

**Pounding swords into swords: War monuments lost during  
the scrap metal drives of World War II**

by

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## **DEDICATION**

To Dr. Robert P. Sulcer, Jr:

For your gracious warmth, humor, support, and loyalty during all the years we shared. Your gentle instruction, correction, and encouragement made all the difference to the first “student” of someone who became an incredible teacher for so many. I miss you every day and can only hope to measure up to half the example you set as a scholar, teacher, citizen, and friend.

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## NOMENCLATURE

MEMORIAL	Preserving the memory of a person or thing; often applied to an object set up to commemorate an event or a person.
MONUMENT	A structure, edifice, or (in later use also) site of historical interest or importance. Something that serves as a reminder of, or witness or tribute <i>to</i> , a way of life, attitude, achievement, etc.
PATRIOTISM	The quality of being patriotic; love of or devotion to one's country.
RELIC	An old, outmoded, or outdated person or thing; someone or something left over from an earlier era, or having the characteristics of a former time.

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**ABSTRACT**

“Twenty-five Boone Boy Scouts rested today after ten days of arduous labors. They rested content that they had made a fine contribution to their country’s victory effort,” reported the August 21, 1942, *Boone (Iowa) News Republican*. The boys managed to collect 26,125 pounds of scrap metal for the war effort, including “an estimated six tons of metal in the old city park cannon.”<sup>1</sup> Dedicated during the Boone County Veteran’s Association reunion in August 1900, the city park cannon served as the rallying place for the thirty-second annual Iowa Grand Army of the Republic’s state encampment six years later. But in the fall of 1942, the need for scrap metal to meet wartime production quotas led to the Boy Scouts stripping the park of its benches, ornamental fencing, and the cannon monument. This was not an unusual event, as from Burlington to Sioux City local scrap committees and citizen volunteers removed these war monuments from public spaces during the early scrap metal drives of World War II.<sup>2</sup>

Long before the controversial removal of Confederate monuments across the American South, during the scrap metal drives of World War II, newspapers, government officials, and even the President of the United States pressured citizens to remove monuments to the American Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. On the surface, these sacrifices appeared to appease the need for vital war materials to fight the Axis. Yet despite patriotic urges to “forget the Civil War and remember Pearl Harbor,” not all local officials and veterans’ organizations complied. In Iowa, like the rest of the United States, communities responded to the call to scrap war monuments in a variety of ways - from overt enthusiasm to silent compliance to stubborn resistance and everything in between.

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<sup>1</sup> “Scouts Rest After Scrap Metal Drive,” *Boone (Iowa) News Republican*, August 21, 1942, 1.

<sup>2</sup> “Boone County Veterans,” *Evening Times-Republican* (Marshalltown, Iowa), August 9, 1900, 3.; *G.A.R. State Encampment* (Boone, Iowa: Boone Blank Book Company, 1906), 26.

## CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

In the first decade of the twentieth century, the practice of installing cannons in public spaces spread across the country. The Midwestern state of Iowa was no exception and when Meredith Willson paid homage to his hometown of Mason City in *The Music Man*, the song “The Wells Fargo Wagon” immortalized this practice with the line: “*the D.A.R. sent a cannon for the courthouse square.*” Undoubtedly Willson recalled the two cannons in Mason City’s Central Park from his own childhood. Neither of these cannons were from the American Revolution nor the Civil War, however. They had been captured in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, an event which set off a fin-de-siècle era of cannon-mania. By the time *The Music Man* made its debut on Broadway in 1957, however, the cannons had disappeared from Mason City, lost to the scrap metal drives of 1942.<sup>3</sup>

Cities and towns in Iowa such as Mason City, Boone, Denison, Cedar Rapids, and Muscatine offer examples of this commemorative practice of buying cannons from the arsenal at Rock Island, Illinois, inheriting them from disbanded GAR posts, or acquiring them directly from the government and installing them in courthouse squares, parks, cemeteries, and other public spaces. Erected at the height of Spanish-American War commemoration, these cannons served as monuments to the United States’ elevation as an imperial world power. Civic leaders also intended to create sites of shared public memory and patriotism for the increasingly diverse immigrant population, but irreverent public response led to indifference and forgetting over time.

Forty years later, when the United States reluctantly entered World War II, local government authorities donated many of these cannon-monuments to scrap metal drives. While

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<sup>3</sup> “Found: Origin of Central Park Cannon,” *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, September 25, 1942. 14.

many studies of the “war on the home front” and the scrap metal drives are available, even some that mention the donation of cannons, researchers generally reduce this to the actions of overzealous local officials and citizens willing to “sacrifice their past for their future.”<sup>4</sup> Like other events surrounding World War II, such simplistic recollections surrounding the various scrap drives of 1942 added to the mythology of “the good war:” a period of virtuous national patriotism, unity, and sacrifice in the face of an existential threat from international totalitarianism and fascism. Yet, just as draft evasion, political in-fighting, labor strikes, a black market economy, Japanese-American internment, sex discrimination, and racial violence challenge popular narratives of the era, a deeper examination of the acquisition and installation of these cannon-monuments and either their donation or preservation reveals deeper complexity, especially when viewed through a lens of public memory studies.<sup>5</sup>

The work of researchers in various social sciences and humanities, especially communication and rhetorical studies, provides a lens which can reveal how a site of public memory tells as much about the society that erected it as the subject it seeks to commemorate. Reviewing the events surrounding the Spanish-American War era cannon-mania through the scrap metal drives of 1942 using public memory studies reveals the nuanced difference between a memorial and a monument, emphasizes the deployment of “patriotism” in the events surrounding the scrap metal drives of 1942, and explains why, despite government pressure to do so, no community scrapped statues while others willingly donated relics and cannon-monuments.

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<sup>4</sup> Sarah Sundin, “Make It Do - Scrap Drives in World War II,” posted June 12, 2017, <http://www.sarahsundin.com/make-it-do-scrap-drives-in-world-war-ii-2/>

<sup>5</sup> Amy Rutenberg, *Rough Draft: Cold War Military Manpower Policy and the Origins of Vietnam-Era Draft Resistance* (Cornell University Press, 2019), 16-7.; John Bodnar, *The “Good War” and American Memory* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010), 19-24.

## CHAPTER 2. CANNONS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

### Relics of the Civil War

The American Civil War created an enormous number of veterans. Current estimates indicate the Union mustered 2,785,084 men and the Confederacy 1,435,387, representing a total of slightly more than 13.6 percent of the total population. In such high numbers, as historian James Marten explained, “after Appomattox, virtually everyone had a relative or neighbor or friend who had served in the Union or Confederate army.”<sup>6</sup> Beginning with the Grand Review in Washington D.C. in 1865, marching veterans became a regular feature in the social fabric in nearly every community and, as Marten wrote, “the last third of the nineteenth century was the first era in which veterans comprised a visible, assertive cohort in American culture.”<sup>7</sup> In the north, Union veterans organized as the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Founded in Decatur, Illinois, in 1868, the GAR initially worked to secure pensions for widows, established orphanages, and built care homes for wounded and indigent veterans.<sup>8</sup>

To counter the former Confederacy’s “Lost Cause” narrative, the GAR promoted what historian John Neff described as “Cause Victorious.” Neff defines Cause Victorious as the belief

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<sup>6</sup> James Marten, *Sing Not War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2011), 29.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 30.

<sup>8</sup> The state of Iowa enlisted an impressive 76,242 men out of a total 1860 population of 674,913. Iowa units organized into the Union Army ended the threat of partisan raids from Missouri by occupying its neighbor and preventing the border state from joining the Confederacy. Iowa units in the Army of the West also participated in battles at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Sherman’s March to the Sea. For the majority who enlisted, restoration of the Union was the primary objective. Historian Thomas J. Baker explains that for recruited Iowans, especially recent immigrants to America, “simple patriotism and a thirst for adventure” was enough to fill enlistment quotas and avoid instituting a draft in the state until the fall of 1864. Despite the growing shortage of enlistments resulting in the state draft, Iowa formed only one unit of Black soldiers, the 60th U.S. Colored Troops, consisting primarily of escaped former slaves from Missouri and Arkansas. See, Dorothy Schwieder, *Iowa: The Middle Land* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1996), 67-82.; Thomas R. Baker, *The Sacred Cause of Union: Iowa in the Civil War* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2016), 78, 132-142, 181-183.; “American Civil War Research Database Status,” <http://www.civilwardata.com/dbstatus.html>; Stuart McConnell, *Glorious Contentment: The Grand Army of the Republic, 1865-1900* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1992), 24.; Jacob A. Swisher, *The Iowa Department of the Grand Army of the Republic* (Iowa City: Athens Press, 1936), 27.

that, due to the North's supreme sacrifice, "the nation had been reunited at the time of Confederate surrender...result[ing] in a ubiquitous and sincere national allegiance among all Americans."<sup>9</sup> Historian Stuart McConnell added that this concept of 'nation' was based "on the vision of a specific time: the prewar ideal of a virtuous, millennial Republic, extending through the postwar world."<sup>10</sup> The GAR and its associated organizations, the Women's Relief Corps (WRC) and the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans (SUV and DUV, respectively), spread this counternarrative to later generations and to thousands of newly arrived immigrants by creating and ritualizing Memorial Day, installing flags and portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in schools, establishing national cemeteries, preserving battlefields, and erecting Union monuments across the nation.<sup>11</sup>

Foreseeing the coming problems of Civil War memory, Confederate General Robert E. Lee warned his fellow citizens "to follow the examples of those nations who endeavored to obliterate the marks of civil strife, to commit to oblivion the feelings it engendered."<sup>12</sup> Yet even before the war ended, memorials to the dead rose in cemeteries and town squares. A staggering 752,000 men died in battle or from wounds or disease during the Civil War.<sup>13</sup> It was trauma from death on such a scale that prompted the survivors to search for meaning in the loss of so many lives, spurring the memorialization of those who served in the years that followed. Although some men were buried in known places, many disappeared into mass graves hundreds of miles from home. It was the absence of what historian Thomas J. Brown described as "an ideal death -

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<sup>9</sup> John Neff, *Honoring the Civil War Dead: Commemoration and the Problem of Reconciliation* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2005), 1-15.

<sup>10</sup> McConnell, *Glorious Contentment*, 220-224.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas J. Brown, *Civil War Monuments and the Militarization of America* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2019), 84-85.

<sup>12</sup> Caroline Janney, *Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2013), 138.

<sup>13</sup> J. David Hacker, "A Census-Based Count of the Civil War Dead," *Civil War History* 57, no..4 (December 2011): 307-48.

a passage to be experienced peacefully at home while surrounded by family members, followed by a funeral and burial in a cemetery that encouraged contemplative visitors” which spurred memorialization of the fallen. The first monuments erected, Brown explained, gave “meaning to these deaths and define the relationship between the dead and the living.”<sup>14</sup> As time passed, monuments came to commemorate not only the fallen, but those who survived as well. Whether a simple obelisk, ornate victory arch, classical column, gallant equestrian, or the ubiquitous common soldier statue, monuments served as a constant reminder of sacrifice. Monuments placed in public spaces, “in the midst of your daily village life,” as one New Englander explained, “will be a standard of duty always before you.”<sup>15</sup>

Iowa communities followed this trend and erected hundreds of monuments in the years following the war’s conclusion. From the elaborate and allegorical Soldiers and Sailors monument in Des Moines to simple cemetery obelisks and plaques, citizens covered the state in Civil War memorials. The most visible type of memorial erected was the common soldier statue placed in cemeteries, public parks, and courthouse squares. In stone or bronze, generally positioned in the favored “parade rest” or “flag bearer” pose, the common soldier statue could be found in nearly every county seat in Iowa, many accompanied by one or two Parrott cannons mounted on a wood, stone, or concrete caisson. (Figure 1)<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Thomas J. Brown, *The Public Art of Civil War Commemoration* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2004), 15.

<sup>15</sup> Brown, *Civil War Monuments and the Militarization of America*, 31.

<sup>16</sup> Civil War veterans incorporated cannons into the emblem of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), an organization so integral to the early history of the state of Iowa, its emblem has been a permanent feature suspended in the ceiling of the Iowa state house rotunda dome since 1922. See, Iowa State Capitol Visitors Guide, <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/IF/793559.pdf>; Iowa Civil War Monuments, <http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com>



Figure 1. An early twentieth century postcard view of the Muscatine County courthouse Civil War Monument with accompanying cannons and cannonballs. (Image courtesy of <http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com/cgi-bin/gaarddetails.pl?1210267230~1>)

In the years following the Civil War, surplus cannons were readily available from the Rock Island arsenal, located on the Iowa-Illinois border between Davenport and Moline. As late as 1900 newspapers reminded citizens that “hundreds of guns left over from the rebellion are stored in the Rock Island arsenal,” yet, in a “Cause Victorious” spirit of sectional reconciliation, they also stressed that “cannons should not symbolize the downfall of the south, but the memory of the great struggle and the reuniting of the nation.”<sup>17</sup> Individuals and communities across Iowa purchased cannons for as little as forty-five or fifty dollars, not intended as monuments, but to fire during Memorial Day, Independence Day, and other celebrations. Veterans of heavy artillery units, such as Keota’s “Hinman’s famous artillery company,” dressed in homemade uniforms of “blue denim overalls and jackets, trimmed with red stripes, and army caps of red, white, and blue pompoms,” delighted in sharing their skills with friends and family. Armed with swords at their

<sup>17</sup> “Items From the Adjutant General’s Office,” *The Des Moines Register*, May 28, 1873, 4.

sides, the group drilled until it was able to fire the 20-pound cannon they dubbed “General Parrot[t]” every thirty seconds.<sup>18</sup>

Occasionally, these cannons proved to be just as dangerous in peacetime as in war when misfires caused serious accidents. Newspaper accounts of citizens losing arms, legs, and eyes can be found from the 1870s through 1900. Even General Parrot[t] met with a near fatal accident when Hinman’s men overloaded it at a Fourth of July celebration. While no one was seriously injured, the accident forced the company to amputate three feet from the muzzle and while “ruining its symmetry...as a symbol it was still effective.”<sup>19</sup> Possibly the most gruesome accident occurred on October 11, 1898, as an unnamed artillery company fired salutes to President William McKinley at a campaign stop in Boone. The dummy blast from a cannon decapitated fourteen-year-old Fred Reinhart when he impulsively ran in front of the gun just as it fired.<sup>20</sup>

Despite the danger, the tradition of local groups firing cannons continued for decades, including July 4, 1898, when Muscatine and Columbus Junction fired cannons to celebrate the nation’s victory at the battle of Santiago de Cuba during the Spanish-American War.<sup>21</sup>

### **Spanish-American War Cannons**

In 1898, a nation proudly founded upon the violent overthrow of colonial rule took up the imperialist’s “white man’s burden” by acquiring territories of its own after victory in the Spanish-American War. At the conclusion of a tidy ten-week engagement in the Caribbean and Pacific, what future Secretary of State John Hay referred to as “our splendid little war,” the nation became an international power by controlling Cuba and purchasing the Philippines, Puerto

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<sup>18</sup> “Town Split Over Giving Gun to Scrap,” *The Davenport (Iowa) Democrat and Leader*, December 2, 1942, 13.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> “Boy’s Head is Blown Off,” *Waterloo (Iowa) Daily Courier*, October 12, 1898, 1.

