

correctly to delineate the origin and growth of the States. As an historical text-book in schools and colleges, it will be invaluable and indispensable—a work which will at once be unique in scope and character. When it is completed and published it will become one of those standard authorities which it is scarcely possible to set aside or supersede. The work has already been copyrighted under the title of “Historical Geographical Atlas of the United States of America, etc.”

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## THE HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT IN LEGISLATION.

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It is deemed a matter of public interest, as well as of convenient reference, to present in these pages all enactments which refer to the Historical Department of Iowa. The first provision relating to anything now contained in this Department occurs in section 20 of the general appropriation bill of 1888, and reads as follows:

SECTION 20. For a contingent fund to be used by the Executive Council in liquidating such expenses as may arise from the acceptance by said Council of valuable gifts to the State, in the domain of literature, science and art, for exhibition in the Capitol, the sum of \$1,000 for the biennial period, being \$500 per annum.

We print the law of 1890 in full:

### HISTORICAL RECORDS.

AN ACT providing for the collection and preservation of historic records and other valuable material pertaining to the history of Iowa and making an appropriation therefor.

Whereas, The Aldrich Collection of autograph letters, manuscripts and portraits, now in the State Library, is of great value to the State, and it is important that it shall be increased—

And Whereas, The time, labor and money, necessary to this work are more than any individual can afford to give without compensation—

And Whereas, Also, it is believed that many valuable documents, relating to the earlier days of our territory and state have been destroyed, mislaid or misplaced, or are in danger of destruction or loss—Now therefore—

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. That there be and is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of three thousand dollars, to be expended under the direction of the trustees of the State Library, for the accomplishment of the work of adding to said Aldrich Collection, and that of searching:

for, restoring and safely preserving the papers and documents aforesaid. Said trustees of the Iowa State Library shall solicit contributions to said collection, receive and properly acknowledge the receipt of the same, and they shall have the power to appoint and employ all persons necessary for the work aforesaid, to fix their compensation, and do all other things necessary to the accomplishment of the purposes of this act. All accounts and expenditures under this act shall be audited by the Executive Council and warrants therefor drawn by the Auditor of State: Provided, that not to exceed one-half the sum hereby appropriated shall be drawn during the year 1890; and that in no event shall there be more expended under this act, for the year 1890 and 1891 than the said sum of three thousand dollars.

Approved April 10, 1890.

The organization of the Historical Department was finally provided for by Chapter 56, Laws of the 24th General Assembly. It is presented entire:

#### TO PROMOTE A HISTORICAL COLLECTION.

AN ACT to promote historical collections in the Capitol of the State.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

SECTION 1. That the three southeast rooms in the basement story of the Capitol building be and they are hereby set apart for the purpose of containing the historical collections specified in this act.

SEC. 2. The trustees of the Iowa state library are hereby authorized and directed to appoint one person to be designated and known as curator of historical collections, who shall hold his office for six years and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, whose duty it shall be, under and by the direction and authority of said board of trustees, to collect and arrange books, maps, charts, public documents, manuscripts and other papers and materials, illustrative of the history of Iowa in particular and of the west generally; to procure from early pioneer settlers narratives of their experiences, exploits, perils and adventures; to procure facts and statements relative to the history, progress and decay of the Indian tribes, so as to exhibit faithfully and as far as practicable, the antiquities of the past; to procure books relating to the history and natural history of this state and of the central region of the continent of which it forms a part; to subscribe for and preserve files of at least two papers in each county of this state containing the official publications, and cause the same to be bound at the end of every four years; to thoroughly catalogue all such collections for convenient reference, and biennially to prepare for publication a report of all collections made under authority of this act.

SEC. 3. It shall further be the duty of the curator, with the approval of the said trustees, to collect memorials and mementos of the pioneers of Iowa and the soldiers of all our wars, including portraits, specimens of arms, clothing, army letters, commissions of officers, and other military papers and documents.

SEC. 4. It shall also be the duty of the said curator to receive and arrange in cases to be provided for that purpose, objects illustrative of the ethnology and prehistoric archaeology of this and surrounding states. All duplicate specimens to be

divided as equally as possible between the Iowa State University, Iowa Agricultural College and State Normal School.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the custodian of the Capitol building to proceed, under the direction of the trustees of the state library, to prepare and furnish the rooms named in section one, for the purpose herein set forth, and then to remove to said rooms the cases and materials known as the "Aldrich Collection" which, together with such additions as may be made to it, shall thenceforth form a part of the collections herein contemplated.

SEC. 6. It shall be the duty of said curator to keep said rooms, with the collections herein specified, open to the free inspection of the people during such hours every day—excepting legal holidays and Sundays—as the trustees of the state library may order and direct, provided nothing in this act shall be so construed as to exclude visitors to said rooms on Sunday afternoons during the sessions of the Legislature.

SEC. 7. That for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, there be and is hereby appropriated from any funds in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars annually for the present biennial period and thereafter annually the sum of six thousand dollars, out of which annual appropriations shall be paid all of the expenditures contemplated by section eight hereof. All accounts shall be audited by the executive council after being approved by the trustees of the state library.

SEC. 8. The curator shall be paid the annual salary of twelve hundred dollars and allowed such assistance, postage, stationery and incidental expenses as the trustees may authorize and approve, as provided in the preceding section.

Approved April 8, 1892.

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### CERTAIN HISTORICAL ACQUISITIONS.

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More interesting probably than any other item yet acquired by the Historical Department of Iowa is the bound volume of *The Dubuque Visitor*, the first newspaper ever printed in the State. It is an old, dilapidated affair, but as *the first Iowa newspaper*, it will always possess a deep interest, justifying the long and earnest effort to obtain it. *The Visitor* was started on the 11th day of May, 1836, by John King. He was a very good editor and made a most readable paper for that day and generation. Every number contains articles and items which throw much light upon the history of our early settlements. This old book cost the "long price" of \$100, though when it passed into the ownership of the State it was "redeemed" from "a business place" where it had been left as "security"

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