

## *Iowa People and Events . . .*

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### Open Iowa Civil War Centennial

Ceremonies marking the opening of the Iowa Civil War centennial will be held at the state capitol March 30. All Iowans interested in the commemoration of Iowa's part in this historic event are invited to attend the day-long program planned by the Iowa Civil War Commission. Senator Joseph B. Flatt of Winterset is chairman of the commission.

Governor Erbe will officially begin the Civil War centennial in Iowa before a joint session of the 59th General Assembly at 11 A.M. An honored guest will be Major General U.S. Grant III, (Ret.), chairman of the national Civil War Centennial Commission in Washington, D.C., who will speak on "The War Was Won in the West."

Members of county committees and guests will be welcomed at a noon luncheon at Hotel Savery at 12:30 P.M. Iowa Congressman Fred Schwengel, member of the national Civil War Centennial Commission, is the featured speaker, and General Grant and Mr. Karl S. Betts, executive director of the national commission, will be presented. Following the luncheon, Mr. Betts will preside at an informal panel discussion concerning centennial activities and objectives for the benefit of county and community organizations.

Regional meetings of county and local centennial groups are being held throughout Iowa under the direction of Mrs. Edith McElroy, executive secretary of the state Civil War Centennial Commission. These meetings have been well attended. Qualified speakers and members of city and county committees discuss suggestions and plans for centennial programs. Meetings have been held at Cherokee, Fayette, Mount Pleasant and Dubuque. Others are being organized in Red Oak, Cedar Rapids and Pella.

Centennial organizations in northwest Iowa meet at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee the last Sunday in each month to exchange ideas on their respective activities. Henry County is readying a Civil War pageant. Allamakee County will hold

a memorial service on Decoration Day, with the descendants of Lieut. John Dutton Cole at Lansing dedicating a plaque in his honor. Mills County plans to honor the men who enlisted from that county and commemorate the battle of Pea Ridge. Dallas County is completing plans for a week of observances in April, and appropriate programs are also underway in several other communities. The few counties which have not as yet organized a centennial committee are requested to contact the Iowa Civil War Centennial Commission, State House, Des Moines.

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### Lincoln Funeral Train

The death of President Lincoln April 15, 1865 was mourned by millions in a country torn by four years of war and suffering. The grief and sorrow of a people he had inspired to greatness were evident at every stop of his funeral train on its memorable journey from the nation's capital to Springfield, Illinois. Perhaps a million persons in northern Ohio alone personally paid their respects to the departed president. The train arrived in Columbus on April 28th, the casket being placed in the state capitol during the day. The scene is movingly reported in a family letter preserved by Mrs. John Stubbs of Grundy County:

Plainfield [Ohio] 5th mo. 3rd 1865  
Harlin & Naoma

Dear Cousins:

With sadness I write . . . our dear President has been slain by a traitor. His smiling picture is now hanging by me draped in mourning. Oh, it is so awful to think about. It is a great consolation to know that the assassin has got his due. I heard the sad news on seventh day afternoon a little over two weeks ago. My first thoughts were so awful. Had there been at that time any chance for volunteering I would not be here writing this evening. I am glad there was not and I hope there will not be a chance. I went up to Jehew Mills that night to hear further particulars. As I was returning home, a scene occurred which I will remember as long as I live. The clouds rose up from the west and rolled but there, black folds, until the sky was shrouded in blackness. Flash after flash of vivid fire crossed the concave vault while the heavy thunder seemed to shake the very earth. It did not rain any at all then. It seemed so strange and made me feel worse than ever. Thought I: Heaven is draped and mourning over a nation whose joy had been so suddenly turned into such deep sorrow and mourning.

I went up to town last first day to look for the last time upon the mortal remains of our most noble defender. Asa Cary, Dine Mills, Fide Reagan and I went up in a hack. We started at three o'clock in the morning and got there about six. We went down to the depot and waited till the train came in which arrived at seven. By that time all the streets and alleys, balconys and house tops were crowded with people. We were in the depot when the train came in. It moved in very slow, tolling the bell suiting the occasion. When it stopped the brass band gathered around the car Lincoln was in and played the most mournful music I ever heard. Old men wept like children. After a short time the dense crowd was driven back by cavalry men in order for the hearse to come up. The hearse was drawn by 8 white horses all covered with black silk velvet, bearing black plumes over their heads. The hearse was draped in black and white silk with 12 white plumes around the edges and a large silver gilt spread eagle over the center. When the corpse was placed in it, it moved off to the state house followed by more than 100,000 people in a solid mass.