<sup>21</sup> “No Santiago Cannon,” *Davenport (Iowa) Daily Republican*, May 19, 1900, 7.; “A Glorious Fourth,” *The Muscatine (Iowa) Journal*, July 5, 1898, 1.; “Anxious for the News,” *The Muscatine (Iowa) Journal*, July 4, 1898, 8.

Rico, and Guam from Spain for \$20 million. Hay's "splendid little war," however, quickly devolved into a three-year insurrection in the Philippines requiring the deployment of 126,000 American soldiers, resulting in 4,234 killed and 2,818 wounded. Historians estimate Philippine casualties at between 100,000 and one million combatants and civilians.<sup>22</sup>

Victorious in defeat of the Spanish, American ships such as the *City of Washington* quickly returned from Cuba carrying "as cargo a large quantity of cigars and tobacco and 161 cannon and pieces of artillery."<sup>23</sup> Cities petitioned the government to receive one of these coveted Spanish cannons to display in a park or courthouse square. Bloomington, Illinois, Canton, Ohio, and Des Moines, Iowa, received some of the largest cannons, but smaller Iowa towns such as Boone, Denison, Ottumwa, Forest City, Glenbrook, and Laurens later received smaller models. (Figure 2) Local posts of the GAR assisted in petitioning and raising funds for these cannons, dedicating them during annual Civil War Veteran reunions. Like other monuments erected by the GAR, DUV, SUV, and other organizations, communities located Spanish cannons in public spaces as a "means of teaching children of the city patriotism as well as keeping historical facts before them."<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Oscar V. Campomanes, "Casualty Figures of the American Soldier and the Other: Post-1898 Allegories of Imperial Nation-Building as 'Love and War,'" in *Vestiges of War: The Philippine-American War and the Aftermath of an Imperial Dream, 1899-1999*, ed. Angel Velasco Shaw and Luis H. Francia (New York University Press, 2002), 135.

<sup>23</sup> "Noted Steamer Arrivals on City of Washington," *Daily (Des Moines) Iowa Capitol*, January 26, 1899, 1.

<sup>24</sup> "Canton's Greatest Celebration," *Sioux City Journal*, June 29, 1900, 7.; "Boone County Veterans," *Evening Times-Republican* (Marshalltown, Iowa), August 9, 1900, 3.; "Cannon Is Coming," *The Denison (Iowa) Review*, February 27, 1900, 4.; "Citizens to Meet," *Ottumwa (Iowa) Tri-Weekly Courier*, April 3, 1902, 9.; "Gun Is on the Way," *Ottumwa (Iowa) Tri-Weekly Courier*, May 20, 1902, 4.



Figure 2. A postcard view of Boone's City Park with the Spanish-American War cannon on the far left.

Despite their acquisition as monuments, a few of these cannons also contained a hidden danger. In June 1900, Denison mayor A.D. Wilson received a letter from the U.S. Navy recommending the city's Spanish cannon be carefully examined "because it had been learned that one of these captured cannons was loaded and the charge had not been extracted."<sup>25</sup> Fortunately for Denison, the Mayor found the cannon empty. However, Spanish cannons given to Kansas City, Missouri, and Bradford, Pennsylvania, contained live power and ball. The *Denison Review* reported that if a cannon discovered as loaded in St. Paul, Minnesota, had accidentally discharged, "it was trained at an angle that would plant the missile in the coping of a fine business block across the street."<sup>26</sup>

One of the few voices of dissent during this period of cannon-mania came from a local citizen, Susan Stone, in 1906 when she unsuccessfully petitioned members of the Weed Park Club as they planned to install three cannons obtained for Muscatine. After "read[ing] up on the

<sup>25</sup> "Mayor Wilson received word," *Denison (Iowa) Bulletin*, June 14, 1900, 7.

<sup>26</sup> "Loaded Cannon," *The Denison (Iowa) Review*, October 23, 1900, 3.; "Brife [sic] Telegrams," *Denison (Iowa) Bulletin*, June 21, 1900, 1.

matter recently,” Stone explained that a cannon displayed “for mere ornamentation” should point skyward (Figure 3), whereas a cannon meant for offense or defense “are mounted on the level.” The *Muscatine News-Tribune* reported that Stone presented several pictures of guns mounted vertically, however the club eventually chose to install them “straight out over the river, threatening with their might...launches and steamers and things out on the [Mississippi R]iver.”<sup>27</sup>



Figure 3. An extremely rare example of a vertically mounted cannon in Garner, Iowa. (Image courtesy of <http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com/cgi-bin/gaarddetails.pl?1211937284~1>)

### **Cedar Rapids’ Greene Square Cannon**

By the turn of the twentieth century, displaying a cannon in a city park or town square became common and nearly every emerging city’s civic boosters perceived the need to acquire one for their own community – by whatever means necessary. The city of Cedar Rapids provided an example of one such city. Built along the banks of the Cedar River, the area served as an industrial center for processing the output of local agriculture. Some men made fortunes through

<sup>27</sup> “Shall the Guns Point Up or Down,” *Muscatine (Iowa) News-Tribune*, August 17, 1906, 7.

meatpacking and grain milling while thousands of eastern European laborers emigrated to work in the city's factories and plants. Already a large community by state standards, Cedar Rapids in 1880 counted a population of 10,104, but by 1900 this more than doubled to 25,656 citizens. Despite the usual "boomtown" problems of inadequate housing, sanitation, and infrastructure, business and civic leaders worked tirelessly to boost Cedar Rapids' image as prosperous, progressive, and patriotic. In addition to establishing educational, religious, and cultural centers, city parks, and social clubs, civic leaders also endeavored to display a captured Spanish cannon in the city's town square. Iowa Governor Leslie M. Shaw, however, denied their petitions.<sup>28</sup>

Unsuccessful in obtaining a captured Spanish cannon to display, the city of Cedar Rapids decided to acquire a cannon by another method. "There is no reason why any city or village in the country should not obtain a cannon and shot and shell to ornament parks and public squares," read a proclamation presented to the city council on May 4, 1900.<sup>29</sup> The combined efforts of City Alderman W. G. Haskell, U.S. Senator Robert Cousins, Spanish-American War veteran Colonel William G. Dows, prominent city banker and philanthropist George Bever, and other prominent businessmen and industrialists bypassed the Governor and appealed directly to the United States Army. These business and civic leaders acquired two decommissioned cannons and paid the costs of transportation and installation. City leaders installed the first cannon, a massive fourteen-and-a-half-ton Parrott gun, in the unnamed municipal district square and the second, a slightly slimmer four-and-a-half-tons, in the exclusive residential east side Bever Park.<sup>30</sup> Despite their ambiguous origins as decommissioned cannon from Fort Hancock in New Jersey, Cedar

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<sup>28</sup> Dorothy Schwieder, *Iowa: The Middle Land*, 171-184.

<sup>29</sup> "The City Council," *Evening Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), May 5, 1900, 4.

<sup>30</sup> Cedar Rapids' city park was plotted in 1849 but had no name until it was given the unofficial name of Washington Park by the *Evening Gazette* in 1900. It was officially named George Greene Square by the City Council in 1906. I use the name that existed during the appropriate period and all refer to the same place.

See. <https://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/community/cedar-rapids-iowa-green-square-175-years-20190629>

Rapids' *Evening Gazette* proclaimed, "now there stand in the parks two monster relics of the greatest war of modern history."<sup>31</sup>

The newspaper played a prominent role in the acquisition and installation of the cannon monument in the city's central municipal square in 1900 and reported on the progress from selection to installation. In a June 23 article entitled "Gets the Cannon," The *Evening Gazette* blamed Governor Shaw for directing the first two captured Spanish-American War cannons allocated to the state to Des Moines and "the other to his hometown, Denison." When the city leaders failed in their goal of obtaining one of these, "fear of missing out" compelled city leaders to circumvent Governor Shaw's authority and find a substitute monument to symbolize the nation's elevation as a world empire. Setting a breathless tone, the *Evening Gazette* reported the receipt of a letter "of much interest to every patriotic person in Cedar Rapids, young or old" from Congressman Cousins to Alderman Haskell directing the selection of "whatever cannon this city may desire" from a list of decommissioned ordinance. Despite the origin of the monument as U.S. Army surplus and not a captured Spanish cannon, the *Evening Gazette* insisted "the placing of the cannon in the park will be made the occasion for appropriate exercises, and it is suggested that it should be a holiday, with children occupying a prominent place in the program."<sup>32</sup>

Much of the monument's authority derived from its placement in the city's central municipal square. The square was bounded by Union Station to the southwest, Washington High School to the southeast, a block containing the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches to the northeast, and the city's Carnegie Library and mercantile shops to the northwest. Merchants in the city sold postcards of the cannon paired with these institutions to boost the image of Cedar

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<sup>31</sup> "Gets the Cannon," *Evening Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), June 23, 1900, 8.; "They Asked for Plenty," *Evening Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), July 9, 1900, 5.; "Comely Monument," *Evening Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), August 17, 1901, 4.

<sup>32</sup> "Gets the Cannon," *Evening Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), June 23, 1900, 8.

Rapids nationally (Figure 4). Surrounded on all sides by civic and cultural institutions, visitors to the city found the cannon highly visible and the site of many important patriotic events on holidays.



Figure 4. An early twentieth century postcard view of Cedar Rapids' Carnegie Library with the Greene Square cannon in the foreground. (Image courtesy of <http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com/cgi-bin/gaarddetails.pl?1437857573~1>)

City leaders clearly intended the cannon to act as a public memory prompt for the United States' victory in the Spanish-American War and of white supremacy as the nation became a colonial empire. Placing a cannon in the city square brought a tangible symbol of the United States' new international military power into the city and it also conveyed a domestic message of white supremacy to its own citizens. The October 18, 1900, edition of the *Evening Gazette* featured an update on the cannon in "Is Ready for War" alongside an article reporting the assault of local police officer Joe Kroulik during the arrest of a local man, Arthur Martin, under the headline "Negro Ran Amuck." (Figure 5). Using extremely racist language describing Martin as "a coon about 22 years of age," Kroulik attempted to arrest him under the vague charge of "insulting a white woman." When Martin resisted, a crowd formed and a fight broke out, nearly causing a riot. The article is illustrated with images of Kroulik in his police uniform and a



announcing the cannon's placement on its foundation stated "there are few who can resist the influence it seems to exert. Many people during an hour are drawn to the cannon mount and standing on tiptoe stretch themselves to look down its throat as if expecting to read there in its mouth the history of its existence." Likewise, photographs of the cannon placed in Bever Park show adults as well as children could not resist the urge to pose seated on the monuments and this was most likely true for the Greene Square cannon. (Figure 6).<sup>34</sup>



Figure 6. An early twentieth century postcard view of children posed on Cedar Rapids' Bever Park cannon. (Image courtesy of <http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com/cgi-bin/gaarddetails.pl?1437857573~1>)

### The Costs of Colonialism

While the United States sought political, economic, and strategic benefits from the conflict, historian Kristen Hoganson also coupled gender anxieties to Richard Hofstadter's theory of a "psychic crisis" during the 1890s as a cause of the Spanish-American War. To alleviate the effects of the depression of 1893, "soft" middle-class office occupations, New Woman challenges to traditional patriarchy, and the perceived closing of the western frontier, Hoganson argued that the war and its consequent territorial expansion assuaged the United

<sup>34</sup> "Comely Monument," *Evening Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), August 17, 1901, 4.

