disbursements .....	1,895.49
July	15.	Col. Smith, June disbursements.....	1,939.79
		Exchange ....	43.70
		Expenses and salaries of commissioners ...	1,484.61
		Balance on hand June 30, 1889 .....	8,247.99
			\$46,605.67
			\$46,605.67

SALARY AND WAGES FUND.

1888.			
May	17.	State order.....	\$ 2,000.00
September	14.	State order.....	1,500.00
October	19.	State order... ..	1,500.00
December	15.	State order.....	1,000.00
1889.			
February	15.	State order... ..	500.00
March	6.	State order.....	500.00
April	20.	State order.....	500.00
May	25.	State order.....	500.00
June	4.	State order.....	500.00

DISBURSEMENTS.

1888.			
June	22.	Col. Smith, May disbursements.....	\$ 491.03
July	12.	Col. Smith, June disbursements .....	499.50
August	12.	Col. Smith, July disbursements.....	492.75
September	18.	Col. Smith, August disbursements.....	503.50
October	10.	Col. Smith, September disbursements.....	494.33
November	16.	Col. Smith, October disbursements .....	517.46
December	13.	Col. Smith, November disbursements .....	534.54
1889.			
January	15.	Col. Smith, December disbursements .....	535.76
February	11.	Col. Smith, January disbursements .....	566.93
March	12.	Col. Smith, February disbursements.....	578.20
April	10.	Col. Smith, March disbursements.....	560.78
May	10.	Col. Smith, April disbursements .....	554.93
June	14.	Col. Smith, May disbursements.....	583.26
July	15.	Col. Smith, June disbursements .. ..	592.08
		Balance on hand June 30, 1889.....	994.95
			\$ 8,500.00
			\$ 8,500.00



## IMPROVEMENTS ON GROUNDS FUND.

1888.			
January	1.	Balance on hand of Marshalltown fund....	\$ 6,701.46
October	19.	State order .....	1,000.00
1889.			
May	25.	State order .....	1,200.00

## DISBURSEMENTS.

1888.			
February	17.	Wm. Bremer, civil engineer.....	\$ 150.00
April	28.	Col. Smith, improvements.....	150.00
May	9.	F. J. Peterson, balance on grading .....	86.00
June	22.	Col. Smith, May disbursements.....	840.70
July	12.	Col. Smith, June disbursements .....	742.87
August	11.	Col. Smith, July disbursements.....	219.90
September	18.	Col. Smith, August disbursements .....	277.06
October	10.	Col. Smith, September disbursements .....	551.76
November	10.	Theo. Peterson on contract for Soldiers' Home building .....	1,200.00
November	16.	Col. Smith, October disbursements .....	464.86
December	13.	Col. Smith, November disbursements.....	230.49
1889.			
January	15.	Col. Smith, December disbursements .....	366.02
February	11.	Col. Smith, January disbursements .....	25.45
March	12.	Col. Smith, February disbursements .....	103.04
April	10.	Col. Smith, March disbursements .....	301.15
May	10.	Col. Smith, April disbursements .....	470.24
June	14.	Col. Smith, May disbursements.....	529.05
July	15.	Col. Smith, June disbursements.....	377.26
		Balance on hand June 30, 1889.....	1,815.61
			<u>\$ 8,901.46</u>
			<u>\$ 8,901.46</u>

## BARN, HORSES, COWS AND IMPLEMENT FUND.

1888.			
July	10.	State order.....	\$ 3,000.00

## DISBURSEMENTS.

April	28.	Colonel Smith, team, wagons, etc. ....	500.00
June	22.	Col. Smith, May disbursements.....	87.27
July	12.	Col. Smith, June disbursements .....	201.65
August	11.	Col. Smith, July disbursements.....	168.27
September	18.	On contract, building barn .....	1,600.00
October	28.	Balance on contract building barn .....	400.00
		Balance on hand June 30, 1889.....	42.81
			<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
			<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>



## QUARTERMASTER'S BUILDING FUND.

1888.				
July	10.	State order.....		4,000.00

## DISBURSEMENTS.

September	18.	Paid on contract .....	\$ 800.00	
October	22.	Paid balance on contract.....	3,200.00	
			<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,000.00</u>

## COAL HOUSE FUND.

1888.				
July	10.	State order.....		300.00

## DISBURSEMENTS.

August	11.	Paid on contract .....	25.00	
September	18.	Paid balance on contract.....	272.03	
		Balance on hand June 30, 1889.....	2.97	
			<u>\$ 300.00</u>	<u>\$ 300.00</u>

## BEDS, BEDDING AND CLOTHING FUND.

1888.				
October	19.	State order.....		2,750.00

## DISBURSEMENTS.

October	22.	D. C. Wilber, bedsteads, etc.....	995.00	
October	22.	Sheurman Bros., blankets .....	525.00	
December	13.	Sheurman Bros., blankets.....	175.00	
December	13.	Sheurman Bros., blankets.....	175.00	
		Balance on hand June 30, 1889 .....	880.00	
			<u>\$ 2,750.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,750.00</u>

## TOTAL EXPENDITURES.

Support fund.....	\$38,357.68
Salaries and wages.....	7,505.05
Improvement on grounds.....	7,085.85
Barn, horses and implements .....	2,951.19
Quartermaster's building. ....	4,000.00
Coal-house.....	297.03
Beds, bedding and clothing .....	1,870.00
	<u>\$62,066.80</u>

C. W. BURDICK,  
Treasurer.



## NOTE.

STATE OF IOWA,  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
DES MOINES, Nov. 23, 1889. }

The Fiftieth Congress passed the following act providing aid to State and Territorial homes for the support of disabled soldiers and sailors of the United States:

*“Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all States or Territories which have established, or which shall hereafter establish, State homes for disabled soldiers and sailors of the United States who served in the war of the rebellion, or in any previous war, who are disabled by age, disease, or otherwise, and by reason of such disability are incapable of earning a living, provided such inability was not incurred in service against the United States, shall be paid for every such disabled soldier or sailor who may be admitted and cared for in such home at the rate of one hundred dollars per annum. The number of such persons for whose care any State or Territory shall receive the said payment under this act shall be ascertained by the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, under such regulations as it may prescribe, but the said State or Territorial home shall be exclusively under the control of the respective State or Territorial authorities, and the Board of Managers shall not have nor assume any management or control of said State or Territorial homes. The Board of Managers of the National Home shall, however, have power to have the said State or Territorial homes inspected at such times as it may consider necessary, and shall report the result of such inspections to Congress in its annual report.*

SEC. 2. That the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the provisions of this act, and payments to the States or Territories under it shall be made quarterly by the said Board of Managers for the National Home for Disabled Volunteers to the officers of the respective States or Territories entitled, duly authorized to receive such payments, and shall be accounted for as are the appropriations for the support of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.”

Under this act the following amounts have been paid the State by the National Government:



To December 31, 1888. ....	\$ 7,309.40
For quarter ending March 31, 1889.....	6,625.00
For quarter ending June 30, 1889 ...	2,940.54
Total .....	<u>\$16,874.94</u>

The amount due the Home for the second quarter of 1889, was \$5,700.00, but the Board of Managers found it necessary to deduct \$2,759.46, on account of a deficiency in the appropriation by Congress for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1889.

WM. LARRABEE.



STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA



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