

Library Notes

Perhaps you did not know but *First Floor West* has been out of room for many years. There are books topping eight stacks. No shelving is presently available for incoming acquisitions or bound magazines waiting to be accessioned. New arrivals in history and genealogy are greeted with both satisfaction and dismay. *Where do we put them?*

Now we may report that the Newspaper Department has come to our rescue. The microfilming program for Iowa newspapers has produced a sizable cranny for some of the overflow of the Library. The Iowa Author collection is being culled and publications unlikely to be needed by students and scholars are being moved. Downstairs shelves are inheriting poetic effusions on the battle of Pea Ridge, yellowing pamphlets, duplicate volumes already in the general collection. Nested among them are treasures, of course. Who can blame us if we linger a little over a scrap book of Des Moines musical programs or AMERICAN COURT GOSSIP by Iowa's Mrs. Edwin N. Chapin, the former Nettie Sanford of early county histories fame.

Historians will relish reading that early expose of the Washington scene by the Dorothy Kilgallen of the old *Iowa State Register*. Senator Samuel Kirkwood, Civil War governor, appears with his "honest, forcible, homely face." You learn that "Washington people are believers in haunted houses;" Rose Elizabeth Cleveland, sister of President Grover Cleveland and writer of note, is upstaged by *Society* for "wearing short hair." At the Cleveland's first New Year's Day reception Mrs. Holmes (Representative Adoniram Judson Holmes, Boone, Iowa) "wore a heavy lustreless silk with jet front and heavy passamenterie panels, with elegant pearl bracelets" appearing "above the glove worn on her shapely hands." Southern Democrats were in power again and freedmen were refused the ballot box . . .

First Floor West will be able to stretch out a little now. Remember that when you discover you must find a home for a volume of choice Americana or the family history great-uncle Tobias compiled in 1903. Ask us. We might be able to make a helpful suggestion.

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