States' "empire envy" and offered an outlet for a vigorous, virile manliness personified by Theodore Roosevelt's strenuous life.<sup>35</sup> "Imperialism was a means to attain the strenuous life," she explained, "the strenuous life a justification for imperialism."<sup>36</sup>

Imperialists looked to colonies to provide opportunity for "character-building" in the next generation of American men, much as the Civil War and settling the frontier provided to their fathers and grandfathers. Anti-imperialists deplored colonialism's erosion of moral American Republicanism and they cited the Philippine-American War's raw brutality as causing those fighting it to "lose their manly self-control and moral-grounding," thus becoming "even more savage than the people they were sent to redeem."<sup>37</sup> Countering this "bellicose manhood," the anti-imperialists promoted mid-nineteenth century ideals of masculinity and organizations such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) advised mothers to teach their children the superiority of conflict resolution by arbitration that believed "true glory consist[ed] not in physical feats of warfare, in mental and moral ability."<sup>38</sup>

Similar tensions between those who advocated for isolationism and those who advocated for internationalism shaped the first half of the twentieth century. Yellow journalist publishers William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer fanned the flames of war, yet members of the Anti-Imperialist League like William Jennings Bryan and former Iowa Governor William Larabee argued just as vigorously against it. They first took the moral high-ground by asking how the United States could maintain its virtuous Republicanism if it included a vast population of unrepresented colonial subjects? But Anti-Imperialists also tapped into the United States' racial anxieties when they asked if the nation planned to resolve this paradox by eventual

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<sup>35</sup> Kristen Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998), 10-3.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, 143.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, 183.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, 18.

independence or statehood. White supremacists ruled out independence because they considered native people incapable of self-governing, yet the alternative of statehood seemed equally unthinkable. Unlike the mostly white settler-populated mainland territories previously granted statehood, dense populations of non-whites already inhabited the former Spanish islands. To grant them statehood meant furthering racial impurity with the full citizenship and free movement of thousands of brown and Black people into the United States, a nation already grappling with unprecedented immigration that threatened to overwhelm the social and political power of native whites.<sup>39</sup>

While initially many citizens supported the Spanish-American War, such discussions of the moral, fiscal, and racial issues of maintaining a far-flung empire curbed public enthusiasm. After the war, the United States returned to its traditional isolationist position, much to the disappointment of Theodore Roosevelt, who in 1906 “somewhat ruefully...noted that before the Spanish-American War Americans had been ‘spoiling for a fight,’ afterward they no longer desired one.”<sup>40</sup> By the time the nation’s imperialist desires quieted, however, sites of public memory in the form of memorials and monuments to the Spanish-American War had already been erected across the nation. The cannon placed in Cedar Rapids’ Greene Square joined dozens of others dotting the landscape across the state of Iowa, the Midwest, and the nation symbolizing an aggressively militaristic white masculinity.

Not only potentially dangerous due to random misfires and unsuspected loaded shells, isolationists also perceived the cannon-monument’s symbolic danger as well. After a delayed entry into the Great War and its flawed peace agreement, members of the American

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<sup>39</sup> Daniel Immerwahr, *How to Hide an Empire: A Short History of the Greater United States* (New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2019), 79-82.

<sup>40</sup> Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood*, 199.

Expeditionary Force veteran's organization, the American Legion, followed an established pattern by installing captured German howitzers in public spaces into the 1930s, but not without controversy. During the same period, many isolationists feared the coming of another world war with the rise of totalitarianism and fascism in Europe and Japanese expansionism in Asia. Anxiety over the aggressively militaristic symbolism of cannon-monuments bubbled over in December 1938 when a group of citizens in Tarrytown, New York, attempted to force the removal of a captured German howitzer installed on the grounds of its public library. The protest's leader, the region's Red Cross chairperson, argued that the gun's "bad psychological effect" on children warranted its removal. While concerned citizens argued that the cannon served as a "glorification of war," the American Legion unironically called it "an emblem of peace."<sup>41</sup>

At the time of the Tarrytown controversy, the editor of *The Cedar Rapids Gazette* dismissed the protestors: "the notion that the average person's mind is occupied with any such subtleties...is pretty far-fetched, in our opinion."<sup>42</sup> Yet in the months following Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, at least one Iowan contemplated the deeper meaning of cannon-monuments. In January 1940, the editor of the *Mason City Globe-Gazette* reminded readers that these "cannon gave the United States her independence [and] saved the United States from disunion" before introducing a short poem submitted by Ewing Tice of Clear Lake. Tice's "Court House Cannon" likewise reflected upon "what carnage, what bloodshed, where hast it dealt death?" before asking "how soon again whist it our life blood draw?"<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> "Citizens Would Ban Old German Cannon," *Argus-Leader* (Sioux Fall, South Dakota), December 1, 1938, 5.; "Gift Cannon Stirs Row in Tarrytown," *New York Times*, December 1, 1938, 25.

<sup>42</sup> "Why Peace on Earth is Still a Long Way Off," *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, December 4, 1938, 6.

<sup>43</sup> "Court House Cannon," *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, January 20, 1940, 4.

Isolationists in the United States organized into the America First Committee and the group held a strong presence in the Midwest.<sup>44</sup> The group pressured President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to keep the nation out of the Second World War. “In 1933 the people wanted assurances that the United States would not go into the poorhouse or into socialism, and they got that,” wrote historian Earl Pomeroy, “in 1940 they wanted assurances that the United States would not go to war, and they got that as well.”<sup>45</sup> Therefore, Roosevelt needed to quietly support the nation’s allies and mobilize the nation for an almost inevitable draw into the conflict while not provoking the Axis (the alliance between Germany, Italy, and Japan formalized in 1940) which proved to be the catalyst for Japan’s attack on the United States.

As war anxiety reached a fevered pitch in January 1940, *Fortune* magazine polled readers to determine which countries the United States should defend if attacked by the Axis. Canada polled highest with 74.2 percent, because many experts expected the British Commonwealth nation’s eventual invasion by Germany, thus placing Nazis on the United States’ long undefended border (a concern *Fortune*’s readers apparently did not apply to Mexico which only placed fourth with 54.5 percent. So much for the Monroe Doctrine). In addition to Brazil, Bermuda, and Belgium, the list included two “countries” already a part of the United States: Hawaii with only 55.2 percent and the Philippines at 54 percent, an ominous signal to the 18,833,023 unrepresented colonials who resided outside of the U.S. mainland. *Fortune*’s poll compelled John Snell of Hawaii’s equal rights commission to write to the magazine’s editor to

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<sup>44</sup> The America First Committee national spokesperson, aviation hero Charles Lindbergh, spoke to a crowd of 8,000 supporters at the Des Moines Coliseum on September 11, 1941, where he forever sullied his reputation by accusing “the British, the Jewish, and the Roosevelt Administration” for pushing the nation toward war. See, “Lindbergh Blames British, Roosevelt, and Jews,” *The Des Moines Register*, September 12, 1941, 1.

<sup>45</sup> Earl S. Pomeroy, *Pacific Outpost: American Strategy in Guam and Micronesia* (Stanford University Press, 1951), 135.

argue that as an “incorporated territory,” the public should consider its legal status no different than that of “California, Texas, New York, or any other coast or border state.”<sup>46</sup>

The conceptual “othering” of these colonial holdings spilled over into debates over federal appropriations needed to defend distant territories acquired by the United States during its period of imperialistic desires. “The low priority of preparations in the Pacific in 1939-41 was maintained in harmony with public opinion rather than in defiance of public opinion, as it was later” according to Pomeroy.<sup>47</sup> Roosevelt attempted to balance neutrality with defense and requested \$4 million in infrastructure funding for the far Pacific territories in 1939, yet isolationists in Congress blocked the measure. After escalating saber-rattling and skirmishes left Roosevelt unable to ignore Japan’s buildup of its own Pacific island territories, the president tried again in February 1941. This time, the measure passed and when a *New York Times* reporter asked Iowa Representative Guy Gillette, a “moderately steady isolationist” who voted against the funds two years previously, if he had concerns that such naval improvements in the area might provoke a Japanese response, Gillette answered: “I don’t give a damn. You can quote me on that.”<sup>48</sup>

Soon Representative Gillette did give a damn, as did his constituents and the families of thousands of men sacrificed to regain control of these long-forgotten territories in the Pacific whose names soon became household words. Not only Hawaii and the Philippines, but tiny dots on the map: Guam, Wake, and Midway.

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<sup>46</sup> “Fortune Poll is Protested,” *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, January 29, 1941, 6.; Immerwahr, *How to Hide an Empire*, 11.

<sup>47</sup> Pomeroy, *Pacific Outpost*, 140.

<sup>48</sup> Thomas E. Hachey. “American Profiles on Capitol Hill: A Confidential Study for the British Foreign Office in 1943.” *The Wisconsin Magazine of History* 57, no. 2 (1973): 141–53. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4634869>.; Pomeroy, *Pacific Outpost*, 158-9.

### CHAPTER 3. THE SCRAP METAL DRIVES OF 1942

#### December 7, 1941

Japan responded with an audacious multi-point surprise attack beginning on the morning of December 7, 1941. Not only an attack on the naval fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese also struck the other U. S. territories in the Pacific as well as the British colonies of Hong Kong, Malaya, and Singapore. In response, the United States declared war on Japan the following day and on Germany and Italy later that week. After a two-year delay, the United States officially entered World War II. The shock of the event burned itself into the memory of anyone old enough to understand the radio news flashes, much as later generations experienced after the assassination of President Kennedy or the attacks of 9/11.

Nearly every community in Iowa found a connection to the attack and in the following days newspapers reported the status of local men who had either survived or died, both those enlisted in the U.S. military and those contracted by the government to build infrastructure projects on the island territories. In Cedar Rapids, *The Gazette* sought to capture immediate attitudes of citizens and found two overwhelming emotions: revenge and resolve. “It is best to get in and have it over with to avoid further suspense,” the paper quoted one citizen. “All I have to say is they asked for it, so let’s let them have it,” responded another, “It’s a dirty deal – talking peace while starting war.” “We’re in it now, so let’s go after them, we don’t want any more internal disagreements,” a third declared. “Only by means of such a treacherous attack could we have united our country as it is united,” hoped a fourth, “In a way, we might look at this act of aggression as a good break. It has stirred us to the place where we are capable of the all-out effort we must make in order to win.”<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Another citizen lamented “I wish we hadn’t sold all that scrap iron to the Japanese.” See, “What They’re

With the spirit of revenge and resolve came a sense of cooperation. “We should give them the same as they gave us,” said Linn County Supervisor Elmer Seevell, before adding “our employees in Linn County will cooperate in every way possible.” The chair of the County Board of Supervisors, Clarence Beeson, agreed, “We know the war is going to change things, but [w]e’re in it now and we should support the administration.” The paper also quoted Iowa Governor George Wilson’s telegram to Roosevelt: “Devotion to duty and love of country are rooted deep in these rolling hills and we unite in our will to serve the cause of freedom and justice.” The Governor pledged the state’s “entire resources of manpower, industry and agriculture” to the war effort.<sup>50</sup>

### **The Need for Scrap Metal**

The United States industrialized in the late nineteenth century and during periods of boom, a few made fortunes. Yet unregulated capitalism and speculation also led to periods of bust, no more so than the Great Depression of the 1930s. America’s once mighty steel industry, the source of Andrew Carnegie’s and Henry Frick’s gilded age fortunes, contracted during the Great Depression. Steel production peaked in the late 1920s, then sank to record lows in the early 1930s. Despite this dip, one of the integral raw materials needed for both pig iron and steel production - scrap metal - remained in demand. “Scrapping” was a source of income for the unemployed and underemployed during these lean years, yet much of the scrap sold exceeded the needs for reduced American steel production.<sup>51</sup>

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Advocating in Cedar Rapids,” and “Cedar Rapids Quickly Gears Itself for War: Mayor Proclaims Unity,” *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, December 8, 1941, 12.

<sup>50</sup> “Cedar Rapids Quickly Gears Itself for War: Mayor Proclaims Unity,” *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, December 8, 1941, 12.; “Gov. Wilson Pledges Entire Resources of Iowa to War on Japs,” *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, December 8, 1941, 11.

<sup>51</sup> Dealers exported the excess scrap metal to foreign markets, including Japan. Of the 12 million tons of scrap metal sent overseas between 1934 and 1939, 7.5 million tons was purchased by Japan, presumably to feed its own war production. These exports did not go unnoticed by the Roosevelt administration. Struggling to balance the demands of isolationists determined to keep the United States out of the conflict yet addressing the expanding conflict in

The Lend-Lease program supplied goods to Allied powers in Europe from the beginning of World War II in September 1939 that allowed American industry to reach a new high record in steel production. After the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, however, production of consumer goods slowed nearly to a halt as industry retooled and mothballed factories sprang back to life to meet the demands of the War Production Board (WPB). The United States' entry into the conflict created new demands for war materials: sixty thousand planes, forty-five thousand tanks, twenty thousand anti-aircraft guns, and six million tons of shipping in 1942 alone. The newly formed WPB predicted there would be a material bottleneck hinging on the depleted stores of scrap metal needed to meet Roosevelt's ambitious production schedule. With the delivery of iron ore from Minnesota slowed over the winter, the WPB calculated a need of seventeen million tons of scrap metal to meet 1943's production needs.<sup>52</sup>

In the months following Japan's surprise attack in the Pacific, the tide of war favored the Axis powers. Declaring "Asia for the Asiatics," Japan "liberated" the former British, Dutch, and United States' territories from colonial rule as it launched land invasions in Hong Kong, the East

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Europe and Asia, the president took what action he could while maintaining neutrality when in September of 1939 he initiated a ban on scrap metal sales to all nations outside of the Americas and Great Britain. The logic of such a move appeared obvious, however the head of the Institute of Scrap Iron and Steel, Edwin C. Barringer, challenged the boycott. In an open letter published in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *The Atlanta Constitution*, and other newspapers, Barringer defended the practice, arguing that the excess scrap sold to Japan was of insignificant quantities, came from the west coast of the United States where it was too costly to ship to eastern steel factories, that if not exported it would simply rust away until unusable, and provided needed employment for thousands of workers. Additionally, Barringer foresaw the issues another world war would have in raw material logistics when he argued, "if we bar the exportation of scrap, then the nations that possess manganese, tin, rubber and other materials that we need may take similar steps and we will be in an international mess." Barringer's letter created a minor controversy, but it would not be the last time he criticized a Roosevelt policy. See, "Thinks Scrap Iron Supply Adequate," *St. Louis (Missouri) Post-Dispatch*, February 20, 1939. 16.; James J. Kimble, *Prairie Forge: The Extraordinary Story of the Nebraska Scrap Metal Drive of World War II* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2014), 12 and 20.

