

Library Notes

The Manuscript Division of the Iowa Department of History and Archives has become the depository for thousands of original documents beginning at present, with those of *Abbe, Cleveland*—U. S. Signal Corps and concluding with a certain *Zook, Samuel N.*, Maj. Gen. U.S.A. In the main, these papers are housed in four storage vaults on the three floors of the Historical Building. Dodge and Allison materials, frequently used by visiting scholars, have been placed in locked storage cupboards where they are more readily accessible to staff.

For the first time in decades the Manuscript Division is under the supervision of the Historical Library. It has been a year of discovery for the still-new staff. We recall with satisfaction the finding of an 1838 census for Van Buren County which will be of value not only to the history buff but to the patron seeking an elusive ancestor who stopped in eastern Iowa before he drifted on to Kansas or the gold fields.

Among significant acquisitions this annum have been the papers of Iowa's famous Fifty-First Volunteer Infantry in the Spanish War. Ask southwest Iowa about the gallant Fifty-First. We secured maps, pictures and reports on the Red Rock Reservoir area from the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Irreplaceable pictures and scrap books, along with the privilege of microfilming convention proceedings, came to us from the 13th (Iowa) District of the United Mine Workers Union. Always there are the welcome, unsolicited contributions that help fill gaps in our historical knowledge.

What about these unsolicited contributions? All depositories have to depend on history-minded individuals to help conserve valuable documents. A family often saves journals, letters, diaries for three generations and then, suddenly, a tidy housewife decides they have been around long enough. The trash burner gains; some historical depository loses.

We're quiet people really, but we remember being one day too late to save a trunkful of Civil War journals. Please don't mind if we shout, rather loudly: "Stop! Don't burn that heirloom document. Remember the State Historical Library."

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