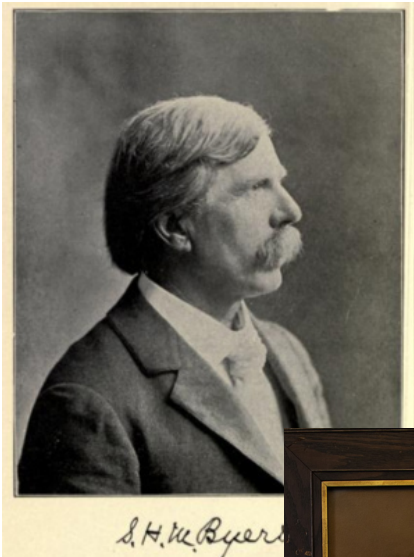


Byers Room

Donated artifacts to the Des Moines Women's Club in 1912
Major Samuel Hawkins Marshall (S.H.M) and Margaret Byers



S.H.M. Byers lived in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He had no heirs. Both of his children passed away before he did. His daughter, Helen, when she was only 8 years old and his son Lawrence when he was 37.

Major Byers knew of Hoyt Sherman Place since he served in the Civil War under Hoyt's brother General William T. Sherman.

Byers decided to leave his large collection of art, furniture and artifacts to the Des Moines Women's Club as long as they created a room named after him to display the collection.

While serving in the Union Army during the Civil War he was captured and held in captivity. He escaped ___(3) times! During that time he wrote the poem _____ (Sherman's March to the Sea). The poem was made into a song by the army soldiers and sung to raise morale during the difficult war.

After his release from captivity Byers became the personal messenger between General _____ (Sherman), General _____ (Grant) and President _____ (Lincoln) .

From November 15 until December 21, 1864, Union General William T. Sherman led some 60,000 soldiers on a 285-mile march from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia.

Byers and General Sherman remained friends the rest of their lives. We know this because they continued to share letters during that time.

After the war Byers became United States Consul-General to _____. (Switzerland and Italy) He lived in Europe for 20 years and that is where he did much of his collecting of artifacts.

When he returned from Europe he built a home near Terrace Hill called St. Helen's named after his daughter. He eventually moved out to Los Angeles, CA and wrote poems for a local news paper before passing away in 1933.

Note: Byers also wrote The Song of Iowa which is the official song of state.