<sup>52</sup> One of the first casualties of Iowa's scrap drive of 1942 was described as a "field piece" near Davenport's Snug Harbor, not for its metal, but for the rubber on its tires. In June of that year, American Legionnaires stripped off 400 pounds of rubber and gave it to "aid in the national defense" after the government's initial call for essential scrap materials. See, "Legionnaires Strip Cannon of Rubber; secure 400 pounds," *The Daily Times* (Davenport, Iowa), June 29, 1942, 4.; Kimble, *Prairie Forge*, 14.; "Cold Slows Salvage Scrap Metal," *The Daily Argus-Leader* (Sioux Falls, South Dakota), January 8, 1942, 1.

Indies, and the Philippines. By May 1942, the Japanese defeated the American forces in the Philippines and chased a fleeing General Douglas McArthur to Australia and bombed him there too. The situation in Europe was equally grim as the Axis spread from France to the western edge of the Soviet Union and from Scandinavia to northern Africa. When production failed to meet schedules in June and faced with the monumental task of moving thousands of men and tons of materiel over vast distances in a two-front war, the government warned citizens they needed to sacrifice even more as it added to an ever growing list of items beyond sugar, rubber, and gasoline subject to rationing. “We can lose this war,” warned the Office of War Information on August 7, 1942. “as a nation we are not yet more than ankle deep in.”<sup>53</sup>

On June 24, 1942, head of the WPB Donald M. Nelson, addressed congress and warned the effort to meet demand for raw materials “eventually might force the scrapping of metal fences, gates, statuary and other decorative works,” yet the importance of Nelson’s call went mostly unnoticed, as the *Des Moines Register* and other newspapers buried the story in the back pages.<sup>54</sup> When Franklin Delano Roosevelt raised the issue of scrapping monuments later that summer, however, it made front page news. At a press conference on August 7, the same day as the Office of War Information warned that the war could be lost if production goals were not met, the President read from a short statement prepared by Nelson to publicize the scrap metal drives. In his remarks, Roosevelt encouraged the nation to gather scrap metal from “abandoned buildings, railroads...old farm machinery, and any miscellaneous scrap lying around homes.”<sup>55</sup> In addition to these sources, he specifically targeted “the old cannon and bronze statues from parks throughout the country.” A short three- or four-paragraph version of this story from the

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<sup>53</sup> “‘We can lose this war,’ OWI Warns; More Sacrifices by Civilians Are Required,” *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*, August 8, 1942, 1.

<sup>54</sup> “Statues May Go - Nelson Relates Materials Needed,” *Des Moines Tribune*, June 25, 1942, 25.

<sup>55</sup> “Urges More Scrap Metal,” *The Des Moines Register*, August 7, 1942, 1.

syndicated United Press International and Associated Press appeared in most newspapers, the *Christian Science Monitor* ran an expanded piece, adding:

Smilingly, in response to the question about gathering up cannons and bronze statues which now adorn many parks, the President said he thought a great many probably would look better if the statues were converted into weapons and replaced after the war with something more artistic. He only laughed when asked whether he had any specific statuary in mind.<sup>56</sup>

Such a reaction was typical for the coy and cunning Roosevelt: ever the politician, he evaded directly answering the question. When another reporter offered the alternative of perhaps stripping the nation's capital city of "elegant brass doorknobs and mailboxes," the president jokingly offered to make the reporter chair of such a committee to do the gathering.<sup>57</sup>

Roosevelt's comments set off a firestorm of debate, yet it appeared that most U.S. citizens supported the idea of scrapping statues. Near the end of the national scrap metal drive in October, 1942, Iowa native George Gallup, director of the American Institute of Public Opinion, published the results of a nationwide poll. When posed with the question, "Do you think metal statues, old guns, railings, heavy chains and other metal in parks and cemeteries in your community should be donated to the scrap metal drive?" eighty-two percent of respondents approved, ten percent disapproved, and eight percent were undecided. According to Gallup, one respondent spoke for the majority with the statement, "Let's forget the Civil War and remember Pearl Harbor." However, of those that disapproved, Gallup claimed they did so "not primarily for reasons of sentiment, but because they do not think such a campaign is necessary until all other sources of scrap are exhausted."<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> "President Boosts Scrap Drive; Mentions Cannon and Statues," *Christian Science Monitor*, August 7, 1942, 3.

<sup>57</sup> "F.R. Stresses Scrap Drive," *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, August 7, 1942, 2.

<sup>58</sup> During all the hypothetical debates over the scrapping of monuments, one expert opinion went nearly unnoticed. On August 9, 1942, two days after President Roosevelt's comments, Edwin C. Berringer of the Institute of Scrap Iron and Steel issued a statement explaining that "statues are principally cast from non-ferrous alloys, in many forms of which there is now actually a surplus." He specified that pre-World War I cannons of bronze and brass were in least demand, but added, "if the war lasts long enough there may be an unsatisfied demand for scrap which statues

On August 18th, New York City's flamboyant mayor Fiorello LaGuardia sent telegrams to other members of the United States Conference of Mayors, including Des Moines' John MacVicar, urging municipalities to "comply with Roosevelt's request for old memorials." LaGuardia's telegram again promised that relics removed "will be replaced by cannon or tanks captured in this war."<sup>59</sup> Additionally, Colonel V. L. Padgett, commanding officer of the Army training post at Fort Des Moines, sent a letter to each county salvage chairman requesting "the names of towns, organizations, or individuals who are 'reluctant' to surrender war relics." Col. Padgett assured that there would be no "coercion" or "compelling," only a "patriotic appeal" made to the owners to comply.<sup>60</sup> In speech given in Des Moines on September 11, 1942, WPB supervisor W.A. Becker clearly expressed a shift in public memory: "It will soon be unpatriotic to have a cannon on display."<sup>61</sup>

### **Iowa in the Scrap Metal Drives of 1942**

The pressure to scrap monuments was stronger than ever in the fall of 1942 and communities began to worry over the fate of their statues. The *Waterloo Daily Courier* fretted over the future of the "Green Goddesses," six copper statues that adorned the roof of the Black Hawk County courthouse. Arguing that the statues were "about the only art in the county," one local businessman offered that "there must be some old cannons, old markers or other relics in the county that can go to war."<sup>62</sup> A cartoon appearing in the *Sioux City Journal* made light of the

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and monuments can help fill, but to destroy them now would merely increase an already-existing surplus in some classifications of non-ferrous scrap." Despite Berringer's expertise, newspapers buried the story in the later pages. President Roosevelt and the WPB never corrected the earlier statement nor tried to clarify what scrap metal was needed. See, "Melting Statues Won't Help War Effort, Scrap Chief Says," *The Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Kentucky), August 9, 1942, 8.; "Scrapping of Statues Hit," *Wall Street Journal*, August 10, 1942, 6.; "Public Would Give Graveyard Relics to Scrap Campaign," *The Daily Times* (Davenport, Iowa), October 10, 1942, 12.

<sup>59</sup> "LaGuardia Plea, Asks Relics in Scrap Drive," *Des Moines Tribune*, August 18, 1942, 9.

<sup>60</sup> "Resent Giving War Relics in Scrap Drive," *The Des Moines Register*, August 28, 1942, 1.

<sup>61</sup> "Dunlap Reports," *The Denison (Iowa) Bulletin*, September 17, 1942, 2.

<sup>62</sup> Additionally, the community in Osawatomie, Kansas split over the scrapping of a bronze statue of abolitionist John Brown. See, Gordon Brown, "This and That in Kansas," *The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury*, October 12, 1942, 2. "Green Goddesses Atop Courthouse Might Go to War," *Waterloo (Iowa) Daily Courier*, August 9, 1942, 19.

situation, depicting a gentleman perplexed by what appears to be a scarecrow horse and rider atop a park pedestal. His companion laughingly explained, “The women’s committee took the statue for scrap and put up a substitute!” Referring “the woman’s committee” was not incidental, as the WPB hoped that the various auxiliary organizations that worked to install many of the nation’s memorials and monuments would now be instrumental in their donation to the scrap metal drives. (Figure 7)<sup>63</sup>



Figure 7. A cartoon appearing in the *Philadelphia Enquirer* on October 15, 1942, illustrates the WPB's hope that women's groups would lead the charge in donating memorials and monuments to the scrap metal drive.

The WPB set the national goal at seventeen million tons of scrap metal for the fall of 1942 and, following a program created largely by *Omaha World-Herald* publisher Henry Doorly, organized two drives: a state drive in late August and a national drive to run from September 28 to October 17, 1942. The WPB predicted the industrial northeast as the largest source of scrap, but the second largest would be the agrarian Midwest: Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. In addition to its share of the nation’s 2.5 million junk cars and general household scrap, the WPB estimated that the region’s farms each contained up to one ton of scrap metal in discarded machinery and implements, much of which “tended to be of the highest grades and thus was

<sup>63</sup> “Funny Business,” *Sioux City (Iowa) Journal*, November 20, 1941, 23.

desirable to steel mills,” according to historian James Kimble. (Figure 8)<sup>64</sup> Iowa created a state scrap committee, appointed Herbert G. Plagman as chair, and directed each county to organize its own committee, down to the township level. The WPB set Iowa’s quota at ninety-nine thousand tons for the national drive with each county’s goal based on pounds per capita, and its results published in newspapers weekly throughout the drive.<sup>65</sup>

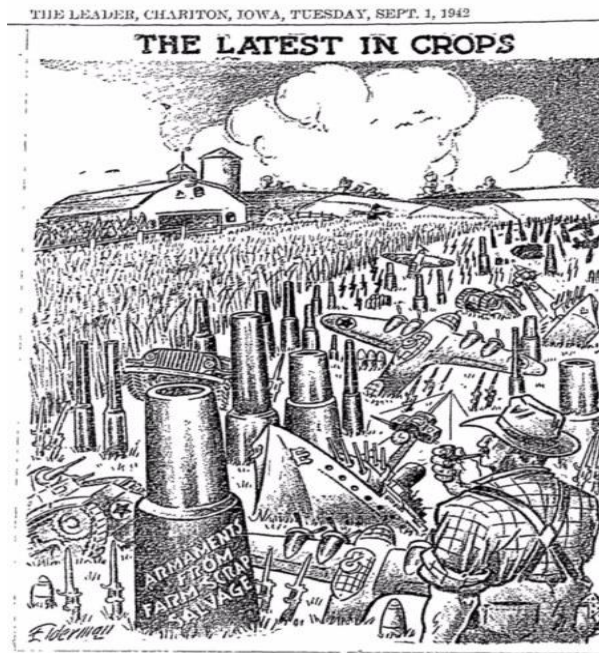


Figure 8. A cartoon appearing on the front page of the September 1, 1942, edition of *The Chariton Leader* urging farmers to clear their property of scrap metal needed to produce the nation’s “crop” of war materials.

“Women and children proved to be especially strong soldiers in this campaign,” historian Lisa Ossian asserted, “the WPB created a Women’s Salvage Army in each of the forty-eight states to spread information and ensure community cooperation.”<sup>66</sup> Children were also pivotal in the various scrap drives, providing much of the labor of gathering paper, rubber, cloth, and metal. Already formed into organizations such as Boy and Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Future Farmers of America, children made up what the *Saturday Evening Post* called “30,000,000 soldiers for

<sup>64</sup> Kimble, *Prairie Forge*, 26, 41, 46 & 82.

<sup>65</sup> “17,000,000 Tons of Scrap Metal Six Month’s Goal,” *The Algona (Iowa) Upper Des Moines*, August 11, 1942, 1.

<sup>66</sup> Lisa Ossian, *The Home Fronts of Iowa, 1939-1945*. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2009), 68-9.

our New Third Front.”<sup>67</sup> Propaganda comics, posters, and newspaper ads, such as the full page published in the University of Iowa’s *The Daily Iowan* under a headline asking “Are You A Slacker? Or Will You Lend A Hand?” spurred on the scrap drive army. For school children who started their day by pledging allegiance to GAR-provided flags under the watchful gaze of Washington and Lincoln, Ossian explained, “scrap drives and victory gardens became public displays of patriotic energy and devotion within which young children could excel.”<sup>68</sup>

After the first week of the drive, Iowa state scrap chairman Plagman announced that only sixteen out of Iowa’s ninety-nine counties met the pound per capita quota for that period. Looking beyond the usual collection of automobile chassis, discarded farm implements, and rusted radiators, scrap officials and citizens searched for even bigger sources: a suit of armor appeared in Emmetsburg, the bell clappers disappeared from two school houses in Marion County, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy donated 237,923 pounds of rail from an abandoned turntable and line in Dakota County, and the scrap drive army piled Iowa State College’s narrow gauge locomotive, “the Dinkey,” onto Story County’s scrap heap.<sup>69</sup>

Spurred by patriotic appeals and by prizes, public recognition, and the spirit of competition, communities revealed long held rivalries as towns pushed even harder to increase contributions. Red Oak used still-familiar rhetoric to describe its rivalry with Montgomery’s six surrounding counties: “Another civil war is on,” explained the Red Oak newspaper, “not a war of rebellion, nor to free any slaves (although it may help to keep men from becoming slaves), but a

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<sup>67</sup> Ossian, *Home Fronts of Iowa*, 90-120.

