

## Library Notes

"Grandma declares her folks came with Boone to help settle Kentucky. How can I be sure?" And, "Everyone knows our family is related to George Rogers Clark, but who can prove it?" These and similar queries are asked so frequently, that the staff of the Iowa Historical and Genealogical Library felt there was a definite need for a study program in the area of family history search. The result was an experiment called "Your Family Tree: A Workshop in Genealogy."

With the cooperation of the Des Moines Adult Education department the Library set up a schedule of twelve classes for the novice in genealogical research. More than 80 persons from Des Moines and five neighboring communities were enrolled for the exploratory lectures and nine workshop sessions.

Three orientation periods set the program in motion. Dr. George E. McCracken, Drake University professor, introduced "Techniques of Genealogical Research." This was followed by a session on "Iowa Records—Where to Find Them" with a member of the Library staff. For persons interested in the patriotic societies, there was a panel presentation of the work of these organizations, moderated by Mrs. Joseph Haney, Jean Marie Cardinal Chapter of the D.A.R.

The number of enrollees requesting a place in the Library workshop was so large the group was divided into sections, each meeting for three successive weeks. The opening period of the sessions was spent acquainting students with the resources of the Library and in analysis and recommendations for every family search. With Library staff and experienced advisers, there was sufficient personnel to provide any individual assistance needed.

A Library survey of the workshop program has not been completed, but preliminary evaluation indicates that most participants have (1) made definite progress in their discovery of family antecedents and (2) have reached the stage where they can proceed in their search without constant guidance.

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