

the restoration of the land surface. Had the Historical Department authority to receive gifts of realty, as it has of personalty, it would be a ready and efficient servant in acquiring and holding for the use of present and future students rights and titles to fields of prehistoric interest. It could then more efficiently perform the duty of retrieving objects that are going from our State to enrich the collections of other States, and information that is disappearing with the first occupants of lands where mounds are situated. It could better assist both owner and explorer in making the most of their respective opportunities with the least of loss and waste.

SOLICITING CONTRIBUTIONS.

A most effective step towards acquiring materials for our collections was that taken by Charles Aldrich when he mailed to patriotic men and women of Iowa the circular given below. The situation today is essentially the same as it was when the circular was issued sixteen years ago, except that acquisitions are now deposited in the fire-proof building of the Historical Department.

HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA.

CHARLES ALDRICH, *Curator*.

Des Moines,.....1894.

This Department was established by act of the Legislature of 1892 for the promotion of historical collections pertaining to Iowa and the territory from which our State was set apart.

The Historical Rooms are in the basement story of the State House, are fire proof, and will be a safe depository for valuable books, files of newspapers, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, charts, portraits and articles of value, illustrative of the history and progress of our State and its people.

Here it is desired to collect:

1st. A copy of all documents, papers or pamphlets, letters or manuscripts relating to early settlements in any part of Iowa; to the laying out of towns or cities, establishment of counties, changes of boundaries, establishment of or removal of county seats, with *exact dates* in all cases, if practicable.

2d. Well authenticated facts relating to the naming of any of the lakes, rivers, counties, cities and chief towns of Iowa, stating the origin, signification, and authors of such names; the dates, and any other interesting circumstances connected therewith.

3d. Personal narratives; the biographies of men or women who were among the early settlers in any part of Iowa, giving details of all facts of public interest; incidents of pioneer life, narratives of privations, sufferings, recollections of the various steps of progress in settlement, development and improvements, disasters, crimes, intercourse with Indians, appearance of the country when first seen, the wild animals, birds and reptiles found in early days.

4th. Copies of old Iowa newspapers, files of such papers up to the close of the War of the Rebellion; letters written by soldiers during the war; incidents connected with the organization of Iowa regiments, battalions, companies, of mustering into the service, leaving the state for the seat of war, camp, hospital, marching and battle incidents; life in southern prisons, sufferings, escapes and deaths of comrades. Lists of all known to have been in southern prisons.

5th. Every fact worthy of preservation relating to the various political party organizations from the earliest dates; doings of state political conventions, incidents of noted political campaigns and candidates.

6th. The name, date of establishment and brief history of all Academies, Seminaries, Colleges and Universities in Iowa. Names of founders, and of principals or presidents and dates of term of service, *catalogues and other publications.*

7th. The names of all newspapers and periodicals ever published in your county, together with the date of their establishment, name of editor and proprietor, and the various changes of name and paper and other facts of interest relating thereto.

8th. Brief history of organization of agricultural and other industrial societies, county or state, names of their projectors, plan of work, etc. The date of entry of first railroad in your county, name of the company building it, and number of roads and miles of railroad since built.

9th. Photographs or other portraits, and short sketches of the life of any notable man or woman who has ever been a prominent citizen of your town or county, and especially those who have served in the army in any way.

10th. Letters, diaries, commissions of officers, newspaper articles in war times, histories of companies and regiments, arms or equipments used in any of the wars, battle-flags, etc. -

11th. Heretofore Iowa has been a free foraging ground for collectors of prehistoric stone and bronze implements for other states

and countries. Neither the State nor any of our institutions possesses a collection of these implements worthy of the name. We are most anxious to gather in such as may still be left. We shall be glad to receive single specimens, or information as to where any may be had. Full and permanent credit will be given for all donations or other aid in this direction. Send to the State Historical Department the stone axes, hatchets, mauls, pestles, arrow and spear heads, and do not allow them to be wasted by scattering them elsewhere.

12th. Official State documents previous to 1860 have become very scarce, and we shall be glad to have any of them to complete our files.

13th. IN SHORT we want all circulars, pamphlets, political speeches, lectures, sermons, books or manuscripts, referring to Iowa or the West, or prepared by Iowa men or women on any subject at any time or place.

14th. We want a copy of all city ordinances, proceedings of public meetings, reports of boards of trade, plats and maps of Iowa towns and cities, photographs or engravings of public buildings of Iowa or western historic places, and drawings, paintings or portraits relating in any way to Iowa or to Iowa people.

15th. We want especially any arms, household implements, or ornaments in use among any of the Indian tribes which have at any time inhabited Iowa; also recollections of the Iowa Indians by any of the pioneer white settlers. Any thing relating to this rapidly disappearing race will possess deep interest to future generations.

Where owners of rare documents or valuable relics do not wish to dispose of them, they may be willing to deposit them in our fire-proof rooms where they will be secure from loss or destruction and carefully preserved, with the name of the owner attached, subject to withdrawal at any time.

Citizens of Iowa: Will you not take a State pride in helping to build up a great Historical Department at the Capital, by loaning or contributing such treasures as may come into your possession illustrative of the past history, the progress of civilization, and the natural resources of our State and its people.

Address letters or contributions to the HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA, at Des Moines.

When you are in Des Moines come to the State Historical Rooms.

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