<sup>68</sup> Lisa Ossian, *The Forgotten Generation: American Children in World War II* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2011), 40-55.

<sup>69</sup> “Iowa Lagging in Scrap Drive,” *Sioux City (Iowa) Journal*, August 18, 1942, 3.; “Campanile Pranks,” *The Lake Park (Iowa) News*, December 3, 1942, 6.; “689,000 Pounds in Scrap Drive,” *Sioux City (Iowa) Journal*, August 11, 1942, 7.; “State Nears 10,000 Total - Polk Passes 1,000-Ton Scrap Mark,” *The Des Moines Register*, October 7, 1942, 4.

war for Scrap!”<sup>70</sup> After several weeks of collecting, Pottawattamie County chairman Don Rhoades wired Herbert Plagman to challenge the report submitted by neighboring Harrison County. Taking issue with the enormous claim of 444 tons, Rhoades protested: “We challenge Harrison county to provide evidence for the fantastic figures. There is no activity there.”<sup>71</sup>

The rivalries were not always quite so serious. For example, Lucas County’s goal for the last half of 1942 was 1,000 tons and to spur public participation in the drive, the county entered into a friendly competition with neighboring Monroe County. City officials in both county seats agreed that the losing county would “sweep the streets” of the winner of the competition. On September 1, *The Chariton Leader* reported that two weeks into the national scrap metal drive, Monroe had “out-scraped” Lucas County by eighty-six tons. In response, Chariton’s business leaders agreed to close their shops on Labor Day and organize “a scrap force of 100 business and professional men and their assistants, with a motorized division of 20 trucks” for a single-day push. This scrap drive army combed the city in search of metal, the newspaper reported, yet the effort was community-wide and the “people of Chariton were urged to do their part in the attack by searching their premises from attic to cellar, the garage, coal shed, and around the yard for every bit of scrap metal.”<sup>72</sup>

In the countryside, a separate committee and members of the Future Farmers of America organized to collect scrap for the drive. “Farm scrap is of the type that is needed the worst in war industries as it has higher content of valuable materials needed in making alloys and steel,” advised *The Chariton Leader*. Time was of the essence too as the scrap needed to be transported “before fall farm work starts and the roads are bad,” the newspaper urged. Despite gathering

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<sup>70</sup> Ossian, *The Home Fronts of Iowa*, 104.

<sup>71</sup> “Pottawattamie Scrap Leader Challenges Harrison Report,” *Sioux City (Iowa) Journal*, October 6, 1942, 5.

<sup>72</sup> “City Will Mobilize for Scrap Attack” and “Monroe ‘Out Scraps’ Lucas,” *The Chariton (Iowa) Leader*, September 1, 1942, 1.

forty-one tons of metal on Labor Day, double the goal set by the committee, Monroe County remained ahead at 184.5 tons versus Lucas' 157 tons. But the need still outpaced the supply gathered and *The Chariton Leader* reported that Don Nelson again "warned the nation last week that unless scrap was secured in sufficient quantity to run war plants this winter that 'we might even lose this war.'"73

The spirit of sacrifice and competition led to the loss of objects once considered sacred. In addition to private donations of outmoded farm equipment and implements, construction dump trucks, and old steam radiators, the single largest contribution to the Labor Day scrap metal drive came from Lucas County itself in the form of two solid brass Civil War era cannons and their accompanying stacks of cannonballs that flanked the soldier statue on the courthouse square (Figure 9). City officials likewise donated two World War I cannons from Chariton's East Park, which weighed an estimated twelve tons each.<sup>74</sup>



Figure 9. An early twentieth century postcard view of Lucas County's Civil War monument accompanied by two brass cannons and cannonballs. (Image courtesy of <http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com/cgi-bin/gaarddetails.pl?1210193418~2>)

<sup>73</sup> "Scrap Army Captures 41 Tons Monday," *The Chariton (Iowa) Leader*, September 8, 1942, 1.

<sup>74</sup> "Two Guns at Park Scrapped Were One Pound Naval Guns," *Chariton (Iowa) Herald-Patriot*, September 10, 1942, 6.; "County Takes Lead in Scrap Contest," *The Chariton (Iowa) Leader*, September 15, 1942, 1.

Newspaper ads and government propaganda sought to visualize the “transform[ation of] everyday objects into tools of war,” explained historian James Kimble, “courthouse cannons...were easy to depict as munitions as they were already weapons, even if they were crumbling to pieces.”<sup>75</sup> Scrapers easily conceptualized the transformation of an old cannon into a new tool of war and to make the matter even more clear, *The Des Moines Register* ran a seven-photo demonstration in the Sunday, October 11, 1942 edition. (Figure 10) The photographs followed a WW I era gun over the astonishingly short span of twenty-three hours and five minutes through the process of dismantling, melting in an open hearth, molding into an ingot, and forming the steel into a panel to be riveted onto the side of a new ship. Iowans readily grasped the idea and, to delay the decision to scrap statues, many communities and organizations willingly sacrificed cannons to the scrap metal drive. By early September, Herbert Plagman announced the contribution of thirty-eight cannons to the drive, not counting those expected from Chariton and Atlantic.<sup>76</sup>



Figure 10. A feature in the October 11, 1942, edition of *The Des Moines Register* depicts the transformation of a World War I cannon into a steel panel for installation on a new ship.

<sup>75</sup> Kimble, *Prairie Forge*, 98.

<sup>76</sup> “Cannon Becomes a Ship Plate in 23 Hours,” *The Des Moines Register*, October 11, 1942, 55.

The state's college campuses also joined in the scrap drive army effort. Col. Herbert Odell, head of Iowa State College's military department, donated two Civil War era howitzers, a field gun, and a brass "Napoleon" cannon to Story County officials, providing enough metal to "make 20,000 hand grenades" and "1,250 large army compasses."<sup>77</sup> In Indianola, Simpson College officials prepared to donate two cannons - despite significant difficulties. Late one night in 1911, student pranksters "dumped" one in the basement of the chapel and later buried the other in an unknown location on campus.<sup>78</sup>

Some Iowa communities removed their cannons with the same level of ceremony as when first installed. During the first week of the national scrap metal drive, Cedar Falls and Algona paraded their relics through the towns to the salvage depot where they were "heaved upon the scrap heaps."<sup>79</sup> Others disappeared overnight, like that in Shenandoah, with only a note left behind: "If we win this war we'll give you another one and if we don't, what the hell difference will it make? After all, it isn't doing any good here."<sup>80</sup> Most communities quietly complied, like West Union which gave up its Independence Day cannon along with ten

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<sup>77</sup> "College Gives Four Cannon to Scrap Metal Drive," *The Quad-City Times* (Davenport, Iowa), September 22, 1942, 15.

<sup>78</sup> Colleges across the Midwest donated cannons in 1942, such as that at Northwestern University despite its provenance as a "Civil War siege gun used at Ft. Sumter, S.C." University of Kansas students hauled their school's cannon to the scrap heap after learning that Kansas State students donated three cannons. *The Manhattan Mercury* pragmatically observed, "if Lawrence wants to play copy-cat with cannon, that's all to the common good." Not all students complied quite so quietly, however. Angry students at the University of Wisconsin marched from the campus to the state capitol grounds when school officials canceled the traditional Homecoming-eve bonfire due to the war. When the unruly students found the city's scrap metal drive pile, Madison police fired 33 rounds of tear gas to break up the mob as it attempted to liberate "an ancient cannon from atop the heap." See, "Scrap Pile Gets N.U.'s 16,020 lb. Ft. Sumter Gun," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, November 6, 1942, 9.; "Odds and Ends," *The Manhattan (Kansas) Mercury*, October 2, 1942, 4.; "Tear Gas Used on Wild Homecoming Mob; 26 Arrested," *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, October 31, 1942, 1.; "College Gives Four Cannon to Scrap Metal Drive," *Quad-City Times* (Davenport, Iowa), September 22, 1942, 15.; "Scrap Drive Gets Warren County Guns," *The Des Moines Register*, September 20, 1942, 12.; "Dismantle Simpson's Cannon," *Advocate Tribune* (Indianola, Iowa), October 26, 1911, 3.

<sup>79</sup> "Salvage Depot at Cedar Falls to Be Opened Saturday," *The Courier* (Waterloo, Iowa), September 17, 1942, 12.

<sup>80</sup> "Cannon 'Gone,'" *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, October 9, 1942, 1.

cannonballs and the courthouse bell. “Many in West Union will regret their loss,” wrote the local newspaper, “but no protest is made.”<sup>81</sup>

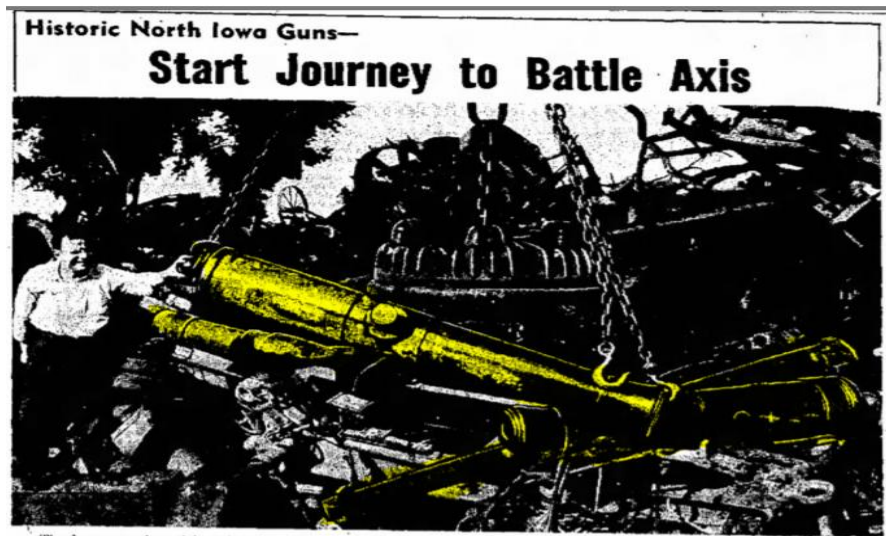


Figure 11. This photograph shows four cannons in a Winnebago County scrap pile. In the foreground are two Spanish cannons from Cuba, the first from Forest City (inscribed 1869) and the second from Osage (inscribed 1798). The third was from West Mitchell of Civil War vintage and the fourth is a German howitzer brought back to the United States after World War I. *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, September 14 and September 19, 1942.

If local authorities expected resistance to scrapping cannons from local GAR posts, it was not forthcoming as veterans became scarce as the organization dwindled from an 1890 peak of 20,324 members to only forty-seven by 1942.<sup>82</sup> On the surface, surviving Civil War veterans appeared to support the effort. When newspapers located a veteran, they reported he supported both the country’s entry into the war and of scrapping monuments.<sup>83</sup> In Monticello, Iowa, the community celebrated 101-year-old veteran Mark Morse for donating to the Red Cross proceeds of a cannon and ammunition he had privately purchased after the Civil War.<sup>84</sup> Likewise, when the community of Keota split over scrapping “General Parrot[t],” only eighty-two-year-old Frank

<sup>81</sup> “From Our Exchanges,” *Postville (Iowa) Herald*, September 23, 1942, 2.; “Parade at Night,” *The Algona (Iowa) Upper Des Moines*, October 6, 1942, 1.

<sup>82</sup> Iowa Grand Army of the Republic Posts and Membership Records, <https://www.iowasuvcw.org/Iowa-department-of-the-g-a-r>

<sup>83</sup> “Will to Win,” *Iowa City (Iowa) Press-Citizen*, April 11, 1942, 4.

<sup>84</sup> “Vet Still Fighting,” *Postville (Iowa) Herald*, November 4, 1942, 6.

H. Glover of Hinman's famous artillery company remained. If he disagreed with scrapping the cannon, however, the newspaper did not report his opinion.<sup>85</sup>

The absence of dissenting Civil War veterans led many to speculate that all veterans supported scrapping monuments. Some newspapers went even further and linked the definition of "veteran" to a cannon itself to justify its scrapping: "Several revered veterans of the Civil War are going to do their part in helping Uncle Sam lick the axis...despite his years, he's still able to take part - an active part - in the current struggle," teased an article in Mason City's *Globe-Gazette*. "You see, he's a cannon. He helped save the United States in the '60s by hurling cannonballs at the enemy. Now, in 1942, he'll be melted down and used in the manufacture of a new weapon of war."<sup>86</sup>

### **Resisting the Scrap Drive Army**

Not all cannons went without controversy, however, and those tasked with preserving the state's history resisted the scrap drive army. Delayed or non-existent resolutions by several veterans' groups created confusion and local organizations seized the opportunity to defy, delay, and ultimately resist donating relics to the scrap metal drive.

On August 14, 1942, a photograph of young office workers at the Iowa statehouse appeared on the front page of the *Des Moines Tribune* under the caption "Cannon Eyed for Salvage." (Figure 12) This was one of five cannons that adorned the east and west approaches to the capitol building. With the scrap committee requesting the Soldiers and Sailors Monument as well as the capitol cannons, reporters asked Iowa curator Ora Williams if the state would set an

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<sup>85</sup> "Town Split Over Giving Gun to Scrap," *The Davenport (Iowa) Democrat and Leader*, December 2, 1942, 13.; "Scrap Drive May Sound Taps for Old Civil War Cannon in Keota's Park," *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, December 2, 1942, 13.

