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Commentary

Charles Phillips

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an abundance of it elsewhere. It is likely that the land is as good as any in the world, and one is able to buy it cheaply, that is, for from \$10 to \$35 an acre according to the value of the labor that has been put into it."

There is enough *water power* in the Upper Iowa River; there is valuable wood along its banks and in other places, and much very fruitful *rolling prairie* around there for miles. One hears of the possibility of another railroad from Davenport, Iowa, past Greuger, etc. to

St. Paul, Minnesota. That will be also an advantage to the Welsh settlers here. It is likely that scores if not hundreds of Welsh families will come to live there in the future. They will be able to make good homes for themselves and their children in Howard and in the other nearby counties. The winter is fairly long and cold compared to the conditions in the southern part of Iowa.

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COMMENTARY

Sharp-eyed readers will notice a change on the title page of *The Palimpsest*. After five years of editing this magazine, I have resigned to take on a different set of professional responsibilities, and a new name appears as editor with this issue. Charles Phillips is a writer and man of letters with degrees from The University of Iowa and Syracuse University in New York. He is experienced; he previously worked on the magazine of LeMoyne College in New York, on the staff of *Congressional Quarterly* in Washington, D.C., and was editor of *The Maelstrom*, a literary magazine published by Syracuse University. For the last year and a half he has been the editorial assistant at the State Historical Society and as such worked with many authors and on many lay-outs for the *Pal*. Deciding to leave Iowa and *The Palimpsest* was hard, but turning the magazine over to Charlie is an occasion for joy--he will give you a superb publication.

Before writing my final words as editor, I must thank the many people who have made the last five years such an important part of my life. The authors, from many walks of life and with many talents, have been a fascinating group. The readers--insofar as I have received your comments--have been stimulating and appreciative. My colleagues at the Historical Society have been ever helpful, and to many of them, especially Tim Hyde, Claudia Majetich, and Rob Bower, I have become deeply indebted. Most of all, my thanks to Peter Harstad who directed the Society and its publications through good times and bad with nearly unfailing grace and intelligence. My debt and Iowa's debt to all of these people is large.

And so, goodbye.

L. Edward Purcell

CONTRIBUTORS

ARDITH KULL MELLOH, a great granddaughter of the Swedish immigrant John Z. Sandall, was born in Nebraska. After receiving her library degree from the University of Minnesota she worked in the Reference Department of the University of Minnesota Library and later in public and school libraries in Illinois, California, Texas, New Mexico, and Iowa.

PHILLIPS G. DAVIES, Professor of English at Iowa State University since 1954, was educated at Marquette University and North Western University. He has published several articles on British literature. Other sections of his translation of *Hanes Cymry America* have appeared or are scheduled to appear in various historical journals.

MILDRED F. BERRY, was born in Pomeroy, Iowa. She received her A.B. and M.A. from the University of Iowa and her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. She has taught Speech and lectured on Speech Pathology at a large number of universities both here and abroad, published widely in professional journals, and conducted workshops and seminars all over the world on oral language and linguistic disorders.

JAMES W. WHITAKER, author of *Feedlot Empire: Beef Cattle Feeding in Illinois and Iowa, 1840-1900* (Iowa State University Press, 1975), is Associate Professor of History at Iowa State University. A native of Illinois, Professor Whitaker received his B.A. from Oberlin College and his M.S. and Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin — Madison.

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