

Republican party. Instead, he organized the dock hands, religious groups, naturalized minorities, and the recently arrived. He proved good at his work, and he did not complain, but he desired more. Not even in Iowa, where "Ret" Clarkson had personified the Republican party for twenty years, did he retain any significant influence. He continued in the office of surveyor until 1910, but by the election of 1904 the days of brass band politics had ended for James S. Clarkson.

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### Museum Notes

by John Phipps,  
Museum Director

THE OLD ADAGE "everything comes to he who waits" is particularly true of museum collections. An example of this is our recent acquisition of a portrait of General Henry Atkinson painted by George Catlin.

Fort Atkinson, built in 1840 in Winneshiek County, Iowa was named in honor of the general. A fort built twenty years earlier in Nebraska was also named for Atkinson. The former garrison, it has been said, was the only military post ever founded to protect Indians from harrassment by other Indians.

George Catlin was a painter and student of ethnology. He was interested in people—especially Indians—their dress, customs and way of life. His paintings of Indians made during travels throughout North America in the 1830s are priceless records of the native peoples of this continent. Likewise his portraits of well-known individuals are important artistically as well as historically.

The portrait of General Atkinson by George Catlin is now on display at the Historical Building in Des Moines. The State of Iowa is proud to have a genuine Catlin.

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