<sup>86</sup> "Civil War Vets Fight Again," *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, May 11, 1942, 4.

example by complying with the WPB's request for scrap metal. A reluctant Williams mentally inventoried the state's holdings and gamely offered, "[w]e have some old Japanese and Chinese pieces down in the vaults that have not been displayed for years...I see no reason why maybe they couldn't be turned in."<sup>87</sup>



Figure 12. Three office workers pose with a Spanish cannon at the statehouse in Des Moines. From the *Des Moines Tribune*, August 14, 1942.

In a letter to his hometown newspaper in Adel, Williams defended his reluctance to scrap the state's relics "for the preservation of which I am responsible."<sup>88</sup> During the scrap metal drive, pressure mounted on Williams to clear the grounds of the statehouse after the state of Iowa contributed at least fourteen decommissioned cannons from Fort Des Moines and Camp Dodge. When he made good on the promise to donate two Chinese cannons from the Boxer Rebellion in September, he ensured newspaper reporters and photographers publicized his actions. He used the opportunity to encourage the scrap drive army to collect all other sources of material in order to preserve the state's relics "of true historical value."<sup>89</sup> *The Des Moines Tribune* recognized

<sup>87</sup> "Turn in Your Old Cannon, Get New Model After War," *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, August 14, 1942, 17.

<sup>88</sup> "Williams Talks About Cannons," *The Dallas County (Iowa) News*, September 9, 1942, 5.

<sup>89</sup> "2 Chinese Cannon of Boxer Era in Scrap," *The Des Moines Register*, September 11, 1942, 4.

Williams' stance and offered: "maybe by balancing historical against physical weight the salvage debaters could strike a compromise."<sup>90</sup>

While Williams fought to preserve the state's monuments and relics, battles between the scrap committees and various veterans' organizations also erupted. At an August 27, 1942, meeting at the Polk County courthouse, a group of seventeen concerned preservationists, including Williams and representatives from the GAR, DUV, SUV, Daughters of the American Revolution, and others united in their protest against scrapping monuments. Participants argued that the current need for scrap did not warrant removing monuments and questioned the government's authority to take them. The sentiment was unanimous and "the meeting, called and conducted by Miss Amy Noll, Secretary of the Iowa Grand Army of the Republic, concluded with the adoption of a resolution providing that all patriotic organizations in the state protest formally the taking of the war relics."<sup>91</sup>

Not all veterans' organizations initially resisted removing monuments, however, and the following day, Don J. O'Brien, commander of the Iowa American Legion, "disagreed sharply" with the group of seventeen's resolution. As far back as late July, O'Brien explained, the national leadership of the Legion sent letters encouraging the state posts to donate World War I guns they owned.<sup>92</sup> Yet in September, the Legion post in Rock Island, Illinois, resolved to delay contributing war relics, contending that "cannon and other World War I trophies have sentimental and historic value of greater worth than as scrap metal."<sup>93</sup> These conflicting resolutions and apparent defiance of the Legion's national leadership signaled an opportunity for other groups at the local level.

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<sup>90</sup> "It's Tough on Politics," *Des Moines Tribune*, September 7, 1942, 7.

<sup>91</sup> "Resent Giving War Relics in Scrap Drive," *The Des Moines Register*, August 28, 1942, 1.

<sup>92</sup> "Legion Backs Use of Relics to Get Metal," *The Des Moines Register*, August 29, 1942, 1.

<sup>93</sup> "The Rock Island, Ill.," *The Des Moines Register*, September 19, 1942, 14.

A similar contradiction existed within the GAR when, despite Amy Noll's earlier claim to contrary, the *Boone News-Republican* reported on August 30 that the Iowa commander-in-chief, ninety-four-year-old John Gudgel, "has ordered that all cannonballs, cannon, and other metal ornaments on the graves of GAR veterans throughout the country be collected and turned in on the metal scrap campaign."<sup>94</sup> In February 1943, *The Des Moines Register* reported that J.J. Neuman, assistant adjutant general of the Iowa GAR, once again contradicted a report that national GAR commander-in-chief John Dumser supported scrapping cannons and other relics. In the same article, Noll clarified that Iowa commander-in-chief Gudgel's earlier order only intended to spare the Soldiers and Sailors Monument and he "now oppose[d] such use of Civil War relics."<sup>95</sup>

Establishing rightful ownership of a cannon became a frequent point of dispute. When a relic stood on public grounds, ownership generally defaulted to local government and a city council or county board of supervisors presumed they had authority to scrap a city park cannon monument. This was not always the case and when a veteran's group contested rightful ownership of a relic, local posts made the final decision. As national and state leadership of veteran's organizations waffled on a coordinated response, veterans and auxiliary organizations resisted with varying success.<sup>96</sup>

The city of Davenport became a battleground over the Scott County courthouse cannons when the local post of the United Spanish War Veterans (USWV) stepped in and attempted to stop their removal. Brigadier General Harry Ward, commander of Davenport's USWV post,

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<sup>94</sup> "That Old G.A.R. Spirit," *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, October 12, 1942, 12.

<sup>95</sup> "G.A.R. Opposes Relics for War," *The Des Moines Register*, February 16, 1943, 14.

<sup>96</sup> Failure to wait for state authorities to determine rightful ownership led to the arrest of *The St. Louis (Missouri) Post-Dispatch* editor Foster Wheatley. Incensed by the governor's delay in donating two Civil War cannons from the Missouri statehouse grounds, Wheatley published an editorial suggesting they be removed "on some dark night" and transported to the local scrap depot. When two men acted on Wheatley's suggestion, the editor was charged with grand larceny. See, "Editor Is Accused in Theft of Cannon," *New York Times*, December 12, 1942, 15.

argued that despite a unanimous vote in favor by the Scott County Board of Supervisors on August 15, 1942, the Board did not have the authority to scrap the two Civil War cannons located on the courthouse lawn. Ward argued that ownership of the cannon passed to his USWV post after the GAR post disbanded several years before. “We won’t let those cannon go until the government itself requests them,” *The Davenport Democrat and Leader* quoted Ward, “I believe we should keep things of historic value until there is no other source of scrap on which to draw.” The Scott County scrap salvage chairman Charles S. Lewis counterargued that he received a letter in September requesting the cannons (this is possibly the same letter sent by Colonel V. L. Padgett of Fort Des Moines as Lewis stated the request asked for information regarding “any organization or group that was ‘reluctant’ to turn over cannons over which it claimed control”) and Scott County authorities interpreted this as a direct request from the government. At an October 5, 1942, meeting, the USWV post bowed to pressure and reversed its previous position, saying its resistance “had been misunderstood by the public.”<sup>97</sup>

If the local post of Sons or Daughters of Union Veterans claimed ownership, it did not necessarily guarantee resistance, as in the case of Clear Lake where at an October 19, 1942, meeting of the local DUV, members voted to donate their city park cannon (possibly the inspiration for Ewing Tice’s 1940 poem) to the scrap metal drive. Yet in Muscatine, the local chapter of the DUV spearheaded a coalition of other veteran’s groups to keep the county’s 1875 memorial group intact. Representatives from the DUV, WRC, USWV, and Disabled Sons of Veterans held an open meeting at the courthouse on September 10, 1942, and went “on record

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<sup>97</sup> “Supervisors to Clear Courthouse Lawn by Giving Old Cannons to Scrap Drive,” *The Davenport (Iowa) Democrat and Leader*, August 16, 1942, 4.; “Keep Cannon for While, Says General Ward,” *The Davenport (Iowa) Democrat and Leader*, August 18, 1942, 15.; “Formal Protest to Sale of Cannon Is Given Supervisors,” *The Daily Times* (Davenport, Iowa), September 10, 1942, 15.; “Scrap Chairman Asked to Obtain All Old Cannon,” *The Davenport (Iowa) Democrat and Leader*, September 15, 1942, 9.; “Fate of Cannon Now in Hands of Gen. Ward,” *The Davenport (Iowa) Democrat and Leader*, October 6, 1942, 17.

opposing the removal of cannon and cannonballs from the courthouse yard until the last resort for use as scrap iron.”<sup>98</sup> Despite receiving Col. Padgett’s letter requesting these relics, the coalition held their ground. When the county board of supervisors polled a wider sample of patriotic organizations and found no consensus, the board allowed each organization to make the final decision regarding relics each claimed. As a result, Muscatine retained its impressive column topped with a common soldier statue and two accompanying cannons. (Figure 13)<sup>99</sup>



Figure 13. A recent photograph of the Muscatine County Courthouse Civil War Monument with cannons intact. Only one of the cannonball stacks has disappeared over time (See Figure 1.). (Image courtesy of <http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com/cgi-bin/gaarddetails.pl?1210267230~2>)

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<sup>98</sup> “Daughters of Union Veterans Oppose Removing Cannons,” *The Muscatine (Iowa) Journal and News-Tribune*, September 11, 1942, 5.

<sup>99</sup> “D.U.V. Votes to Donate Cannon,” *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, October 20, 1942, 10.; “Patriotic Groups Are Divided On Giving Cannons,” *The Muscatine (Iowa) Journal and News-Tribune*, October 12, 1942, 3.; “D.U.V. Opposes Giving Cannons For Scrap Use,” *The Muscatine (Iowa) Journal and News-Tribune*, October 14, 1942, 11.

Occasionally, it was the cannon itself that resisted removal. On October 14, 1942, a crowd of 200 citizens gathered in Cedar Rapids' Greene Square to celebrate the city's donation of its enormous cannon, however the gun resisted blow torches which attempted to cut it into movable pieces. A wrecking truck only managed to pull the cannon out of the mounting cradle, causing it to tip nose first into the ground. The following morning, workers made another attempt to load the estimated twelve-to-fifteen-ton cannon onto a truck and move it to a scrap depot, where it would again be assaulted by electric welders. This time the wrecker only managed to topple the cannon to the ground "digging a ditch more than a foot deep at the rear end." After a third attempt, crews managed to lift the cannon and hauled it to a scrap dealer, who then attempted to break the gun apart using a two ton hammer dropped from forty feet to no avail as the weight merely bounced off the barrel. Eventually, crews loaded the defiant cannon onto a freight car intact and shipped it to a blast furnace in Peoria, Illinois.<sup>100</sup>

At the time of its deinstallation in 1942, a curious circumstance arose concerning the Greene Square cannon: no one at *The Cedar Rapids Gazette* knew where it came from or when it appeared in Cedar Rapids. Reporters only partially resolved the mystery of how the mammoth "blunderbuss" came to the city from former mayor Charles Huston. The venerable mayor vaguely recollected that the cannon was manufactured in 1866 "but not used until the Spanish-American War." Huston recalled the 1901 dedication in Greene Square, but he could not remember how it was transported or moved into place.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> "Cannon Wins First Three Rounds in the Battle of Greene Square," *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, October 15, 1942, 1.; "Greene Square Cannon to Leave City in One Piece," *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, November 18, 1942, 14.; "2-Ton Hammer Fails to Break Defiant Cannon," *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, November 29, 1942, 1.

<sup>101</sup> "Cannon Wins First Three Rounds in the Battle of Greene Square," *The Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette*, October 15, 1942, 1.

This was not the only incident of forgetting as the same situation occurred when Mason City donated two Spanish cannons from Central Park. A reporter from the *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette* contacted local posts of the USWV, DUV, SUV, and WRC seeking information, but no one could provide information on the cannons' origins. In desperation, the newspaper sent out a request to its readership and the following day, W. H. Kogel, a citizen of Mason City since 1892, contacted the newspaper and relayed that the cannons came from Havana in 1898.<sup>102</sup>

### **The Scrap Metal Drive Ends**

“This week marks the finale of the scrap metal contest between Lucas and Monroe counties,” reported the *Chariton Herald-Patriot*, “It’s been fun and there can be no question but that the main objective has been achieved, namely to focus on the spotlight on the crucial need for scrap.”<sup>103</sup> The initial five week scrap metal drive officially ended on September 19, 1942, and when officials weighed all the salvaged metal, Lucas County had gathered 435 tons to Monroe’s 314 tons. The gap widened during the final week as the two East Park cannons joined abandoned Burlington rail and scrap gathered from a decommissioned Iowa Southern Utilities light plant on the pile displayed on Chariton’s city square. The county’s total for the last half of 1942 climbed to 763 tons even before another scrap drive gathered remaining metal before winter weather set in.<sup>104</sup> The scrap metal salvaged the week of Labor Day earned Lucas County’s victory fund \$470.40, which included \$140 from the two courthouse cannons.<sup>105</sup>

On October 6, 1942, a delegation from Monroe County travelled to Chariton to make good on their bet to sweep the streets of the scrap metal drive contest winner. Seventeen civic

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<sup>102</sup> “Nobody Knows,” *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, September 24, 1942, 28.; “Found: Origin of Central Park Cannon,” *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, September 25, 1942, 14.

<sup>103</sup> “Main Objective Achieved As Scrap Contest Nears End,” *Chariton (Iowa) Herald-Patriot*, September 17, 1942, 4.

<sup>104</sup> “Lucas Wins from Monroe in Contest,” *The Chariton (Iowa) Leader*, September 22, 1942, 1.; “New Scrap Metal Drive Planned Here,” *Chariton (Iowa) Herald-Patriot*, September 24, 1942, 1.