The corpse was placed in the center of the State House hall. The people commensed passing through in a column four abreast, two and two passing on each side of the coffin. They were not allowed to stop but compelled to walk as fast as they could. They passed at the rate of 250 per minute. The drapeing and decoration of the State House and city was beyond description. The corpse looked very natural. If you can have any idea of the appearance of a \$2,000 coffin without seeing it is more than I expect.

If I was to undertake to tell all that we saw and happened to us on that day, it would take me a week to do so.

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With much respect  
Will B. Mendenhall

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### State Historical Library

The historical and genealogical library in the west wing of the State Historical Building comprises one of six divisions of the Iowa State Department of History & Archives, a department of state supported by a biennial appropriation from the state legislature. A non-circulating research library, its staff and services are provided for the use of the institutions and public of Iowa. The genealogical section contains 3200 family histories, English, Irish and Scottish collections numbering nearly 800 volumes, and approximately 4,000 other volumes of published genealogical material. County histories of Iowa and other states also contain much genealogical and biographical information. Many of the history and genealogy

books are gifts from individuals, patriotic and community organizations.

Some of the reference works in the library contain indexes and genealogical guides such as:

- American Ancestry, 12 volumes
- Munsell's Index to American Genealogies
- Guide Book for Genealogical Research
- Handy Book for Genealogists
- Search and Research
- Hinshaw's Quaker Encyclopedia, 6 volumes
- Virkus' Compendium of American Genealogy, volumes as published
- Jacobus' Index to Genealogies, 3 volumes
- Swem's Virginia Historical Index, 2 volumes
- American and English Genealogies in the Library of Congress
- Americans of Historic Lineage, 3 volumes
- Daughters of American Revolution Lineage Book, 4 volumes

The family genealogies are entered in the card catalogue under the name of the family. Complete sets of genealogical magazines often provide vital statistics and additional family history. Collections of historical magazines of other states are catalogued under the title and name of the state. The library also has lineage books and bulletins on most of the patriotic societies which offer valuable source material for proving military records.

The Historical Library has a complete collection of Iowa county histories, most of which are indexed. They are arranged alphabetically on open shelves available for general use. Historical publications of Iowa and works of general Iowa history and biography are indexed and catalogued and can be obtained for use on request.

Other reference materials include the following records:

A. Iowa

1. State and county atlases and maps from 1876 to 1925.
2. Maps of Iowa from territorial days to date.
3. Gravestone records prepared by the Works Progress Administration, individuals, and chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution. There are also a number of birth and marriage records of early Iowa counties and towns.
4. Military records of Revolutionary War veterans buried in Iowa; incomplete records of veterans of the War of 1812; complete rosters of Iowa soldiers in the Civil War, giving residence, state of nativity, and age at the time of enlistment.

5. Iowa gazeteers and directories of the larger cities, from 1869 to date.
  6. Histories of early Iowa churches, their ministers, lay leaders, and conference minutes.
  7. Histories of national and religious groups that settled in Iowa: the Quakers, French, Scandinavians, British, Dutch and Amana colonies.
  8. Genealogical data on early Iowa pioneers, compiled by Iowa chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- B. Records of other states
1. Extensive collection of New England town records during the colonial period.
  2. General histories of states, counties and towns, with biographical information.
  3. Federal censuses of 1790.
  4. Early church records, wills and other official documents of several states.
  5. Historical journals, collections, and archives of most of the eastern, midwestern and southern states, and some material on the west.
- C. Foreign Collections
1. Books on heraldry, derivation of names, and English biographical sets.
  2. Burke's Peerage, Baronetage and Knightage.
  3. Burke's Families of the United Kingdom.
  4. Books on Scottish, Welsh and Irish families.
  5. Parish registers of numerous English counties, listing vital statistics of the 17th and 18th centuries.
  6. Domes Day Book.
  7. Books on family coats of arms, some pictured
  8. Genealogica et Heraldica----
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### Rare Iowa Book for Sale

Edward Eberstadt & Sons, New York dealers in rare Americana, include in their recent catalogue a "choice complete copy of the original edition" of John Plumbe's *Sketches of Iowa and Wisconsin*, 110 pp., printed at St. Louis in 1839. One of the earliest published accounts of Iowa, this little book has become a prized item among collectors of western history. Plumbe traveled throughout the territory promoting interest in a railroad to the Pacific Coast, and his detailed description of the country, towns and resources make it an important work. Only twenty-one copies of the book are known to exist. The price quoted is \$1,200.00.

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