

## THE BOYS IN BLUE OF '61.

*Renowned*



### XII. REV. MARC W. DARLING.

Rev. Dr. Marc W. Darling, of Glencoe, Ill., who formerly was pastor of the First Congregational church in Sioux City, sent the following pretty story in response to a request for a war anecdote:

"I was a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-fourth New York volunteers, attached at this time to Hooker's corps, the Twenti-

eth. It was on Sherman's march to the sea. By general order we were to live off the country. It was my business as commissary of the regiment to go out with foraging parties.

"We had been out several days, and coming in safely with an army wagon well loaded with sweet potatoes, chickens and smoked ham we naturally grew bolder. Then the day came when we ventured a little too far for comfort.

"The wagon was left behind, while we, eight of us, I think, rode forward to a fine farm house to explore for provisions. While this was going on and I was in the house, about to write a receipt for the provisions found, there was a cry outside: 'The rebs—the rebs are coming!' 'Crack, crack,' went the guns, and the boys outside were on the skedaddle. Two of us in the house were unable to escape.

"A squad of confederate cavalry surrounded the premises. What to do in that instant was the biggest puzzle I ever had on my hands. In a recess stood an old fashioned bed, with a curtain about the bottom, such a one as I had seen at home. Under this we dove with alacrity. Soon some rebel cavalrymen, dangling their swords about their heels, came into the house. 'Are there Yanks here?' 'No,' said the young lady, and her mother affirmed the same.

"That 'no' saved my life without a doubt, for it was death for foraging in those days. If she had said 'yes' I should never have come to Sioux City.

"As stories go I should have married that little southern girl, but I didn't. She proved her loyalty. It was the sweetest lie I ever heard, and I still love that little liar. Soon the boys rallied, and, reinforced, came back and drove the rebels off. We crept out from under the bed, a little disheveled, smiling all kinds of smiles."

The "Boys in Blue" thumbnail sketches herein constitute a series compiled by and published in The Sioux City Journal during the lifetime of the men so portrayed. The collection was made and preserved by Herbert W. Allen, long-time adjutant and Past Commander of General Hancock Post, Grand Army of the Republic. It is presented by his son, Arthur Francis Allen, to the Public Museum, as a contribution to the public archives of Sioux City.

*H. W. Allen*

Sioux City, Iowa, January 30, 1941.

1403 Virginia St., Sioux City, Iowa, November 3, 1977

Mark, (Furnished by Kenneth Wright, from Sioux City Museum files.)  
I found both pieces of information in a scrapbook of Sioux City Journal articles. I am enclosing it. I hope that you will be as pleased to receive it as I was when I found it. It tells about another incident in which Marc Darling took part, during the Civil War. This is the best Xerox copy which I could get. A magnifying glass makes it easier to read. (I tried it). K.W.