<sup>105</sup> “County Takes Lead in Scrap Contest,” *The Chariton (Iowa) Leader*, September 15, 1942, 1.

and business leaders from Albia, including its mayor C. B. Dearing, received a broom and a designated area of Chariton's town square to sweep. "There was a lot of good natured kidding that went on between the Chariton hosts and the sweepers," reported the *Herald-Patriot*, "and the job was completed, spic and span, in about 20 minutes."<sup>106</sup> Afterwards, the group enjoyed a luncheon and the following morning Albia Commercial Club secretary R.S. Everett sent a letter to Chariton's Chamber of Commerce president Arch Jones thanking him for the hospitality. Everett concluded his letter with "Seriously though Arch, don't you agree that our contest held in a friendly manner and paid off as bargained should be a lesson to all the Axis dictators that Americans have a spirit that nothing in this world can lick or even compete with?"<sup>107</sup>

By the end of the 1942 national scrap metal drive, the Iowa-Illinois-Wisconsin-Indiana region emerged as the largest source of scrap metal with an average of 113.8 pounds per capita. Iowa collected 126,464 tons of scrap metal with Clay county topping the pounds per capita list with 363.6 pounds, Franklin second with 331.3 pounds, and Monona with 326.7 pounds. The top contributor by total weight, however, went to Scott County with 8,054 tons, 1,600 tons more than second place Polk County. For their effort in the scrap metal drive, Scott and the other counties which collected more than one hundred pounds per capita received victory pennants to fly from their courthouse flagpoles. For cannons donated from its courthouse lawn, Scott County received \$736.10 for the brass and \$105.30 "for scrap in other cannons."<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>106</sup> "Frivolity and Seriousness As Albia Men Sweep," *Chariton (Iowa) Herald-Patriot*, October 8, 1942, 1.

<sup>107</sup> "Albia Thanks," *Chariton (Iowa) Herald-Patriot*, October 8, 1942, 1.

<sup>108</sup> Due to government mandated price controls, communities did not get rich by selling scrap metal. Bruce Mathew, Mahaska county's salvage chairman, reported a top bid of \$11.00 per ton for the scrap pile in Oskaloosa. The town of Glenwood received \$49.50 for its cannon and in Muscatine, where the DUV preserved their Civil War era courthouse cannons, the American Legion post received \$38.50 for the WWI cannon and \$11.00 for two caissons it turned over to the scrap metal drive. Gladbrook received \$453.92 for its city park cannons and donated the funds to "the USO, Red Cross, Soldiers and Sailors Relief society, and to the American Legion." Winnebago county received \$144.90 for the brass cannon from the courthouse at Forest City and as promised by Roosevelt and LaGuardia, the elegant Spanish cannon, inscribed "Fundación de Artillería, Seville, 1869, N. 9981," was later replaced by a relic of the new war: a Sherman tank. See, "Midwest Region Leads in Scrap Metal Collected," *The Muscatine (Iowa)*

Due to the slow pace of the legislature, it was not until March of 1943 that the Iowa House of Representatives passed a resolution directing all cannons on the statehouse grounds turned over to the scrap metal drive. An article in the *Des Moines Tribune* stated “Ora Williams, curator of the state historical memorial and art department, said he now has no objection to such a move,” but by that time, the crisis had passed.<sup>109</sup>

Satisfied that the national drive had depleted civilian sources of scrap, the WPB turned to the industrial sector as the next source for salvage metal and communities and organizations that delayed the decision to scrap their monuments or sacrificed cannons in lieu of statues breathed a sigh of relief. As the war ended, state scrap chairman Plagman attempted to record the relics that were lost. Having kept no record during the drive, he sent a letter to each of the county scrap chairmen in July 1945, explaining that “as a matter of historical record there is now a great desire to compile a listing of those contributions, those from communities and organizations, as well as outstanding contributions from individuals.”<sup>110</sup> Despite Plagman’s early estimate of thirty-eight cannons, by the end of the scrap metal drive as many as 154 cannons disappeared from cemeteries, parks, and courthouse squares across the state (Appendix).<sup>111</sup>

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*Journal and News-Tribune*, December 3, 1942, 9.; “Iowa Doubles Scrap Quota,” *The Des Moines Register*, October 22, 1942, 6.; “Scott County to Get Victory Flag for Scrap Drive,” *The Daily Times* (Davenport, Iowa), November 9, 1942, 9.; “Additional Bus Service Sought By County Board,” *The Daily Times* (Davenport, Iowa), October 14, 1942, 20.; “Cedar Rapids Tin Can Drive,” *The Des Moines Register*, September 2, 1942, 16.; “Junction Legion Get \$49 From Sale of Cannon,” *The Davenport (Iowa) Democrat and Leader*, September 14, 1942, 12.; “Payment Made,” *The Muscatine (Iowa) Journal and News-Tribune*, September 12, 1942, 2.; “\$453 Is Paid Thus Far for Gladbrook Scrap,” *Waterloo (Iowa) Daily Courier*, November 8, 1942, 11.; “Historic North Iowa Guns - Start Journey to Battle Axis,” *Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette*, September 14, 1942, 1.

<sup>109</sup> “300 Proposed Bills, House Votes Funds Order,” *Des Moines Tribune*, March 15, 1943, 7.

<sup>110</sup> “Would List Relics Donated as Scrap,” *The Evening Journal* (Washington, Iowa), July 24, 1942, 1.

<sup>111</sup> Pressure for such a list may have come from Ora Williams, who’s initial delay and resistance most likely saved the impressive collection of cannon and statuary on the grounds of the state capitol in Des Moines. It may have been in preparation for an expected battle to save these monuments that the state curator discovered an amazing “oversight” - the 1896 Iowa Soldiers and Sailors Monument was never officially dedicated. To rectify the issue, Williams organized the dedication as part of the 71st annual GAR encampment in June 1945. The *Des Moines Tribune* reported that although seven Civil War veterans still lived in Iowa, only two were likely to attend. See, “Expect 2 G.A.R. Vets at Annual Meeting,” *Des Moines Tribune*, June 6, 1945, 7.; “Newspapers to Push Industrial Scrap Salvage,” *Waterloo (Iowa) Daily Courier*, October 19, 1942, 2.

## CHAPTER 4. CONCLUSION

Due to the relative political stability of the United States, monument removal is a rare phenomenon. Yet, in *Civil War Monuments and the Militarization of America*, Thomas J. Brown opens his research with perhaps the first example in colonial America when an angry mob inspired by the first reading of the Declaration of Independence in New York City marched to the Bowling Green and pulled down an equestrian statue of King George III. Brown considered the act an anti-militaristic “symbolic regicide” befitting a political revolution which established a Republic that favored commemoration in print over monuments of metal and stone.<sup>112</sup>

This iconoclastic Republic, Brown argued, lasted until the post-Civil War period when the need to honor the dead and veterans ignited a rash of Union and Confederate statue installation. These Civil War statues challenged the early Republic’s traditional rejection of a standing army and soldiering as a career, according to Brown, but by the centennial of the American Revolution in 1876, “Americans increasingly looked upon independence as primarily a military achievement rather than an inspirational political movement” and returned to more active representations of victory.<sup>113</sup> Ultimately, Brown claimed, Civil War commemoration primed the public’s acceptance of national militarism and replaced a republican ideal of the yeoman farmer and a voluntary army of citizen-soldiers as “democratic postwar creativity gradually gave way to more violent, hierarchical, self-aggrandizing representations of social and political order” in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.<sup>114</sup>

Yet Brown also related that the public rejected early common soldier statues posed with rifle raised as too aggressive and favored the more passive and reflective “parade rest” and “flag

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<sup>112</sup> Brown, *Civil War Monuments and the Militarization of America*, 1.

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*, 58.

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*, 7.

bearer” poses. Partially countering Brown’s argument, this thesis proposes that a significant contributor to the rise in militarism of the United States came not from passively posed common soldier statues, but from aggressive bellicose cannon-monuments installed in public spaces across the country at the turn of the twentieth century. Additionally, this difference contributed to the decision to donate the hawkish cannon-monuments and to preserve passive common soldier statues during the scrap metal drive of 1942.

As this research shows, the idea to scrap statues and monuments did not originate from overzealous local officials, but came directly from the War Production Board and President Roosevelt. Roosevelt’s urging left communities facing overwhelming pressure to donate their statues and monuments to the scrap metal drive. George Gallup’s poll suggested that the public agreed and that the majority of citizens were ready to “forget the Civil War and remember Pearl Harbor,” but in reality, citizens and organizations were not ready to reject “Cause Victorious” and forget those lost to the Civil War and its veterans.

To determine why authorities chose to preserve statues while they frequently donated cannon-monuments, public memory studies offers insight. For example, James Young’s research in Holocaust memory nuanced the difference between *memorials* which honor the dead and *monuments* with which we honor ourselves. Memorials to the Civil War dead in the form of common soldier statues, posed passively with gun lowered and eyes downcast, represented men who had made the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. These, many argued in 1942, should be sacrificed only as a last resort.

Conversely, Young argued, monuments “ma[d]e heroes and triumphs, victories and conquests, perpetually present and part of life.”<sup>115</sup> In their foundational public memory work

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<sup>115</sup> James E. Young, *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*, (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1993), 3.

*Places of Public Memory*, Carole Blair, Greg Dickinson, and Brian Ott explained that civic and business leaders across the nation clearly intended to instill national patriotism when they created monuments to “arguably construct shared identities...for particular audiences in particular situations.”<sup>116</sup> Young concurred and stressed the importance of monuments as the primary *techne*, or material support, for patriotic collective memory “as [a] foundation for a unified polis.”<sup>117</sup> At the turn of the twentieth century, those erecting cannon-monuments desired to unify an increasingly diverse population during an era of social and political uncertainty at the end of Reconstruction and with the rise of industrialization, consumerism, and mass immigration.

Using monuments to teach patriotism to diverse groups also relied heavily on the placement of these sites of public memory. John Gillis’ research revealed that in cities across the United States, mass immigration in this period spurred the installation of monuments “to intensify efforts at spreading patriotic messages” and stressed the selection of location “in the center of the city, where people would pass it every day and be reminded of ‘love of country’ and their duty to their ‘native land.’”<sup>118</sup> At the turn of the twentieth century, officials installed cannon-monuments in public spaces to create sites of shared collective memory celebrating the nation’s victory in the Spanish-American War and as covert symbols of international and domestic white supremacy.

Public response, however, was frequently less than reverent. (Figure 14) Tension between official messaging and evolving public response inherently made sites of public memory controversial, contestable, and fluid, because as sociologist Barry Schwartz argued,

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<sup>116</sup> Carole Blair, Greg Dickinson, and Brian Ott, *Places of Public Memory: The Rhetoric of Museums and Memorials* (Birmingham: University of Alabama Press, 2010), 28.

<sup>117</sup> James E. Young, *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*, (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1993), 3.

<sup>118</sup> John R. Gillis, *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018), 75-79.

“commemoration is intellectually compelling...when it symbolizes values whose past existence history documents [and] history is morally compelling when it documents events that can be credibly commemorated.”<sup>119</sup>



Figure 14. A group of fashionable young women pose with Boone's Spanish-American War cannon in the 1910s. The Boone Historical Society mislabeled the cannon as "a Civil War Cannon" in *A Pictorial History of Boone County, Iowa 1895-1960s*.

This may explain why citizens did not resist the removal of Spanish-American War cannon-monuments in 1942 and removing the cannons did not erase their history because their history had already been forgotten. The Spanish-American War's dubious origins, the controversy of acquiring a colonial empire, and the moral, fiscal, and racial costs of maintaining far-off territories led to the United States nearly disavowing its imperial status. Over time, the public appeared to forget its colonial empire and when the government asked for desperately needed scrap metal for war production, patriotic citizens willingly donated the cannon-monuments. As symbols of the United States' period of aggressive militarism and “empire envy,” cannons appeared to many as the relics of an embarrassing by-gone era.

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<sup>119</sup> Barry Schwartz, *Abraham Lincoln in the Post-Heroic Era: History and Memory in Late Twentieth-Century America* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2008), 6.

Officials redeployed patriotism to encourage the donation of cannons to the scrap metal drives in 1942. Echoing WPB supervisor W.A. Becker's observation that "it will soon be unpatriotic to have a cannon on display," newspaper editors argued that the cannon-monument had "outlived its usefulness" as a site of public memory and the time had come to "lay sentiment aside."<sup>120</sup> While preservationists resisted pressure to donate cannons, others criticized these groups as "calling themselves 'patriotic organizations,' but whose patriotism seemed defined by keeping something instead of giving something."<sup>121</sup>

For many Iowa communities with few sources of scrap metal, the choice to donate a cannon-monument appeared as a small loss compared to other sacrifices made by its citizens. If anyone expressed regret, the loss was personal as in the case of a citizen of Boone who watched as the mayor and other local dignitaries celebrated the removal of the City Park cannon. "It's almost like losing an old friend," the local newspaper quoted him as saying. "I remember, 31 years ago my wife sat on top of that old cannon while I slipped an engagement ring on her finger. But, I've already given a boy, so I suppose I shouldn't think about giving the cannon."<sup>122</sup>

When revolutionary patriots pulled down the statue of George III in 1776, the act not only provided a "symbolic regicide," but served a more practical purpose as well. Both public and private contemporaneous reports claimed that the resourceful "Yankees" sent the bulk of the statue to Litchfield, Connecticut, where the town's women molded the metal into 42,088 musket balls to be used to fight the Revolutionary War.<sup>123</sup> Likewise, newspapers during 1942 reminded the scrap drive army that both Confederates and Unionists melted church bells and sash weights

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<sup>120</sup> "Old Cannon Wanted," *Livermore (Iowa) Gazette*, September 3, 1942, 1.

<sup>121</sup> "Forget Civil War," *Des Moines Tribune*, September 6, 1942, 4.

<sup>122</sup> "Say 'Farewell' to Old City Park Cannon at Brief Program Here," *Boone (Iowa) News-Republican*, August 21, 1942, 2.

