

Library Notes

Some people drop in to look at the *General* and discover the Library. We don't mind that. We're rather proud of the *General* ourselves.

The *General*, in case you haven't met him, is Grenville M. Dodge, engineer, soldier, extender of horizon!s His portrait on our west wall is an overwhelming 10 x 12 feet in size. Librarians, anxious for new shelving space, have been known to complain about the room he takes. In damp weather his canvas droops untidily, but when small boys come in to look at the great one in awed wonder, we know the *General* is here to stay.

Look around you, once you are in the room. This is your Library. Quiet gray carpeting, reading tables long enough for an old-time threshing crew, and books, books, books! Against the north wall there are English parish records, Iowa cemetery listings, reports of American religious bodies. Face east and you see shelves of Iowa county histories. Recall, if you will, that there was once a northwestern Iowa county called *Yell* after a military hero. The very thought is nostalgic.

Beyond are vital records from New Hampshire to the Carolinas. Next, Revolutionary muster rolls and volumes of lineage books from the patriotic societies. In the stacks, the librarians' domain, there are around 5,000 family histories, genealogical compilations, a fascinating Indian collection, a Civil War section, county histories from Maine to Missouri.

For those who favor numbers and percentiles, we might add that there are more than 50,000 books in the Iowa Historical and Genealogical Library. Since January of this year we have added 505 books and pamphlets to our roster. The growing interest in family history brings ever larger numbers to our reading room. The first eight months of 1963 show a 52 percent increase over last year in patron attendance. Correspondence for the same period, most of it involving research in the historical or genealogical field, has increased by 700. This is almost double the 1962 period.

This is a special invitation to you. Come in and see the *General* and get acquainted with the Library.

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