<sup>123</sup> Alexander J. Wall, *The Equestrian Statue of George III, and the Pedestrian Statue of William Pitt; Erected in the City of New York, 1770* (New York Historical Society, 1920), 50-2.

to provide material for desperately needed weapons of war. “Undoubtedly, many of them knew the bitter experience of a strategic position robbed of its power by lack of equipment or insufficient ammunition,” wrote one Iowa editor when Allied victory was not assured in 1942, and citizens responded.<sup>124</sup> Standing in public spaces as a reminder of their patriotic duty, citizens likewise sacrificed their cannon-monuments and taking their cue from the Prophet Isaiah, they pounded swords into swords.



Figure 15. A photograph from *The Des Moines Register* of Boone's Spanish cannon on public display before shipment to a smelting facility in August of 1942.

<sup>124</sup> Julian Harris, “South Would Scrap Relics,” *New York Times*, October 11, 1942, 10.; “Scrapping the Monuments,” *The Daily Times* (Davenport, Iowa), August 8, 1942, 3.; “A Better Monument,” *The Greene (Iowa) Recorder*, August 12, 1942, 2.

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**APPENDIX: A LIST OF CANNONS DONATED DURING THE SCRAP METAL  
DRIVES OF 1942**

Town	Civil War	Spanish-Am	WW I	Other	Unknown	Source	Notes
Adel	1		1			<i>The Dallas County News</i> , 10/14/42, 1; <i>The Des Moines Tribune</i> , 9/30/42, 13	From the Dallas County courthouse; "The gun owned by the American Legion at Riverside park will likewise be scrapped"
Algona	1				1	<i>The Algona Upper Des Moines</i> , 10/6/42, 1	From Kossuth County courthouse and Riverview cemetery, removed during community scrap parade
Allison		2				<i>Globe-Gazette</i> (Mason City), 8/20/42, 15	From Butler County courthouse, installed in 1902
Anita	1					<i>The Atlantic News Telegraph</i> , 10/7/42, 8	From "Concert park on Main Street"
Anamosa			5			<i>The Manchester Democrat-Radio</i> , 9/15/42, 6	From Wapsipinicon State Park
Ames	2			2		<i>Quad-City Times</i> (Davenport), 9/22/42, 15	ISC military dept; three army field guns, a brass "Napoleon" cannon, and all ammunition
Atlantic			2			<i>Atlantic News-Telegraph</i> , 8/29/42, 1	Two "big siege guns" from city park, most likely those that stood with the soldier's monument
Audubon					2	<i>Atlantic News-Telegraph</i> , 8/31/42, 6	"A pair of large cannons which have stood in the city park for 30 years are to go in the nation's scrap pile"
Belle Plaine			1			<i>The Belle Plaine Union</i> , 10/8/42, 1	From city park
Boone		1				<i>Des Moines Tribune</i> , 8/25/42, 14	Spanish cannon installed in 1900
Brighton					1	<i>Brighton Enterprise</i> , 11/22/42, 1	"The cemetery cannon, whose barrel weighed 816 pounds..."
Burlington	2					<i>Des Moines Tribune</i> , 9/17/42, 27	Two civil war cannons from Crapo Park, originally installed in 1896
Carroll					2	<i>Daily Times Herald</i> (Carroll), 10/12/42, 1	Cannon and cannon balls
Cedar Falls			1			<i>The Courier</i> (Waterloo), 9/17/42. 12	From Overman park, used during community scrap parade
Cedar Rapids		2	2			<i>The Gazette</i> (Cedar Rapids), 9/29/42 & 11/19/42	Greene Square cannon procured from US Navy and installed in 1901
Centerville			1			<i>Centerville Daily Iowegian</i> , 9/23/42, 1	From Appanoose County courthouse
Chariton	2		2			<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 9/6/42, 11	From Lucas County courthouse installed in 1914 and two WWI guns from East Park
Cherokee			1			<i>The Cherokee Daily Times</i> , 10/15/42, 1	German gun from the grounds of the Cherokee State Hospital
Clear Lake	1					<i>Globe-Gazette</i> (Mason City), 10/20/42, 10	DUV voted in favor of donating the cannon from City Park
Clermont	3					<i>The Oelwein Daily Register</i> , 9/29/42, 3	"Three cannons, one mortar and a number of cannon balls were received. These old Civil War weapons were taken from the Lincoln park here."
Columbus Junction			1			<i>The Muscatine Journal and News-Tribune</i> , 9/11/42, 9	And two caissons; received \$49.50; rubber tires removed first
Cresco	1	1				<i>The Howard County Times</i> , 12/29/42, 3	Spanish-American cannon from Howard County courthouse; Civil War era cannon brought to Cresco in 1871 from Rock Island Arsenal
Davenport	2		1			<i>The Daily Times</i> (Davenport), 10/9/42, 10	Battle by SUV over CW cannons; \$736.10 for brass cannons and \$105.30 "scrap in other cannons" rec'd; Scott Co wins pennant for exceeding scrap collection goal
Decorah			1			<i>The Decorah Journal</i> , 10/22/42, 1	"This cannon and caisson were placed on the [Winneshiek County] Court House grounds many years ago in memory of the boys who had served in World War I"

Des Moines		1	12		2	<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 9/9/42, 6; <i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 10/8/42, 13	Spanish gun captured in Manilla Bay; 13 German guns from Camp Dodge
Dewitt	1					<i>Quad-City Times</i> (Davenport), 10/4/42, 19	Photo caption: "An old civil war cannon, which had been used as a monument in the city park at DeWitt..."
Dow City					1	<i>The Denison Review</i> , 9/3/42, 1	Installed by GAR in the city cemetery in 1900
Durant			1			<i>Quad-City Times</i> (Davenport), 10/4/42, 19	
Eddyville					1	<i>The Eddyville Tribune</i> , 9/10/42, 1	From the Highland cemetery
Eldora	2	1			1	<i>The Courier</i> (Waterloo), 9/6/42, 20; <i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 10/19/42, 4	Two from Hardin County courthouse grounds; two from Eldora Training School
Elkader			2			<i>Postville Herald</i> , 9/23/42, 2	From Clayton County courthouse
Elma					1	<i>The Elma New Era</i> , 10/22/42, 1	"The cannon and mine at the Elba park were added to the [scrap] collection...."
Emmetsburg	1					<i>Sioux City Journal</i> , 10/16/42, 9	"A Civil War cannon which stood on the [Palo Alto County] courthouse for 50 years [was] contributed...."
Estherville				4		<i>Estherville Daily News</i> , 9/10/42, 1	DAR voted to donate "four cannons from the park," cannons were from the USS Indiana and given to the city in 1911
Fairfield			1			<i>Des Moines Tribune</i> , 7/8/42, 11	WWI cannon installed in Howard Park in 1935 by the American Legion
Fayette	1					<i>Fayette County Leader</i> , 3/25/42, 1	Cannon and cannonballs from Grandview cemetery
Forest City		1				<i>Globe-Gazette</i> (Mason City), 9/14/42, 1	From Winnebago County courthouse, inscribed "Fundación de Seville 1869 N.9981"; \$144.90 rec'd
Garnavillo	1					<i>The Guttenberg Press</i> , 10/29/42, 6	"The cannon, which has been a traditional fixture of the park. This cannon will now be more than a symbol of past historical events, it will be making history again!"
Gladbrook					2	<i>The Courier</i> (Waterloo), 11/8/42, 11	Proceeds donated to USO, Red Cross, Soldiers and Sailors Relief society and American Legion
Glenwood	1	1				<i>The Malvern Leader</i> , 8/20/42, 1	Civil War cannon dubbed the "Dahlgren" cannon, Spanish-American War "Nordenfeldt" cannon. Both from the State School campus.
Grinnell			1			<i>The Des Moines Tribune</i> , 10/13/42, 13	Contributed by the American Legion
Guttenberg			1			<i>The Guttenberg Press</i> , 9/10/42, 1	"The cannon, which for a number of years had stood on the platform in the park..."
Hedrick		1				<i>The Hedrick Journal</i> , 8/26/42, 1	"30 pound Parrott gun" from Memorial park, installed in 1901
Ida Grove			1			<i>Ida Grove Pioneer Record</i> , 10/15/42, 1	French 75mm gun, dated 1917, "mounted in the park on Court Street, in front of the [Ida County] court house..."
Indianola	4					<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 9/20/42, 12; <i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 10/16/42, 5	Two from Warren County courthouse; two from Simpson College
Iowa City					2	<i>Iowa City Press-Citizen</i> , 8/26/42, 2	From Johnson County courthouse
Iowa Falls					2	<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 8/9/42, 17	"Two old cannon in the Iowa Falls [Estes] city park. We want to hang a sign on their pedestals stating 'I've gone to help lick the Japs'"
Jefferson	1					<i>The Jefferson Herald</i> , 10/22/42, p. 1	Cannon inscribed "Boat Howitzer 1863"
Kalona					1	<i>The Kalona News</i> , 8/20/42, 1	"The old cannon which has stood in the city park near the American Legion..."
Keota	1		1			<i>Quad-City Times</i> , 12/2/42, 13	Civil War relic dubbed "General Parrott"; American Legion donated a WWI cannon
Knoxville	1					<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 10/6/42, 11	From the Marion County Courthouse
Laurens		1				<i>Estherville Daily News</i> , 9/10/42, 1	7.5 ton cannon "used in the Spanish-American War"
Lewis					1	<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 8/27/42, 10	"A great howitzer from the city park"
Manchester			2			<i>The Manchester Press</i> , 10/8/42, 1	From the Delaware County courthouse lawn; article suggests two cannons in Backbone State Park will also be scrapped

Marshalltown				5	<i>Marshalltown Times-Republican</i> , 11/17/42, 8	Five from Marshall County courthouse grounds
Mason City		2		1	<i>Globe-Gazette</i> (Mason City), 9/12/42, 4	Two in central park, one from Cerro Gordo County courthouse lawn
McGregor		1			<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 10/7/42, 4	WWI cannon "brought to McGregor in 1934"
Monticello	1	1			<i>Postville Herald</i> , 11/4/42, 6; <i>The Monticello Express</i> 9/17/42, 1	Civil War cannon sold by Mark H. Morse, 101 year old veteran
Moravia		1			<i>Moravia Union</i> , 9/24/42, 1	WWI gun from NW corner of town square
Mount Ayr		1			<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 10/8/42, 13	
Muscatine				2	<i>The Muscatine Journal</i> , 9/17/42, 13	"Two large cannons which have adorned the [American] Legion grounds..."
Nashua		1			<i>The Nashua Reporter</i> , 10/21/42, 1	From Nashua City-River Park
Nevada		1			<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 10/7/42, 4	"The cannon from the previous war was moved from the Story county courthouse yard to the scrap heap."
New Hampton				2	<i>The Nashua Reporter</i> , 10/21/42, 1	Two from the Chickasaw County courthouse
Oakdale		1			<i>Iowa City Press-Citizen</i> , 8/15/42, 2	From the Oakdale sanitorium lawn
Oelwein				2	<i>The Oelwein Daily Register</i> , 4/20/43, 5	One from City Park and one from Rock Island Park
Osage		1	1		<i>Globe-Gazette</i> (Mason City), 9/14/42, 1; <i>Des Moines Register</i> , 8/21/42, 16	Two Parrott rifles left in cemetery and are fired on Memorial Day
Oskaloosa	2			2	<i>Des Moines Tribune</i> , 8/25/42, 7	Two from Mahaska County courthouse, two from local national guard armory, one Parrott cannon remains in cemetery
Ottumwa		2			<i>Des Moines Register</i> , 8/23/42, 55	One from American Legion and the other from Memorial Lawn cemetery
Pella	2				<a href="http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com/cgi-bin/gaarddetails.pl?1210270875-1">http://www.iowacivilwarmonuments.com/cgi-bin/gaarddetails.pl?1210270875-1</a>	From the GAR monument on the SE corner of Pella's town square
Postville				2	<i>Postville Herald</i> , 10/14/42, 1	From Smith Athletic Field entrance
Primghar	2	1			<i>The O'Brien County Bell</i> , 9/16/42, 1	Photograph, American Legion parade float
Seymour				2	<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 10/19/42, 4	"From the city park at Seymour"
Shenandoah	1				<i>Globe-Gazette</i> (Mason City), 10/9/42, 1	Armory cannon disappeared overnight; sign "if we win this war we'll give you another one and if we don't what the hell difference will it make. After all, it isn't doing any good here."
Sioux City		4		1	<i>Sioux City Journal</i> , 9/30/42, 2	"One of several" captured during WW I; also, <i>Sioux City Journal</i> , 5/13/42, 9 refers to the sale of a cannon from Central High School
Spencer	1				<i>The Cherokee Daily Times</i> , 10/10/42, 1	"The old cannon on the [Clay County] courthouse lawn, relic of the Civil War, has been scrapped to help defeat the axis."
Strawberry Point				1	<i>Press-Journal</i> (Strawberry Point), 9/3/2003, 12	"A cannon sat on a cement foundation at the corner of City Park in Friendly Village. This was sold for scrap during World War II."
Tipton		2			<i>Quad-City Times</i> , 9/10/42, 13	From the Cedar County courthouse square
Washington	1	1			<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 11/28/43, 26; <i>The Evening Journal</i> , 9/10/42, 1	Brass cannon from Civil War; WWI cannon from city hall grounds
Waukon				1	<i>The Des Moines Register</i> , 10/7/42, 4	From Allamakee County courthouse grounds
Waverly		2			<i>The Waverly Democrat</i> , 9/4/42, 8	Two from the Bremer County courthouse grounds
West Mitchell	1				<i>Globe-Gazette</i> (Mason City), 9/19/42, 14	Spanish cannon was inscribed with crown insignia and dated 1798,
West Union	1	1			<i>The Courier</i> (Waterloo), 9/23/42, 8	From Fayette County courthouse, "many in West Union will regret their loss, but no protest is made."
	39	12	57	6	40	Total: 154

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